



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 8 January 2013 7.15 pm

Harrogate Fire Station

## MINUTES

**Present:** Maureen Asher, Peter Dallas, Tina Oates, Chris Oates, Katy Piazza, Keith Roberts (Chair), Graham Slights, Eric Walker.

**Guests:** Sgt Bob Chambers, Harrogate Police, Derek Wright, Co-ordinator Kingsley Drive. The two guests were welcomed to the meeting and introduced to the committee by the chairman.

Before starting the meeting KR spoke of our sadness at the death of PC Andrew Brama, tragically killed when his patrol van hit a tree at West Tanfield whilst responding to an emergency call. It was agreed that we would send our condolences and a bouquet to his family.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Catherine Park Peyton, Nick Andralojc.

### 2. Minutes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

These minutes were proposed by TO, seconded by KP and accepted.

#### 2.1 Matters arising

Item 13 (From previous meeting re CCTV). CP has informed KR that she was unable to visit this firm. Options are still being pursued.

### 3. Chairman's report

KR gave some background to, and welcomed in his absence, Nick Andralojc, who has formally joined the committee. Nick is keen to get involved and will attend his first meeting in March.

#### **KR reported on his activities since the last meeting:**

Attended Safer Neighbourhood Meetings.

Attended Safer Community Safety Partnership Meeting.

Ripon Members Support Meeting – very poor attendance.

Various meetings with Police:

Encourage more reporting of suspicious incidents.

Problems with use of 101 – best to ask for an individual or preferably send an email.

Working with Ripon police on an initiative to create more schemes in their area.

Visit to new Harrogate Police HQ – most impressive.

Working to resolve problems with leaflet packs – urgent resolution needed.

Planned Tasking Meeting Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Jan at HPS, to include new initiative "Quality of Life".

Planned meeting with new PCC Julia Mulligan, 5:30, 16<sup>th</sup> Jan at Harrogate Library.

She wishes to involve victims of crime.

Monthly meetings with Supt Aubrey Smith are scheduled.

Planned presentation with Aubrey Smith of Certificates of Merit to two retiring long serving Co-ordinators.

Planning to attend the next meeting of the Road Safety Committee.

On-going investigation into use of solar powered LED lighting for Street Lights with a Harrogate firm.

#### 4. Treasurer's report

##### ***Income & Expenditure Sep 12 - Jan 13***

###### ***Income***

<i>Sales (Inc. 14 SmartWater)</i>	<i>£311.00</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>£238.46</i>
<i>HMRC Gift Aid Repayment</i>	<i>£88.57</i>
<i>Interest</i>	<i>£0.44</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>£638.47</i></b>

###### ***Expenses***

<i>Stationery &amp; Sundries</i>	<i>£20.68</i>
<i>AGM Audit fee</i>	<i>£50.00</i>
<i>AGM Refreshments</i>	<i>£22.94</i>
<i>Roll-Up Banner Display</i>	<i>£127.20</i>
<i>AGM Farewell Gifts</i>	<i>£25.99</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>£246.81</i></b>

***Bank Balance*** *£4,440.01*

(Note decrease in Donations from £539 in last year)

#### 5. Police Report by Sergeant Chambers

District crime last year was high with car crime and house crime occurring daily. This was thought to be partly a result of known criminals being released rather than given custodial sentences. Crime then started to fall in NY despite the increases happening in other police areas thought to be due to the economic climate.

There were 900 crimes less than the previous year despite a very small upturn in robbery and sexual offences such as indecent exposure. The police are proactive in investigating these crimes.

Avoidable thefts from dwellings and vehicles continue as a result of carelessness by owners such as unlocked doors and windows, car keys and valuables left in unattended vehicles.

The scrap metal problem has improved due to new legislation.

Graffiti is an on-going problem. Cleaning kits may be borrowed from police stations and Neighbourhood Watch.

The crime reduction has been achieved largely by intensive policing methods such as targeting known criminals.

The Harrogate Outer SNT will be moving to Craven Lodge, Victoria Avenue, from new HPS.

#### 6. Review of AGM

It was thought overall to be a successful meeting with good participation from the audience. The meeting overran somewhat but this was due to the fact that the three speakers gave

interesting talks which provoked many questions and much discussion. It was decided that in future the number of guest speakers would normally be no more than two. It was agreed by all that the new venue at the Harrogate Grammar School was excellent.

## **7. Report from North Yorkshire NHTA by Tina Oates**

- In November 2012 the NY NHTA was awarded £500 from the Police Disposal of Property Fund in recognition of it's being "a very worthy charity".
- The committee now numbers 27, with new members from Northallerton and Whitby and temporary reps from Selby CSP and Craven Police. Also included is Gina Allen of the PCC's office who has joined the committee to represent the PCC Julia Mulligan.
- It was decided that NY NHTA's approach to the PCC should be initiated through the Police and NHT Development Group meeting to be held this month, to which she will be invited.
- The meeting was briefed about PREVENT which is part of the government's anti-terrorism strategy formed 2007 to stop people being coerced into joining terrorist organisations. All means are being used to get their message across, including NHT. This govt. website has full details: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/counter-terrorism/review-of-prevent-strategy/>
- Big increases noted in NHT membership in Harrogate and N & S Hambleton.
- Trading Standards reported that they have acquired powers to confiscate funds from persistent perpetrators of doorstep crime. They also anticipate a national increase in rogue traders trying to cheat victims of recent flooding.
- The new Student Watch, created by the chair of York NHT, has been hailed a great success and is now expected to be rolled out nationwide.
- NYP is reviewing Ringmaster as the contract expires in March. It is felt that the current system should be retained as the cheapest and least disruptive option.
- The combined total of NHT and Rural Watch in the county is now **8,385** (5,400 NHT and 2,985 Rural). The total of all watch schemes in the county at 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 was **12,723**.

## **8. Communications**

There was a general discussion on the different media now available to the police and the public at large. Ringmaster remains the main means of communication between NHT and its thousands of members. This is supplemented by NHT website which co-ordinators and members should make full use of. However it is recognized that there is a growth in the use of new social media such as Facebook, Twitter and local websites like Neighbours United. Quite rightly we expect our police officers to make effective use of all these tools but not to the exclusion of Neighbourhood Watch members who expect to receive relevant information by Ringmaster.

## **9. NYP Bluetooth Investment**

KR has had numerous discussions with the police on this subject. We now have the laptop back but the software has been written off.

## **10. New NHT Schemes**

10.1 **Pannal Green**

10.2 **St George's Avenue**

10.3 **Westminster Close and Gate**

10.4 **Malthouse Lane**

10.5 **Westminster Rise and Westminster Grove** have requested to join

Westminster Crescent's scheme. We are waiting to hear from PCSO Natalie Bridson about this.

10.6 **Stone Rings Close** has now had a letter drop.

10.7 **Russell Street** is now in the pipeline. It is planned to target Gladstone Street, Cromwell Road and the remainder of Mount Street, thus getting all roads in that area covered.

## **11. Publicity**

### **11.1 Newsletter – LOOK OUT**

PD gave the following timetable for the issue of the January 2012 edition:

Items to PD 15 January; Enveloping 22 January

We need an advert for a secretary on top right front page.

### **11.2 Web Site**

As we currently have no Secretary KR is to speak to Jim Dodds about some basic instruction for some committee members on doing minor updates to the website.

### **11.3 Press**

The local press has been disappointingly unhelpful towards NHW – a recent example is its failure to publish the advertisement for our AGM sent in by our chairman even though he discussed it by phone and received an acknowledgement for his article.

### **11.4 Leaflet**

KR & PD are reviewing the Nov 2008 NHW leaflet with a view to producing a new version.

## **12. NCCZs**

KR stated that the new sticker is available as two separate inside and outside stickers. A double sided sticker will be available shortly.

## **13. SmartWater**

CO reported that since our last meeting (Sep 2012) we have had orders for 16 units; twice as many as our usual average of 2 per month. Approximately half were from set-ups within the last 6 months.

## **14. A.O.B**

MA suggested advertising Immobilise.com and SmartWater in LOOK OUT. PD said this would be subject to having sufficient space or they could go into Tina's News.

## **15. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Tuesday 5th March 2012 at 7.15 pm at Harrogate Fire Station.

The meeting closed at 10.17 pm.