

West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association
Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting
Thursday 20th April 2017
held at 7.00 PM in the St. Stephens Church Hall, Tonbridge.

The Chairman, Peter Rolington, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies. Secretary Peter Brown.** The following have tendered their apologies: Barrie Crowe, Peter Crossley, Barbara Ide, Susan Evans, Jane Nettle, Pam Davies, Peter Lovell, Pamela Gilchrist, Rex Wakeling, Peggy Hughes, Simon Winn, Guy Bertrand, J. Longmab, Lorraine Millgate and Stuart Ollson.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott will now address the meeting as he has other business to attend to afterwards.

Matthew Scott addressed the meeting and made the following points:

There will be Leadership, with strong ethics, transparency and integrity at all times. There are three guiding principles:

- People suffering mental ill health need the right care from the right person
- Crime is important no matter where it takes place.
- Vulnerable people must be protected from harm.

He will:

- Hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of Kent Police's priorities.
- Support all victims of crime and abuse.
- Commission services that reduce pressure on policing due to mental health
- Invest in schemes that make people safer and reduce re-offending.
- Make offenders pay for the harm they have caused.
- Actively engage with residents in Kent and Medway.

The Chief Constables priorities for the next four years are to:

- Put victims first.
- Fight crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Tackle abuse, exploitation and violence.
- Combat organised crime and gangs.
- Provide visible neighbourhood policing and effective roads policing.
- Deliver an efficient service.

Opportunities for the future are:

- Calling for more criminal justice powers for PCCs.
- Lobbying for a fairer funding settlement for Kent.
- Further collaboration with other organisations.
- Oversight of the Police complaints process.
- Ideas tested during the consultation.
- Backing volunteering.

Matthew also advise that there are to be more Police officers in Kent, and that we would see more ‘on the streets.’

The formal AGM then continued.

2. **Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting held on 14th April 2016.** Since no suggested adjustments have been made to the minutes, which have been made available, the Chairman proposed the minutes to be taken as read. They were proposed by Clive Flegg, seconded by John Watson, passed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising not covered as substantive items in the Agenda.
4. **Chairman’s Report. Peter Rolington.** Since last year new schemes have been started but too many are not operational due mainly to the demographic of our membership. We have an up-to-date membership list thanks mainly to Julie Walker contacting our registered membership on a Forth Bridge type project – once she’s finished she goes back to the start. Julie has also responsible for our Watchout magazine that is welcomed by many of our members. E-watch has sent out almost half a million emails in the year but it is only thanks to a dedicated band of volunteers that it is going on so well, that said I am looking for funding to bring it up to date over the next year (more about that in a minute). Dave Spitter (aka Torchie) joined us in I think June last year and struck up an excellent working relationship from day one. – welcome Dave.

Challenges are coming in the Police; I understand that volunteers will be playing an even more prominent role – Cadets, Volunteer PCSOs and more Specials. I also understand that encouraging NW schemes will be in their job description.

Now, I recently became chairman of Kent NhW. I regard this as an opportunity to put NhW on a more secure footing regarding funding and strategy – especially communications.

One project I will be working on (if I can secure the funding from the PCC’s office) is a NhW version of the successful Country Eye app – it will be the modern way of NhW – not a silver bullet I grant you but one way to engage a younger generation in the values of NhW.

I would like to finish with a few ‘Thank yous’:

- Julie Walker for all the tireless work on Watchout and phoning our members
- Peter Brown for keeping us on the straight and narrow
- Marguerite who keeps the books in spite of difficult circumstances this year.
- The four District Representatives for their local work
- Simon for being Simon
- Torchie (Dave Spitter) for being a great VWLO
- The Police for supporting us
- And you at the ‘coal face.’

Thank you all.

5. **Treasurer’s Report. Marguerite Bernard.** Marguerite asked if everyone had a copy of the accounts and then reports that our financial year ended on the 31st January 2017.

She thanked those members from whom we have received donations throughout the year and thanked them for their support. There are few variations from previous years - our main expenditure is still the printing costs for the Watchout newsletter and the postage to send it out. The balance in our accounts at the end of this year is £1592. She asked if anyone would like to see a copy of the Balance Sheet, and advised that this is available on the website. Also she offered to e-mail it if she received an email address at the end of the meeting.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by John Watson, seconded by Janet Ditchett and passed unanimously.

6. **Secretary's Report. Peter Brown.** He reported that during the year he had produced and circulated the agendas and minutes for all the Executive Committee meetings throughout the year, and the minutes for 2016 AGM, and the agenda you this 2017AGM, including printing the required documents. He renewed the registration of the WKNWA for Data Protection.

7. **Report from the District of Sevenoaks. Richard Myers.**

I have attended the following events:-

The Police Safety Shop at Bluewater on Mondays plus the odd days on Bank Holidays and a Thursday. The Shop has now been allowed to stay in the same position for another three months till the end of March, Bluewater are paying the rates.

Manager PC Daniel Rudden is planning to have a two hour training session for all the people helping in the Safer Home, just what that involves I've no idea.

North Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association edited next version of Magalert, distributed just before Christmas.

North West Kent Crime Prevention Committee Monthly Meetings

Kent County NhW meeting. Hoping to get permission from PCC for printing of more Stay Safe brochures. Distributed NhW Members Guides and taken delivery of 25 boxes full, expecting some more after being kicked out of Force HQ. To be stored in my garden cabin.

8. **Report from the Borough of Tonbridge & Malling. John Watson.**

Sue Mason and myself are sharing the Tonbridge and Malling District between us. She looks after Tonbridge and I do The Mallings.

For the last year we have been contacting each coordinator in our area to find out how active each Watch is and checking that they have all the help and assistance they need.

This a long task and there are still a large number of coordinators to contact.

We have both launched a number of new Watches in our respective areas.

Sue has set up a Cold Calling Control Zone and attended a meeting of the Barden Residents Association, liaising with their PCSOs to strengthen the individual Watches involved.

She has also set up several new Area Coordinators which is helping to make each of the Watches more autonomous.

Over the last year I have started Watches in my own village, although it is not in The Mallings area. I am currently helping to start a village NhW in Hodsoll Street which is in an adjacent district to The Mallings. I have also been to various agency meetings within the T&M area to represent NhW Larkfield Area Coordinator. Stuart Olsson has been advising and assisting Anna Mercer to start Watches in Leybourne Park; Anna will take over as coordinator for the Leybourne Park area.

I also wish to take this opportune moment for Sue and myself to thank Julie Walker who mans the office and

has been a great help and support to us.

9. **Report from the Borough of Tunbridge Wells. Janet Ditchett.** I cover about 230 watches. I am not sure how active each of these is in keeping up to date. We need feedback from you as to what is happening. If you have anything to report you should phone 101 but you must then say that you are from neighbourhood watch and then anything you report is also fed back to us so we can co-ordinate the various areas. I am proposing to contact each of you by e-mail asking how you are doing. Please reply to me so that I know you have received my message. If you have no problems that is fine but I should like to know. Please try to get to know your neighbours, what times they are at home and when they are away so that you can keep an eye on their property. Give a neighbour a key in case you get locked out (One of my neighbours does that regularly) The point is he won't have to break into his own house. Remember that by keeping watch and reporting anything unusual you can prevent crime from affecting people's lives. Feedback is important we need to know how you are doing.

I have attended several CSP (Community Safety Partnership) meetings on your behalf. All the charts of crimes reported in Kent show Tunbridge Wells as the lowest. We need to keep it that way.

10. Report by VWLO Dave Spitter.

Dave introduced himself as the VWLO Volunteer and Watch Liaison Officer for Maidstone and District and West Kent. A summary of what he said is:

- Coordinators. There are just under 1000 Coordinators in West Kent. In 2017 fourteen left and fourteen came in.
- Coordinators receive e-watch (if they have registered for it. E-watch has useful links with organisations such as Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue, Action Fraud, Crimestoppers and more.
- Coordinators also receive KCMs. (Kent Community Messaging). These include press releases, appeals for witnesses, crime prevention advice etc.
- Sometimes we cannot advise you of a crime because to do so would hamper Police operations or the victim has asked for it not to be disclosed .
- Flow of information from Coordinators to the Police is also very important. This includes the subjects of mental health, 'modern day slavery,' Child sexual exploitation, drugs, gangs, etc.
- Volunteers. We have many volunteers working with and helping the Police. You need to be 16 years old or over, and be able to commit to a year minimum. If you are interested, let me know.
- LASTLY, thank you everyone for your help.

11. The Executive Committee for 2017. Peter Brown.

- a) Peter Rolington, Marguerite Bernard, Simon Wilshaw, Janet Ditchett, Sue Mason and Richard Myers are within their three years and continue to serve.
- b) Julie Walker, John Watson and Peter Brown, having served for three years resign but offer themselves for re-election.
- c) Since no other proposals have been made, and Julie Walker, John Watson and Peter Brown have all been proposed and seconded, we propose that the motion is made *en bloc*. (At this point I remind you that at the first Committee meeting the officers of the Committee will be elected)

The motion was proposed by Phil Jesson, seconded by Ray Tillett and passed unanimously.

12. **A.O.B.** No AOB had been advised before the AGM, although several questions had been asked after Matthew Scott's address.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2130 and thanked everyone for attending.