



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

7.15 pm, Monday 18th April 2016

Woods Court, Harrogate

MINUTES

Present: Katy Piazza, Maureen Asher, Nick Andralojc, Tina Oates, Peter Dallas, Derek Benbow, Graham Slights.

1. Apologies for absence & welcome to guests

Apologies were received from Catherine Park Peyton and Richard Kirby.

KP took the Chair in CPP's absence and explained that this was a special meeting convened to discuss the future of Look Out and to consider the establishment of a programme of rural visits.

2. Look Out

PD & TO felt that it wouldn't be right to simply cut adrift those Coordinators who did not possess a computer. They were older people for the most part and had been members for a very long time. TO wondered whether it would be possible to change the style of Look Out to a more booklet type format with headings and bullet points.

KP observed that some of the Look Out material was not particularly timely and suggested that the focus should be changed to more administrative types of material such as the changes to the national organisation. Operational matters such as specific crimes should be conveyed through the community messaging system rather than Look Out. Perhaps it could be issued on a six-monthly basis in its new format.

PD preferred the publication to remain on a quarterly basis. GS suggested that perhaps a system of three editions could be adopted: one before the A.G.M., another for the winter period, and a final one during the summer. DB suggested that it might generate some interest if we were to include some background crime statistics in each edition. The Committee thought this a potentially worthwhile proposal although it would be difficult to encapsulate the 40-page report we received into a brief article. It was accepted that the only possibility would be to include some headline figures for the whole of Harrogate & District. TO also thought that this would be something that could be usefully demonstrated at the A.G.M.

After considerable discussion the Committee agreed in future all proposed new Coordinators would only be accepted if the proposee possessed an e-mail address and was thereby able to participate in the community messaging system. The Committee further agreed that future editions of Look Out should focus more on the administrative aspects of the organisation. It was also agreed that paper copies of Look Out should not be sent to Rural Watch members. This still left a group of about 150 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators who still received Look Out in paper form. The first task would be to try to contact this group in order to establish if any of them had e-mail addresses that could be used instead of the paper copy. MA, NA and DB all volunteered to ring members of this group to ascertain who had the requisite e-mail addresses. KP undertook to discuss this with CPP with a view to producing a list of names and telephone numbers. It was accepted that before any phone calls were made Coordinators should receive a ringmaster alert advising them that this was about to happen.

4. Rural Meetings

GS mentioned that he hadn't as yet established communications with the Wharfedale Agricultural Market. He now intended to do so following his return from Australia.

KP explained that the intention was to arrange meetings within rural communities, to reach Coordinators who were not in receipt of paper copies of Look Out. She mentioned that CPP was looking to set up meetings with Ripon and Boroughbridge that would be attended by Lee Partridge. Ideally we'd prefer to hold a meeting in each area. GS offered to divide the Harrogate & District area into four areas. Once the areas had been identified then we'd need to consider likely places to meet such as a tea-room or pub. In order to assist GS with the analysis PD undertook to send him a list of the Parish Council e-mail addresses.

KP advised the Committee that the Boroughbridge Show had space on the back of its programme where we could place an advert. This would be at a cost of £95 but in return for a circulation of 2,500 copies. The Committee considered that this would be worthwhile and supported this proposed advertising expenditure. PD suggested that he could include a message when he next circulated a parcel of Look Outs to the parishes. He also wondered about including "Rural Watch" in the title although KP explained that this would be too cumbersome to do officially given that it would mean contacting the bank, HMRC, charity commission etc.

PD reminded the Committee that we could generate some extra income through asking NHW members when making on-line purchases to do so through the "easyfundraising" website.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place as follows:

Tuesday 24th May 2016 - 1.30 p.m. at the Fire Station, Harrogate (regular meeting)

Meeting closed at 9.44 p.m.