

DRAFT

Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 5th April 2017 at Harrogate Grammar School

1. Welcome from the Chair

The Chair gave a warm welcome to all those attending the meeting. She introduced the members of the Committee who were in attendance – Katy, Maureen, Nick, Graham, Richard, Derek and Associate Peter.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Charles Gibson, Helen McCallum, Tina Oates, Lesley Pollard, Freda Roach, Elma Stewart, Barbara Stone, Brian Watkinson and Derek Wright

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th February 2016

There were no queries on the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting that had taken place on 11th February 2016. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (proposed by John Parker & seconded by Nick Andralojc).

4. Matters Arising

The Chair referred to the irritation and concern at the volume and duplication of e-mails being sent to Coordinators that had been expressed at the last AGM. She mentioned that Coordinators were no longer receiving emails direct from the North Yorkshire Association and would explain the reasons for this in her report that was the next item on the agenda.

5. Chair's Report

Catherine reflected that NHW was experiencing a period of change both nationally and locally. There had been developments at both National and County Association level. Originally National NHW had determined that communications to Districts should be sent via the County Associations. However subsequently National had determined that the partnership agreement was not especially fit for purpose and consequently changed its intentions. The organisation would be simpler and less bureaucratic with fewer lines of communication. Direct communication was now taking place between National and District Associations rather than messages going via the County Association, and that was the reason why Coordinators were no longer receiving emails from the North Yorkshire Association. National NHW had established a number of different themes and ideas. There were a number of challenges in the years ahead – image, diversity, social & digital media, and the ability to change and be relevant to respond to emerging crime and audiences. National NHW had indicated its intent to reach out to more people in the community across all age-ranges; to engage better with children and continue to engage with the elderly who were especially vulnerable to cyber crime. NHW needed to encourage good neighbours and strong communities.

Catherine invited members present to offer any comments on the Community Messaging System (CMS). There were some negative comments from members. John Sonley mentioned that since CMS had replaced Ringmaster he had not received any messages. He and the members of his watch wanted local knowledge of local incidents but in light of the lack of any information he would not be able to ask for any contributions from his members this year.

Peter Dallas agreed that he also didn't receive any alerts by email and so had to opt for the small number of CMS messages to his iPhone that he then had to email to himself to enable onward transmission to members of his Watch. Police in his area preferred using Twitter messages which were not specifically for NHW and in any case could not be forwarded easily to members.

John Parker observed that he was still receiving many messages that were not related to his specific area – only about one in six messages was relevant. This was exactly the same problem that had been experienced with the Ringmaster system.

Inspector Penny Taylor informed the meeting that the system was still evolving. The team had been trained in the use of CMS and currently Harrogate was sending the most messages via CMS in North Yorkshire. There were about 18,000 residents registered who should be receiving the messages. However the system was not perfect and there had been some issues. Catherine added that Knaresborough had been a particular problem area. Ringmaster had been a completely different system but it was now defunct following the expiry of its licence. The North Yorkshire Police (NYP) had allowed NHW access to their CMS system. However the Police no longer had only one portal of communication but could send messages via email, text, smartphone apps and even voicemail. CMS was available to the whole public not just Coordinators. In past years the role of Coordinators had been centred on passing on messages but this was no longer the case. She and Katy (Deputy Chair) had spent a lot of time discussing CMS with NYP and had been involved on the NYP's implementation committee. There were still some training and mapping issues – new police officers were joining who needed training and others required additional training. In response to a comment from the floor that the Coordinator role was redundant Catherine confirmed that this was not the case. She added that Coordinators would still receive messages and there would be other things for them to engage with. CMS would inevitably change the role of the Coordinator. She read aloud a statement from National NHW. Penny Taylor added that Sergeant Heidi Lewis was coordinating CMS for the whole of NYP and she would have been able to offer a more detailed explanation had she been able to attend. She undertook to follow-up the comments that had been made.

Catherine advised the meeting that she intended to run some computer workshops at Rossett School during the coming months, commencing in July. The workshops would be free and address matters such as the CMS system, social media, communication, help with emails, worries over computer viruses and the like. Sessions would be tailored to fit issues that were raised. She acknowledged that some Coordinators had experienced formatting problems with CMS. She thought this was likely to be a browser issue though she could confirm that the system definitely worked on Internet Explorer and Google Chrome.

6. Amendments to the Constitution

Katy Piazza advised the meeting that the Constitution had required updating for several years – it no longer met the Charity Commission's guidelines and had a number of outdated references such as that in its "Purpose" section to the "North Yorkshire Police Authority". She had spent a considerable time updating the constitution to ensure that it met the Charity Commission's guidelines and outlined

the main changes that included a definition of membership; clarification of termination of membership; a procedure for dealing with failure to achieve a quorum at meetings; and clarification of out-of-pocket expenses procedures. A motion to accept the revised constitution was proposed by Alan Cale, seconded by Nick Andralojc and unanimously approved.

Katy was thanked for the considerable amount of time and effort that she'd put into updating the constitution.

7. Treasurer's Report and Election of Inspector of Accounts

On behalf of the Committee Nick Andralojc submitted the accounts for the 2015/16 financial year. The Treasurer reported that the Independent Examiner was satisfied with the accounts.

The movements from the opening assets (£4,302) to closing assets (£3,869.17) were summarised as being the impact of:

Receipts of £274.47 – mostly through donations for which Members were thanked. The sale of SmartWater that had previously generated a useful income had since dried up. Payments of £707.33 were lower than the previous year and for the most part comprised Travel (£268.64), Postage & Carriage (£260.28) and Stationery & Printing (£73.36)

The meeting accepted the accounts (proposed by Nick Andralojc & seconded by Derek Benbow).

The meeting also agreed to re-appoint Terry Harrison as the Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2016/17 (proposed by Nick Andralojc & seconded by Derek Benbow).

8. Election of Committee 2017

From the floor of the meeting it was proposed and accepted that the proposed new committee be elected in full (proposed by Richard Kirby & seconded by Alan Cale). There were no objections. The new Committee would be:

Chairman: Catherine Park Peyton

Vice Chairman: Katy Piazza

Treasurer: Nick Andralojc

Secretary: Derek Benbow

Committee Members: Maureen Asher, Tina Oates, Graham Slights, Richard Kirby,

The Chair observed that there were still four vacancies for Committee members. More help was required especially from people with specific skills such as marketing. The Committee would be keen to hear from anybody who might be interested in joining it. As a consequence of this request Sylvia Fox proposed Stephanie Exon as a Committee Member. Stephanie, who accepted the nomination, was seconded by Derek Benbow.

9. Any Other Business

Catherine informed the meeting that the Committee wished to do something in memory of our late Chairman, Keith Roberts, who had died during 2016. It would probably take the form of an Annual Award. The Committee was currently working on a form of words for the Award and more details would be made available soon.

There were no other matters raised and the formal business of the meeting concluded at 7.51 p.m.

10. Inspector Penny Taylor, Harrogate Police

Inspector Penny Taylor provided an outline analysis of the crime statistics in the Harrogate District area. In the district as a whole there had been a 6% increase in crimes, which represented 400 more reported crimes on the previous year. Whilst crime in Harrogate had increased during the past year there had been a decrease in the reported crimes in Knaresborough. NYP were launching a summer campaign. There had been an increase in the theft of bicycles (97 more stolen in the past year), in shoplifting and in possession of offensive weapons (an increase of 10 cases in the past year). Various events would take place in the run up to the Tour de Yorkshire on 29th April. An increase in bicycle thefts could be expected during this period and residents were encouraged to use "bike marking" which made a good contribution to the successful recovery of stolen bikes.

Penny went on to explain that there were two Inspector-led Neighbourhood Teams, each with two Sergeants. She led the Harrogate team whilst Inspector Simon Williamson led the Harrogate Outer Team (i.e. Knaresborough, Ripon, Boroughbridge etc). She advised the meeting that there had been an increase of 300 cases of Anti-Social Behaviour in the district as a whole over the past year. Whilst these figures certainly represented an increase in the level of crime nevertheless the figures themselves were comparatively small. Coordinators should bear in mind that we lived in a safe area. In Harrogate, the police had made use of Public Spaces Protection Orders to stop drinking in public. Extra police had been put into the area around Macdonald's in Harrogate following complaints of behaviour and drinking. Around 10 individuals had been arrested. Police were subsequently engaged in attempting to prevent similar gatherings in the vicinity of the Halifax building. The Harrogate Outer team were dealing with similar problems. Ripon had experienced anti-social behaviour in the town centre and police were currently attempting to identify the individuals. There had also been an increase in shed burglaries. Whilst there had been a decrease in crime overall in Knaresborough there were still cases of anti-social behaviour occurring at Conyngham Hall, St James Retail Park and the town centre. There had also been problems with fly tipping. NYP were also attempting to identify individuals involved and any information would be welcomed. There had been some turnover of staff but she anticipated that both teams would be back up to strength in the summer. She concluded by advising the meeting that during her last six years of service as an Inspector in neighbourhood policing she had witnessed an astonishing increase in vulnerability within the population, involving child sexual exploitation, the elderly and modern slavery.

The meeting closed at 8.07 p.m.