

Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 19th November 2014 at Harrogate Grammar School

Prior to the meeting-proper retiring chairman, Keith Roberts, was presented with a Certificate of Merit by Maureen Asher, signed by all the current committee. Maureen said that this was in recognition of his dedicated and meritorious service to Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association and how she and the committee have enjoyed working with him over several years.

This was followed by Superintendent Mike Walker presenting a NYP Certificate of Recognition to Keith thanking him on behalf of North Yorkshire Police in recognition of Keith's work and his valuable contribution to Neighbourhood Watch and his support for NY Police.

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

On behalf of your H&D NHW committee, it is a pleasure to welcome you all to this evening's Annual General Meeting. Besides yourselves, NHW Coordinators and scheme members, we have some special guests. They will enlarge on their background relating to policing or their specialist subjects.

Our guests are our new County Commander, Supt. Mike Walker (who succeeds Supt. Aubrey Smith), Insp. Ed Noble from NYP HQ Newby Wiske, who will enlighten us on the changes incorporated in the NYP Operational Policing Model (OPM) 2014-2016 and Carl Lovett, who will present on Cyber Criminology and we expect that we'll all learn something to increase our awareness. Before passing over to Mike, I should mention that co-incidentally this week is the one that ACPO (the Association of Chief Police Officers) has identified as a week of action by the police service to promote the knowledge and the tackling of the growth subject of Cyber Criminology.

2. **Supt. Mike Walker**

Supt Walker introduced himself as the new County Commander for North Yorkshire Police. He highlighted the growth of particular crimes that are cause for concern. The main one that they are focusing on is doorstep crime where the elderly and vulnerable are being targeted. The police need our help by watching out for these criminals and reporting anything suspicious together with information about them.

3. **Insp. Ed Noble - The Operational Policing Model (OPM).**

Inspector Noble gave a presentation on the OPM. This plan is generally about delivering more for less by focusing on:

- **Reducing Bureaucracy** - this means freeing up officers so that they can focus on doing their job.

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- **New Ways of Working** – less form filling; focusing on victims by asking them what they want from the police; investigation hubs which will give a big saving on investigation time.
- **Investments in Technology**– mobile working by getting the latest communication technology so that officers can do everything out on the ground. Much greater use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) which helps tracking and apprehending travelling criminals.
- **Cyber Crime** – (this is fully covered later by Carl Lovett). A dedicated Cyber Crime Hub has been established to deal with this growing threat.
- Several questions were raised about feedback after reporting incidents to the police via 101. Most were about lack of feedback but some said they had had good feedback. It helps if callers ask for a crime number as this ensures the report is logged for feedback and results can be more readily traced.

4. **Carl Lovett, Cybercrime Adviser to NY, WY, SY and Humberside Police.**

Carl gave an excellent presentation on Cybercrime. Cyber criminals want the following from their victims: Cash; Bank Account access; ID information; Physical goods; Intellectual property.

Carl gave a comprehensive presentation on all Cyber Crime. In particular he focussed on:

Passwords and how these should be changed regularly and how to create strong passwords.

How to recognise 'phishing' emails and not to click on anything in them but to delete them immediately.

5. **Thanks and Refreshment Break**

Attendees were requested to consider if they were prepared to be our minute's secretary or join us as a member of our committee. We have had a good response to our plea for officers and committee members but do still have vacancies for these two positions. Please ask a committee member if you have any queries and let me know at the end of the break if you are interested.

6. **AGM Business Meeting**

6a. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from: Brenda Greetham, and Chris Oates

6b. **Minutes of 2013 AGM and Matters Arising**

The minutes were approved by Peter Dallas and seconded by Tina Oates.

There were no matters arising.

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6c. Chairman's Report

Introduction of the current committee – Nick, Maureen, Peter, Chris, Tina, Catherine, Katy, Graham and Eric.

- **Schemes:** We have continued with the integration of Neighbourhood Watch and Rural Watch schemes – criminality does not have boundaries. Recently PCSOs have contacted coordinators in Harrogate to check and update the Ringmaster database and we found that 66 coordinators or deputies had lost contact/moved/died/stopped being active in terms of NHW and certainly had not informed NYP or NHW of the change. It does take time but we do need to re-establish contact with the residents of these schemes and to investigate other parts of our District.
- **Ringmaster (RM):** Still is a 'user unfriendly' system, which is criticised by many recipients primarily because of lack of information flowing on criminal activity or reading about burglaries in the local press long after the events. I do appreciate that it is a 'generation thing' but the younger PCs/PCSOs have an inclination to use Twitter/Facebook to get messages out. There is nothing against that communication method but it should not be at the expense of RM. We have been experimenting with a simple email system for the benefit of small shops and home based traders – smaller businesses who cannot afford to join the scheme for larger shops and businesses.
- **Crime:** Crime is a transient business for the professionals – they move from one location to another – but even the amateur moves on to adjacent locations if he/she is successful. We are still in a good position locally, always being in the top two Districts in terms of crime statistics. There are, however, still problem areas: Cycle theft has been growing ever since the Tour de France was announced for our District and although there were few thefts during the time of the race and since that time the top end of the market has been an attraction. Bikes are broken down to components and 'mix and matched' to construct personalised cycles. Coding needs to be done on individual components. Secondly - There are too many sheds being broken into, both at home and on allotments. Security must reflect the replacement cost of the valuable items being stored and coding is all important if you hope for recovery. Finally, cold callers are currently very active in our District again and we stress the need to report to the police and trading standards on unsolicited callers. Never open the door to these alleged water board/police etc. until you are satisfied that they are genuine. We recommend that the elderly and vulnerable are protected by a Nominated Neighbour scheme and/or an intercom and deterrent sign to indicate that these callers are not welcome and should go away before you call the police.
- **The Future of H&D NHW:** For me this will be the time to step down from the Chair. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute of the time spent on NHW business, including the frustrating days which were seen as a challenge! Post the election of Officers and Committee members, the development of H&D NHW will be in very good hands and I wish the team well.

Thank you all for your help in the past and keep up the good work in the future.

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6d. Treasurer's Report and Election of Inspector of Accounts by Katy Piazza

At the end of the financial year our bank balance was £4542. We had £195 in cash and our stock was valued at £310. Payments exceeded receipts by £143.

Our income over the year was £579. We received £103 in donations given by just 3 schemes and 4 individuals. These 3 schemes are dedicated supporters of NHW and donate every year. Donations were £370 down on last year and £730 down on the year before that. Other income included £417 from gross sales of security goods, signs and 16 units of SmartWater. We are waiting for a cheque from HMRC for approximately £11 for reclaimed income tax from our Gift Aided donations.

We spent £147 on stock. The cost of last year's AGM and audit was £74. £317 was spent on administration costs which included 2,000 new H&D Neighbourhood Watch leaflets.

We can no longer purchase SmartWater as the company is now marketing directly to the public. We previously had to keep a large bank balance on hand as the invoice for the SmartWater was between £900 and £1800 depending on the number of units we ordered. This bank balance can now be diverted to other worthy projects.

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.

Proposer and seconder: Tina Oates and Catherine Park Peyton. Motion carried.

6e. Election of Committee 2014-2015

Chairman: Catherine Park Peyton

Vice Chairman: Katy Piazza

Treasurer: Nick Andralojc

Secretary: Post not filled

Committee Members: Maureen Asher, Tina Oates, Graham Slights, Eric Walker, Brenda Greetham, Mike Josh, Richard Kirby, Alex Raubitschek

From the floor of the meeting it was proposed and accepted that the proposed new committee be elected in full. There were no objections.

6f. Q&A Mr John Parker sought information on the apparent demise of Safer Neighbourhood Groups (SNGs), of which some were no longer functioning. This seems to have happened since the police handed over responsibility to the community to run and organise. The meeting was informed that currently there are only four SNGs functioning. These are Knaresborough, Boroughbridge, Nidderdale and Bilton & Woodfield. After discussion, the new Chairman promised to investigate further and report back.

6g. A.O.B. There was no further business and all present were thanked for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm.