

WILTSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

AGM

Saturday 7th October 2023

Venue: Wiltshire Police HQ Devizes

MINUTES

1. Attendance: Michelle Greenwood; Bryan Tennant; Steve Warren; Nick Goddard; Pat Tucker; Mat Tucker; Sean Childs; Susan Childs; Lynne Sunners; Howard Chandler; Andy Corbett; Tony Bradford; Ann Marie-Cooper; Zillah Faulkner; Tony Deane; Karungi Grant; Cllr Tom Thornton; Cllr Brian Mathew; Cllr Ross Henning; Cllr Tony Mulliken; Cllr Stanka Adamcova. Committee members Robert Greenwood; Chris Holden; Merv Quick; Wendy Quick; Nigel Walker; Mike Brandwood; Ross Walker; Paul Sunners. Wiltshire Police staff Tracy Ince; Phil Mackie; Colin Conway.
2. Apologies received: 15 NHW members; Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson; Committee members Reg and Evelyn Halsall; Liz Smith.
3. Welcome and introductions. The Chair welcomed everyone attending the meeting. This included NHW members, their guests, Parish Councillors, Wiltshire and Swindon Borough Councillors, including three members of the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel. The Chair's welcome extended to the meeting's guest speakers including Wiltshire's Chief Constable, Catherine Roper and Beth Simpson, Regional Manager Crimestoppers.

The Chair expressed gratitude to Tracy Ince, Wiltshire Police Watch Co-ordinator, for her assistance in the organisation of the meeting. Tracy outlined housekeeping arrangements.
4. Approval of minutes of the AGM held on the 8th October 2022 – Chris Holden proposed, Mike Brandwood seconded. The minutes were approved by the meeting.
5. Chair's Report (brief overview)

The past year had been one of consolidation. The Association now had over 500 approved NHW schemes and work continued in respect of confirming the status of schemes that were part of the historic transfer of data. There is still considerable interest in NHW reflected in the 5/6 new schemes seeking approval each month. Once approved, the scheme co-ordinator is contacted personally with the offer of support. This often takes the form of requesting Wiltshire NHW information leaflets and window stickers. Over 12000 leaflets have been distributed in the last 3 years. All new scheme co-ordinators are encouraged to contact their local PCSO(s) via Community Police Team contact details available on the Wiltshire Police website.

The motivation for starting a NHW scheme is often related to a recent crime in a local community or concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and with today's technology the use

of social media is often the chief means by which members of a community keep in contact. It is recognised that NHW is still the most practical way of bringing neighbours together to support community safety. The Chair went on to highlight the three key objectives of NHW, namely:

Know your neighbours.

Be neighbourly.

Be active in your community.

The Chair highlighted that from a NHW perspective, the Wiltshire Association continues to serve as a key stakeholder in supporting Wiltshire Police as well as advocating for good effective neighbourhood policing. The Chair stated that under the leadership of the Chief Constable, he was reassured and encouraged that under the leadership of the Chief Constable it was evident that good, effective neighbourhood policing was seen as a priority. The Chair cited three 'keep it simple' criteria of good neighbourhood policing, namely;

- Regular formal/informal meetings between police and local community.
- Information sharing.
- Joint problem-solving.

The role that could be played by Parish Councils was emphasised.

The current drug-related Operation Scorpion campaign highlighted the importance of the public giving information to the police.

The Chair concluded by expressing his thanks to all committee members for their personal support and their support of NHW within their local area.

6. Finance Report – Chris Holden Treasurer reported this month's balance as £805.76 which compared with a balance of £2334.13 in October 2022. Big item spends included NHW street signs, website charges and NHW leaflets. Chris highlighted the need for additional funding. The Association had no tangible income streams with the price of street signs increasing thereby reducing any profit to a minimum despite support in helping erect signs.
7. The role of the committee – brief overview including meeting frequency. The Chair and Vice Chair have a monthly virtual meeting with representatives of the Citizens in Policing team which now comes under the auspices of the Neighbourhood Harm Reduction Unit. Meeting attendees were invited to contact the Chair if they had interest in joining the committee.
8. Election of Vice Chair – there was one nomination, Robert Greenwood, an existing committee member. Chris Holden proposed and Merv Quick seconded Rob's nomination. The meeting approved and Rob was duly elected as Vice Chair.
9. Election of Chair – Paul Sunners indicated his willingness to serve as Chair of the Association for the year 2023/24. Proposed Merv Quick, seconded Mike Brandwood. The meeting approved and Paul was elected to serve as Chair of the Association.
10. The AGM was declared closed.

11. Guest speakers Catherine Roper, Wiltshire Chief Constable and Beth Simpson, Crimestoppers made presentations. The Chief Constable highlighted three priorities including Safer Public Spaces, Violence against the Person, the third priority being Burglary. There was some discussion surrounding the principle Right Care, Right Person linked to police attendance in cases of mental health. Research undertaken in Humberside revealed up to 15000 police hours per month were diverted to incidents in which a person's mental health was seen as an 'additional need'. The Chief Constable felt it was important that the police were not unduly diverted in cases involving a person's mental health. Nigel Walker, Downton NHW scheme co-ordinator took the opportunity to highlight the role played by the Downton Neighbourhood Task Group which involved NHW, Parish Councillors and Police meeting together to discuss issues of concern and engage in problem-solving. The Task-Group model had proved to be very successful. Nigel suggested it might be used elsewhere.
12. Beth Simpson highlighted the Speak up, Stop crime. Stay Safe key message. Crimestoppers received 572,480 contacts last year of which 196,621 saw the public report information, prompting an active response on 126,786 occasions with a specific outcome reported in 29,112 of cases. The benefit of reporting crime or suspicion of crime to Crimestoppers is the guarantee of 100% anonymity.
13. Phil Mackie, Wiltshire Police Communication Lead and Colin Conway, Manager Citizens in Policing were invited to inform the meeting about their respective roles.
14. Q and A session – questions raised included – the status of neighbourhood policing; punishment as a deterrent; community action initiative launch; traffic offences and their management; access to PCSO's; concern about reporting crime; rural crime and cross-border force collaboration.
15. Concluding comments – the Chair expressed his thanks to NHW members, their guests and Councillors for attending the meeting. A further gesture of thanks was conveyed to the guest speakers for their important contribution to the meeting. The meeting closed at midday...