

**Minutes of the meeting of North Yorkshire Neighbourhood Watch Association
in The Meeting Room, Force Control Room NYP HQ Newby Wiske Hall
on Tuesday 30th June 2009**

Chairman Keith Roberts – Chairman NY NHWA

Present:

Keith Roberts – Chair NY NHWA: **Steve Law** – Vice-Chair NY NHWA: **Tina Oates** – Secretary NY NHWA: **Rex Scales** – Craven District: **Bill Wood** – Hambleton District South: **Jean Julian** – City of York NWA: **Tricia Colling** – Scarborough Tier 1 CAP groups: **Simon Nott** – NYP Incomes Generation Officer: **Richard Baldwin** – NYP Volunteering:

Alyson Down - NYP staff - was present at the opening and closing sessions of the meeting.

Prior to the opening of the meeting Alyson Down asked if we would like to be given a tour of the Force Control Room when our business was finished and several of us who had not been before readily agreed.

Apologies for Absence:

Mel Playforth and Avril Gregory - Filey, Eastfield & Rural - had sent in last minute apologies that morning due to illness. Other apologies received prior to the meeting were from Jonathan Williamson – Craven; Tim Roy – Hambleton north; Jill Galloway- Hambleton south; Peter Chaundy – City of York NWA; Dave Warwick – Scarborough; Bob Gardiner – Ryedale; Chief Inspector Nick Warnes – NYP; PCSO Ann Barrington-Pace – NYP Richmondshire: Deborah Palmer – Crime Reduction Officer York – who felt that she should stand down in favour of Peter Chaundy who, as Vice Chairman of City of York NWA, has much closer NW connections than she. Deborah stressed however that she is always available for help or information should we need it.

The secretary announced that Ian Ker – Gillylees/Scarborough – had decided that whilst he is still interested in NY NHWA he did not wish to be making regular long distance journeys to committee meetings and so would resign from sitting on the committee itself. He is however interested in the survival and workings of the county association and wishes to be kept up to date with its decisions and all information.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks:

Keith Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for making the journey to Newby Wiske Hall. In commenting on the apologies he expressed our regret at the three recent resignations – Eric Londesbrough (Richmondshire) and Ian Ker(Scarborough): but the fact that they remain interested and concerned was encouraging. Richmondshire is now totally unrepresented at county level. As a priority we do need to stimulate interest in and develop NW schemes. There is much work to be done in that district. Special thanks were expressed for the valuable contribution Deborah Palmer made during our formative stage and for arranging her successor on the committee.

Before continuing with the rest of the Agenda secretary Tina Oates proposed that there should be a vote of thanks to both Keith Roberts and Steve Law for the arduous work they had undertaken in producing the numerous draft documents which it had been necessary to create in order to lay the basic foundations of the NY NHWA. All at the meeting agreed wholeheartedly.

Simon Nott from NYP had joined us to assist with our funding discussion but was also required elsewhere that morning so agenda item 5 Funding was brought forward for discussion immediately after Keith's welcome:-

5.Funding:

Keith opened this item by explaining that one of the purposes of this meeting was to decide how much money – if any – we should apply for from the new funding budget recently made available to NWs by The Home Office. This had to be done by 12 noon on 31st July.*

One immediate problem associated with this decision is that we have currently been unable to appoint a Treasurer.

To aid us in our deliberations over the funding Chief Inspector Nick Warnes had suggested previously that we invite NYP's Simon Nott to this meeting in his capacity as Incomes Generation Officer to NYP in order to provide the Association with support and to explore potential sources of funds.

Simon gave us a brief interpretation of his work with NYP explaining that he is responsible for all non-core funding for NYP – approximately 16 million pounds: core funding being money from both Central and Local government. All other monies – grants etc. - are non-core funding. His background is one of administering funds and finances of community groups, social development groups etc.

One of Simon's remarks was that our goal should not be the funding itself at this stage but identifying the items on which it was to be spent. Jean Julian enquired what we envisaged those items to be.

Keith pointed out that owing to the distances involved one item must be travelling expenses; there would also be the cost of hiring auditors for the accounts; the leasing of halls or rooms for meetings, AGMs etc. and general expenses associated with the development and support of Neighbourhood Watch throughout North Yorkshire. A budget has still to be prepared.

Simon felt that being a newly created association perhaps we did not have the full structures in place to apply for funding at this moment in time, but Keith reminded him that the Constitution is now agreed and partnership documents with NYP need just a couple of adjustments for them to be ready for signatures. Apart from appointing a Treasurer we are fully set up.

Jean Julian suggested that in the meantime we should apply for a police grant and Steve reminded us all that our original policy in this association was to create a 'can do' culture, not engender a negative approach. He suggested we could apply for the grant anyway and see what happens.

After much discussion several suggestions were made as to who may be able to assist us – Marian Lewis from NNHWA, Alene Branton of HANWAG; and ideas were aired as to who could advise on the procurement of a Treasurer – York Cares; The Institute of Bankers; ACCA – certified accountants association -: and REACH:

In closing this item of the agenda Keith thanked Simon for his input to the meeting and in return Simon offered to provide whatever support we need in our applications for grants etc. and would be very willing to oversee completed documents and application forms etc.

* POST MEETING - Unfortunately of the two Home Office inspired grants for NHW, we as NY NHWA would not be eligible as they only apply to 93 specifically high criminality areas of the country. This was confirmed by NNHW and the fund administrators.

There then followed a short break for lunch – at which point NYP's Alyson Down and Simon Nott left the meeting - after which we returned to the correct order of the agenda.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising:

All present had read the Minutes prior to this meeting and were happy to accept them as a true record. The following matters resulted:

The Constitution: The Chairman reported that he had made the recommended amendments and asked for any further comments on the document. A few minor changes were suggested at points 2.7: 6.7: and 7.4. There was a discussion about the tenure of the Chairman's Office being for 3 years only – point 5.2 – but it was finally decided to leave the clause as it stands for the present.

Keith will make the final recommended amendments and Tina will circulate it to all concerned as the accepted final document.

The Partnership Agreement: is almost ready: those present were happy with its current state and its completion awaits a decision about NYPA's role in association with NY NHWA which as yet is unclear: we feel it should only be advisory not active, but it is hoped the situation will be resolved at a meeting to be attended by Keith Roberts a week after this meeting.

The Partnership Structure: a couple of very minor adjustments were recommended: this will then be the final document.

Ringmaster: There is to be a further review meeting on Ringmaster on 14th July: Ringmaster update version 2 has been introduced.

There had also been a demonstration of OWL which is apparently more user-friendly but Jean Julian suggested that as it costs £35 000 per year NYP would be unlikely adopt it.

4. Election/Appointment of Treasurer:

All present reported having tried but failed to find someone willing to fill the post of Treasurer. Keith Roberts said that this is one reason why a bank account has not yet been opened as it should be in the area where any future incumbent lives. Several suggestions were made as to professional associations with lists of retirees willing to take on voluntary work who could be approached : certified accountants: Institute of Bankers: REACH: York Cares: etc. Steve Law also said he was hoping to bring someone with him to the next meeting who may be able to help. In the meantime we were all asked to keep the matter in mind.

6. Draft Review of NHW Volunteering:

Richard Baldwin suggested that all 7 documents could be condensed into a small booklet which would be made available to those who wish/need to see it. Tina suggested that it could also be made viewable on any future association web site.

The Training Package: All present were congratulatory to Steve Law for producing such a comprehensive document. Steve stressed that this was a first draft and prior comments made about its presentation/syntax etc. would be dealt with at the final proof reading. Regarding the Scheme Survey at the end of the package Keith suggested that a dummy run be done with a selected scheme to see how it is accepted and where it may need adapting. It was suggested that the final Training document could be produced as a Power Point presentation.

7. Future Communications:

Everyone said they were very happy with the email network and wished for it to continue.

All agreed that we should set up a website in the near future and possible hosts were discussed. Tricia Colling said there were several free sites available but warned that steps must be taken to ensure that the site was protected and could not be accessed by advertisers and illicit companies peddling pornographic sites and materials etc. It was agreed that we discuss it more fully at the next meeting. In the meantime Tricia gave Tina a list of sites to be considered which she, Tina, would circulate along with any other suggestions.

8. Activities Around the county – Problems with No Cold Calling Zones

Steve Law reported that in Ryedale they were having particular problems with even reputable companies totally ignoring the NCC zones and still trying to trade on the doorstep. He wondered if as a county association we can take any action to ward off these companies in all districts of North Yorkshire. It seems that whilst the police will not take any action against them, Trading Standards will. Alyson Down, who had just returned to the proceedings, suggested that if we gathered a sufficient amount of evidence/complaints we could then write an official letter from NY NHWA to Trading Standards asking them to contact the companies implicated. We could also invite them to a future meeting.

Keith Roberts announced that NHW will be represented at The Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate next month and also at The Pateley Bridge Horse Show.

9. NYP Report:

No official report had been prepared so Alyson quickly recalled a few facts to present to the meeting. (these were later confirmed by email to the Secretary, Tina) They were:

-NYP had held an internal survey amongst SNTs of their dealings – or lack of - with NHW schemes which had received a 43% response.

-report of activities selling SmartWater from the MPO in the Harrogate district during NNHW week

-Safer York Partnership had used NNHW week to target victims – or possible victims - of burglary offering crime prevention information, equipment – alarms, door chains, SmartWater etc.

-in Hambleton PC Phil Bird from Northallerton will be running an initiative in September, liaising with Hambleton CSP

-a coffee morning had been held in Romanby, Northallerton to launch a new NHW group in combination with Trading Standards setting up an NCCZ.

10. Civil Contingencies:

Richard Baldwin who had been asked to look into this subject by NYP said that he didn't need this item to be on the agenda at this time.

11. Future Action Plans:

12. AOB

These last two items were not completed: there was just time to comply with Alyson Down's request that we arrange meetings for the next 6 months ahead at least, due to the fact that both ACC Sue Cross and NYPA had expressed interest in attending one of them and needed to arrange their diaries well ahead of time.

It was decided that we should meet on the first Tuesday of each quarter, these being :- 6th October: * 5th January 2010: 6th April: so far. Suggested times were 11:30 am start: 12:30 lunch: 3:00pm close:

The meeting closed at 3:00pm.

It must be said that the majority of the delegates left the meeting feeling disappointed with NYP's contribution to the county meetings. Whilst recognising that earlier NYP commitments prevailed, there had been no prepared NYP report - despite a previously circulated agenda where it was itemised - and there was no Force representation, as agreed in the draft Partnership Agreements proposed by both NHW and NYP. The Chairman agreed to discuss the situation with Chief Inspector Nick Warnes and will emphasise the need for a force contribution to our discussions and suggest an outline of topics for the police report.

Those of us who had opted to visit the Force Control Room were shown into that area by Alyson. Here we saw approximately 50 officers seated around large blocks of desks in groups of 4 handling/dealing with incoming calls, processing them and tracking details/information on computer monitors etc. It was a hive of activity. Each officer had 4 screens to monitor. We were allowed to listen in on a set of headphones – one of our number commented that it sounded just like TV's The Bill! It was a most interesting and informative half an hour.

***Post Meeting Message:**

Later that afternoon Tina received an email from Alyson saying that there wasn't a room available for the meeting on 6th October so after consultation with Chairman Keith Roberts the **next meeting was booked for Tuesday 13th October at 12 noon in the HQ Board Room at Newby Wiske.**