



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

1.30 pm, Wednesday 14th June 2017

Harrogate Fire Station

MINUTES

Present: Catherine Park Peyton (chair), Katy Piazza, Nick Andralojc, Maureen Asher, Derek Benbow, Richard Kirby, Graham Slights

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Peter Dallas.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 14th December

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2016 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee noted with the greatest sadness the death of Tina Oates, a member of Harrogate & District NHW for many years. Members of the Committee had recently attended her funeral and wished to place on record its appreciation of her long service.

- i) *Community Safety Partnership* – CPP reported that no information had been received from the CSP.

4. Update from the Chair

The Chair reported that detailed crime statistics were awaited from Inspector Taylor. However some information was available. In the quarter 1 April – 13 June 2017, there had been a 17% increase in reported crimes in Harrogate District. Over the same period there had been a 13% reduction in violent crime but an increase in burglaries and a 31% increase in damage and arson. This latter increase was a reflection of the increase in youth-based anti-social behaviour. There had also been an increase of 22% in shop thefts. Evidence suggested that some of this was due to 14 –16 year old youths stealing relatively low-value items. A group of children from three schools were responsible for anti-social behaviour including the setting of fires and other damage. CPP referred to her personal experience of being the subject of a recent burglary. Hers had been one of half a dozen or so properties where items had been stolen from sheds or garages. This had occurred during the previous Friday night and had been part of a “ripple” of crime in Harrogate.

The Chair then led a discussion on the current state of NHW both nationally and locally. She expressed the view that generally NHW had been losing its way a little, and people were no longer sure about its purpose. RK thought that the NHW should represent civility and good neighbourliness. CPP agreed that it should be about ensuring a healthy community but observed that the Committee had too few members to be able to make a mark on the whole community. There wasn't a great deal of direction from national level at present and until such time as there was then it wouldn't be possible to do much in the way of promotion. We needed to re-engage with Coordinators and to make sure that we had a consistent message. Harrogate & District was still atypical having a Committee and a large body of Coordinators to call upon although our data was far from clean at present. RK thought it possible to engage with other interest groups (such as dog walkers or allotment holders) who were interested in their communities. Perhaps also some case studies could be considered such as the Labour Party's recent recruitment drive.

CPP observed that NHW remained the “middle-man” between the community and the police and it was important to understand the two tiers of the structure – local and national. A meeting was to take place in a couple of weeks to talk with a national level representative about the possible use of North Yorkshire as one of a small number of counties to reboot the NHW service. In the meantime we could make a start by mapping-out areas and the identification of key people in areas who might then attend a joint meeting with the police. She suggested that each member of the Committee select an area and contact the Coordinators in it to ascertain if they’d be willing to attend such a meeting. The selected areas were:

MA – Pannal
NA – Harlow area
DB – The Aspins
KP – Rosset
CP – North Harrogate
GS – secure lists of Parish Council details
RK – a list of clergy in the area – incumbents and secretaries

Progress would be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Treasurer’s Report

NA reported that on this occasion income exceeded expenditure thanks to donations at the AGM and Gift Aid from HMRC. The accounts were as follows:

Balance b/f from 31 August 2016 -	£3,869.17
Receipts	£152.86
Payments	(£ 26.62)
Balance at 14 June 2017	£3,995.41

DB mentioned that there was an ongoing requirement for members to report any expenses that had been incurred even where they were not being claimed. After a brief discussion NA suggested that an average figure of 5p per sheet should be used to calculate costs incurred when printing/copying documents and information for circulation.

6. A.G.M. - Review

The Chair thanked MA for the organisation of the AGM in terms of both venue and the provision of refreshments. The Committee noted that whilst turnout had been very disappointing nevertheless those who did attend had been well engaged in the meeting and the format seemed o.k. Generally the AGM seemed to have passed off reasonably well. RK expressed regret that the potential new member for the Committee identified at the AGM had decided not to pursue any further interest in joining the Committee. He thought it important for the Committee to recruit some “fresh blood” preferably in a younger age-bracket.

7. Community Messaging System

The mapping system was now online. CPP reported that the messaging system was working well in some areas but not in others. DB mentioned that emails were still not being received in Knaresborough. CPP responded that she had heard from Heidi Lewis that the police had noted the position in Knaresborough. CPP also confirmed her intention to send a strongly worded email to the police asking what action they were proposing to take.

8. Rural Taskforce

GS reported that he had not received any response from the Taskforce with respect to the proposed meeting at Wharfedale Agricultural Market. CPP informed the meeting that the Taskforce would definitely be attending the Boroughbridge Show that was taking place on 23rd July at Newby Hall (10.00 – 16.00). It would provide a good opportunity to engage and members were asked to advise Catherine if they intended to go. Katy referred to a leaflet that she'd designed for use in shows and that had been printed by the police at no cost.

9. Any Other Business

- i) RK apologised in advance for his unavoidable absence from the next meeting. He would be away for a considerable period of time from mid-July to mid-September.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place as follows:

Wednesday 2nd August 2017 - 1.30 p.m. at the Fire Station, Harrogate

Meeting closed at 3.54 p.m.