

The Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Tuesday 30 November 2013 at Harrogate Grammar School

1. **WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN, KEITH ROBERTS:**

On behalf of your committee it is a pleasure to welcome so many people associated with H&D NHW. Despite the weather conditions and the fact that some members could not be present because of half term holiday commitments we have an excellent turn out. Before the evening's formal agenda, we have a special welcome for our police service colleagues. ACC Paul Kennedy has served with West Yorkshire, South Wales, and South Cumbria in various capacities and also worked with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary before joining NYP. We are also pleased to see Insp. John Paul Freer and PC Amanda Hanusch-Moore from H & D NYP. We particularly appreciate that John has kindly come along this evening even though he is officially on leave. All contributors will have time for a Q & A session and we'll ask our guests to endeavour to present a police perspective to your comments and for most of us to take advantage of the experiences from other police services as well as learning from one another.

2. **ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE for NORTH YORKSHIRE, PAUL KENNEDY:**

The chairman introduced ACC Paul Kennedy who gave the audience the benefit of his vast experience and outlined the challenges ahead for the new NYP organisation. His report stimulated many questions on a range of topics and the answers, some being of a personal nature, were well received. The main theme was a request for the continued support of H&D NHW, emphasising the necessity of reporting suspicious incidents to the police.

3. **INSP. JOHN PAUL FREER and PC AMANDA HANUSCH-MOORE:**

The chairman introduced Insp. John Paul Freer and PC Amanda Hanusch-Moore, recalling the previous excellent presentation given to our H&D NHW committee on drugs. The drugs problem in our locality is small compared with other districts but the plan is to raise an awareness of the problems and how to help co-ordinators identify suspicious incidents. Amanda outlined the indispensable work that she has been doing in educational establishments to discourage drug use and AGM attendee's attention was drawn to the website www.talktofrank.com for more detailed information, particularly on the consequences of drug use.

4. **THANKS & REFRESHMENT BREAK:**

The Chairman expressed thanks to the guest speakers on behalf of the meeting. All were appreciative of the police commitment and the need for development of our working relationship. There followed a short refreshment break.

5. **AGM BUSINESS MEETING:**

a) Apologies: Supt. Aubrey Smith, Ch. Insp. Ian Thompson, Chris Oates, Catherine Green (AgeUK), Mrs Warrington, Reg Rowett, Elma & Alasdair Stewart, Mike Sims, Derek Wright, Tom Wright, John Reed, Austen Scattergood, Peter Thornes, John Hodgson, Richard Turner

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- b) Minutes of AGM held on Nov 6th 2012: Acceptance proposed by Katy Piazza, Seconded by Peter Dallas. This was carried unanimously by the meeting
- c) Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

In last year's report I started by introducing the members of the H&D NHW committee. I had thought that we may be able to waive that this time but as there appears to be several new faces in the audience I'll quickly introduce them. Unfortunately as we get older sickness and other restrictions can mean that some members are unable to attend and Chris Oates falls into that category. We all wish him a speedy recovery and I am pleased to say that he has made excellent progress.

Chris was in charge of SmartWater distribution but that has been overtaken by manufacturer's changes to supply arrangements.

Katy, our Treasurer, whose report follows, has been instrumental in ensuring that our finances are kept in order and also initiated the Gift Aid and Easy-Fund-Raising schemes. Peter, our PR committee member has done a sterling job in deputising for the secretary as well as being the 'communications manager' - mainly responsible for producing our newsletter, Look Out.

Tina is a committee member with her hands full with setting up new schemes as well as being the secretary of NYNHWA.

Maureen tries to escape regularly on cruises but does make up time away by immediately getting back into NHW work on the day she arrives back in the UK. She is the longest serving committee member being ever present since our formation and is also much involved in scheme set-ups.

Eric has been around for almost as long as Maureen and is 'Catering Manager' this evening! He is also involved in Member's Support Meetings.

Catherine is a computer wizard and has an exceptional relationship with PC's and PCSO's Graham is our Rural NHW expert and has put in much effort on its integration.

Nick is the newcomer having joined us after last year's AGM and contributes at meetings.

We still have vacancies for two important roles - Vice Chairman and Secretary plus two further committee members. Please think about joining us – we'll still accept nominations this evening.

At last year's meeting we touched on the successes and issues of the previous year that were still outstanding. We follow the same format:

- **Schemes:** There is now a total of 3000 schemes, of which we concentrate on 2000 NHW and Rural Watch schemes with many more in the pipeline. We are also developing partnership/working relations with Age UK and in the spring with Oatlands Community Centre and do have advisory links with Dementia Forward.
- **Ringmaster (RM):** Communication is the essence of our relationship between the police and the community. This is not the first time that you have heard of the fundamental problem of RM and although the extended software problem was corrected we regularly receive negative comments such as reading in the local newspaper of a burglary in close

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proximity and not having received a police message. Frustrations are not conducive to encouraging residents to report suspicious incidents or even giving belated reports. Besides RM limitations we have an added dimension that some PCs/PCSOs are more motivated to use Twitter rather than RM. It is not that we are against the concept of being able to send messages while on the beat but the recipients are of the younger generation, probably at work, and the messages are not sent to the more mature NHW co-ordinators. We are just exploring another simplified approach by using conventional e-mail between police on the beat and co-ordinators, which can readily be forwarded to scheme members. Keep your eyes on LOOK OUT for progress.

- **Crime:** Year to date figures show a slight increase this month of 1% but the worrying aspects are the recent increase in household burglaries and the theft of cycles. Both categories appear to be due to poor security – typically doors and windows left open and insecure sheds and garages. Crime reduction programmes in other areas have been proved to be effective with significant reductions in criminal damage, vehicle theft and theft from vehicles.
- **NHW Membership:** Within the last year we have lost two of our longest serving co-ordinators, Tom Wright of Birstwith and Reg Rowett of Beckwith Road NHW scheme. Although most people would inform you that NHW was just 30 years old, we could prove them wrong in that Tom started NHW in Birstwith over 33 years ago. In those days the police did not approve of NHW – they felt that someone was treading on their toes! Tom persevered and developed what has resulted in a 400 member residential scheme. Reg has been very active for many years, contributing at AGMs and other meetings which he chairs locally. From the H&D perspective both deserve our small token of our thanks and especially because they have found willing successors.
- **Youth/Junior Watch Scheme:** There is currently a motivation to form schemes for the younger generation. A few years ago we had a flourishing scheme developed and run by the grand-daughter of a H&D committee member. It collapsed when she moved from Harrogate. We put a discussion document together for consultation with the police but it did not feature on the priority list. We'll resurrect the document and see what we can offer to the on-going debate.
- **Communication:** You will have noted the updated and user friendly H&D NHW website and the new introductory leaflet. We still have to update some items on the web, such as SmartWater, which is still accurate in description but is no longer available via H&D NHW.

There is still so much to do to contribute to neighbourliness as well as helping the police fight crime but we at present rely on the few committed persons. Please consider how you can help and make our location an even better place to live and work.

Thank you all for your contributions and special thanks to the committee.

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7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Katy Piazza circulated copies of the Treasurer's Report and audited accounts for 2012-13.

At the end of the financial year our bank balance was £4536. We had £126 in cash and our stock was valued at £505. Our receipts exceeded payments by £304.

Our income over the year was £1859. We received £503 in donations given by 11 schemes and 3 individuals. Most of these schemes are dedicated supporters of NHW that donate every year and we rely heavily on them for a large portion of our income. Donations were £260 down on last year and £460 down on the year before that. Other income included £1265 from gross sales of security goods, signs and 56 units of Smartwater. We are waiting for a cheque from HMRC for approximately £30 for reclaimed income tax from our Gift Aided donations. We also received our first cheque of £15 from Easy Fundraising.

We spent £1031 on stock including 50 units of SmartWater. The cost of last year's AGM and audit was £72. £245 was spent on administration costs, including stationery, printing, postage, and petrol costs. We also bought a roll up banner at £127.

If there are no questions from the floor, I will ask for a proposer and seconder to accept the accounts as presented. I also propose the election of Mr Terry Harrison to continue as the independent auditor. If anyone would like a copy of the audited accounts, please ask me.

Proposed by Maureen Asher, seconded by Tina Oates and carried unanimously.

8. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:**

Chairman: Keith Roberts

Vice Chairman: Vacancy

Secretary: Vacancy

Treasurer: Katy Piazza

Members: Peter Dallas, Tina Oates, Chris Oates, Eric Walker, Maureen Asher, Catherine Park Peyton, Graham Slights, Nick Andralojc, John Hodgson.

All were elected unopposed.

The Chairman reminded members that there were still vacancies and any scheme member could be co-opted at any time. Please feel free to join us at any committee meeting. Details are on our website under Diary Dates.

9. **Q&A:** Nothing further was raised under this item.

10. **A.O.B:** Nothing further was raised under this item

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the AGM closed at 9.15 p.m.