

***The Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association***  
**Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**held on Tuesday 6 November 2012 at Harrogate Grammar School.**

---

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the attendance of so many members and guests in the new venue of the Sixth Form College at the Grammar School.

He referred to the range of speakers for the evening and started by introducing Supt Aubrey Smith who he invited to address the meeting.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs Parker Wright and Tim Mortimer.

**Guest Speaker: Supt Aubrey Smith (NY Police)**

Supt Smith explained that he was newly appointed to the position of Harrogate Area Commander, having previously served for many years in Harrogate before moving on to Special Operations.

He referred to the good performance of the Harrogate force and the significant reduction in crime over the last year. There were 708 fewer victims of crime this year compared to last, and anti-social behaviour incidents had reduced by 775.

He said that his priority was to deliver a quality service and his future strategy will be based on stronger advance planning and analysis of crime patterns. Given that the police are operating with reduced budgets, good working arrangements with all partners will be essential.

He strongly supported all forms of communication with the public, including social media and ringmaster, and was keen to get as much feedback as possible.

There followed a lengthy question and answer period with the audience.

**Guest Speaker: Julia Mulligan (PCC candidate)**

Julia Mulligan, one of the two candidates for the post of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), described her background including school in Harrogate and business career.

She then outlined her thoughts on the role of the PCC, distinguishing the police role from the crime role. She said that her job would be to listen to the concerns and priorities of the public, agree a crime plan and help to bring together all the different parties involved in the field.

In answer to various questions, she outlined the costs of the PCC as compared to the previous Police Authority, and also spoke about the role of the Police and Crime Panel.

The Chairman thanked her and then read out a statement from Ruth Potter, the other candidate, who was unable to be present.

**Guest Speakers: Elaine Richardson and Gary Frank (NY Trading Standards)**

Elaine described her work dealing with complex fraud, scams and doorstep crime covering the whole of North Yorkshire except York. Focussing on doorstep crime, she produced a list of do's and don'ts for householders on the subject and said that NY Trading Standards had targets both to reduce doorstep crime and increase the currently low rate with which such crime is reported.

Gary went into more detail about the legislation involved, specifically the Cancellation of Contracts made in Consumer's Home or Place of Work Regulations 2008. He gave several disturbing examples of recent cases resulting in convictions and prison sentences. He also talked about No Cold Calling Zones and the 24-hour call-out service which delivers a rapid response to help people confronted with an on-going situation. The 24-hour telephone number is 07814 232 611.

### **Presentation of Award for PC and PCSO**

The Chairman announced that the winners of the Association's awards were:

PC of the Year            Dan Walker

PCSO of the Year        James Skaith

PC Dan Walker was unable to be present as he was engaged with an incident, but PCSO James Skaith accepted both his own award and the award for PC Walker.

After a refreshment break, the Chairman then turned to the formal agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

### **1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 November 2011**

Proposed by Peter Dallas and seconded by Chris Oates that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 November 2011 be approved. This was carried.

### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

Because of time constraints, the Chairman, Keith Roberts, explained that his report would be brief.

He listed the highlights of the year. Firstly the impressive number of schemes in the district, exceeding 1350 and, in addition, work being done on the integration of Rural Watch. In total all Watches amount to 3000.

Secondly he mentioned the many STOP campaigns that the Association has been associated with. This has stretched resources and he appealed for new members to come forward as helpers or committee members. In particular he mentioned the successful stall at the BBC Antiques Roadshow held at Fountains Abbey, in which a great deal of interest was shown.

Thirdly he thanked Jim Dobbs for his help in creating the Association's new web site which has proven to be very popular and more user-friendly.

On the other hand, some areas have been less successful. The Ringmaster system suffered a near collapse when we were unable to access data for about ten weeks, and afterwards the number of messages forwarded has declined. Also the programme of Member Support Meetings has not met with total success, the meeting at Ripon only attracting one coordinator.

Finally he paid tribute to Gwen Baines who died earlier in the year. She was a great supporter of NHW, originally as secretary and later working at Harrogate Police Station promoting the Ringmaster messaging system.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the committee for their contribution and the coordinators who interface with the police and their membership. He extended an invitation to any coordinators to come forward to join the work of the committee.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report 2011-12**

Katy Piazza delivered her Treasurer's Report for the year 2011-12. A copy is attached as Appendix 1.

The report and accounts were approved unanimously.

#### **5. Election of Committee for 2012-13**

The chairman announced that all the existing committee would continue for the forthcoming year with the exception of David Siddans, the current secretary, who had given notice that he would leave the committee after the AGM.

The following persons were nominated and elected unopposed:

Chairman: Keith Roberts

Treasurer: Katy Piazza

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

There is thus a current vacancy for secretary. The Chairman requested anyone interested in minute taking at our few meetings to please contact [info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk](mailto:info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk). No other nominations were received prior to the meeting or from the floor.

The Chairman thanked David Siddans for his contribution on the committee and presented him with a gift.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

There being no further business, the Annual General Meeting concluded at 9.45 pm.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Treasurer's Report**

At the end of the financial year our bank balance was £4131. We had £121 in cash and our stock was valued at £611. Our receipts exceeded payments by £78.

Our income over the year was £1994. We received £880 in donations given by 16 schemes and 1 individual. 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. Contributions from some of the other 1,000 or so schemes in our area would be very much appreciated. Donations were £200 down on last year. Other income included £1062 from gross sales of security goods, signs and 43 units of smartwater. We are waiting for a cheque from HMRC for approximately £70 for reclaimed income tax from our Gift Aided donations.

Our expenses totalled £1791. We spent £970 on stock including SmartWater. The cost of last year's AGM and audit was £72. £562 was spent on administration costs. This included room hire, the purchase of business cards and stationery and all our printing, postage, and petrol costs.

This year we have been involved in quite a few events, including local galas and the CSP 'STOP Theft' and 'STOP Burglary' campaigns. We purchased a gazebo with sides to keep us dry when the events were held outside. We also invested in a smart literature display stand, a folding table, and 2 A4 table top presenters which are like small flip charts. These visual aids can be updated as necessary with current concerns or crime trends. At the moment they contain SmartWater and eurolock information. The total for all this equipment was £250. I think the money was well spent as it makes our stall look much more approachable and professional and should last us well into the future.

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 let me know.

Katy Piazza (Treasurer)

03 Nov 12