

**West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association
Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 18th April 2018
held at 7.00 PM in the Sevenoaks District Offices,
Argyll Road, Sevenoaks. TN13 1HG.**

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

1. **Apologies for absence.** Secretary Peter Brown. Alison Barton, Euring Guy Bertrand, John Coomber, Barry Crome, Peter Crossley, Lorraine Milgate, Gloria Pearson, Eric Plaistow, Ros Wakeling, John Watson, Simon Winn and Barbara Winter.
2. **Minutes of the 2017 AGM.** No corrections had been brought to the Committee's attention so it is proposed that the minutes be taken as read. This was proposed by Malcolm Forsyth, seconded by Richard Myers and agreed unanimously.
3. **Matters Arising.** None have been brought to the attention of the Committee, and we hope to cover subjects of possible interest under substantive items, or in the general discussion to follow the formal part of the meeting.
4. **Chairman's Report. Peter Rolington.** This is my third address to an AGM is as many weeks and it has given me some thought regarding what the Association has done in the last year and our *raison d'être*. On that basis I want to go through with you what the Neighbourhood Watch landscape would look like if we weren't here:
 - a) Our members' interests would not be represented in higher or other forums.
 - b) No lobbying for resources from Kent Police/the PCC's Office/CSUs would take place.
 - c) The Watchout Newsletter would not exist.
 - d) There would be no e-watch.
 - e) Our VWLO in the guise of Dave Spitter would not receive any help in setting up schemes, attendants at events etc.
 - f) Funds would not be raised for signs/stickers or leaflets.
 - g) There would be no Country Eye App.
 - h) We could not pass on our wisdom....

That's a short list I came up with but I am sure there are more.

Now, I would like to thank the Committee for doing all of the above, free; unlike other associations we receive no expenses/mileage etc. I would also thank those who have left and are in the process of leaving:

- a) Ex Inspector Simon Wilshaw.
- b) Janet Ditchett.
- c) C.I. Dave Pate.

Like a lot of voluntary organisations we need new blood, especially to replace those who have left. Please feel free to join!

5. Treasurer's Report. Marguerite Bernard. Marguerite asked if everyone had a copy of the accounts. She then advised:

- a) Our financial year ended on 31st January 2018.
- b) We started the year with assets of £1592.00.
- c) We would like to thank those people who support us with their donations. It is very much appreciated.
- d) Once again our main expenditure was the 'Watchout' newsletter.
- e) As a committee we don't claim any expenses for ourselves. We had a few general expenses such as the web site, data protection and a token gift card for the auditor.
- f) We close the year with a balance of £1320.00
- g) Would anyone like to ask any questions?

There were no questions. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Peter Brown, seconded by Peter Lovell and passed unanimously.

6. Secretary's Report. Peter Brown.

- a) Produced minutes for the 2017 AGM.
- b) Produced notices, agendas and minutes for the committee meetings since the 2017 AGM.
- c) Registered the WKNWA with the Ministry of Information.
- d) Prepared the documents for this AGM.
- e) Produced a Household Security document for the parrish of Langton Green.

7. Report for the District of Sevenoaks. Richard Myers.

- a) We have continued with recruitment of new co-ordinators and the setting up of new watches; however this is getting more and more difficult as retiring co-ordinators are finding it hard to entice people to take over.
- b) As you know, Neighbourhood Watch in the Sevenoaks area works closely with the North West Kent Crime Prevention Panel, their van attends many fetes and functions throughout the district, where members give advice and sell personal and home security protection equipment such as personal alarms, purse chains, shed alarms and security marking kits also I promote of Neighbourhood Watch at these events.
- c) The CPP have just started selling trackers for young children, which can also be useful for people suffering from dementia. It consists of a fob which is attached to the person and an application for your mobile phone, once the person moves more than fifty feet away from the phone, it bleeps and shows the location of the fob carrier on a map. They are available for just £3.00.
- d) Once again, I have attended the Bluewater Police Safety Shop called the Safer Home, there I store signs, door stickers and Neighbourhood Watch Guides for collection by local co-ordinators and it is there where you can buy all the Crime Prevention Panel merchandise.

8. Report for the District of Tonbridge & Malling. John Watson. Presented by Peter Rolington in the absence of John Watson.

- a) John Watson and Sue Mason cover the Tonbridge and Malling District between them.
- b) Over the last year have been able to start a number of new watches; plus keeping in contact with existing ones and supporting those that have needed help or guidance.
- c) They have also been able to deal with several requests from PCSOs to alert watches.
- d) They have attended various meetings and helped to run stalls to promote NhW.
- e) They would like to thank all the coordinators and members for supporting them in this very good

cause.

f) Finally, they look forward to equal success in the year to come.

9. Report for the District of Tunbridge Wells. Peter Rolington. Janet Ditchett, who was our Tunbridge Wells' Representative has had to stand down due to ill health and I have only so far attended one CSP – that was interesting on the basis that five years ago when I last attended the main issues were burglary and ASB. Now it is Mental Health, Scams, cyber crime and the vulnerable.

10. Report by the Volunteer and Watch Liaison Officer. Dave Spitter.

- a) I would firstly like to thank all members for their support and for the information and intelligence that has been forwarded; the quantity and quality has been the best I have known. To give an example, this year alone twenty-eight of the fifty-two have been from West Kent members and nine of these have been forwarded to our intelligence unit.
- b) The types of things that you have reported on vary from Pedlars/door knockers, scams, suspicious persons, bogus callers, evidence of crimes or suspects that had not been known to the police at the time, and various concerns/questions that members have wanted to know.
- c) We are approaching the boot fair season, therefore I believe this is a good time to check that you have property marked the items in your sheds/garages. Anybody that has been to a boot fair will have seen stalls selling ten Black and Decker lawn mowers and strimmers etc. When police attend and check, they cannot prove any of them are stolen: “all bought at another boot fare – honest.”
- d) However, if they are marked with your postcode in some irrevocable way, this serves three purposes:
 - i. When police attend the fairs they can easily check with the address or if there has been a crime reported at that address.
 - ii. If nothing else, it reduces the value of the item to the thief. While many people are happy to buy off the back of a lorry, they do not want to buy it with your postcode on it.
 - iii. If, as in many cases, the items are abandoned when the marking is found, they can be returned to you.
- e) There are specialist marking and registering systems providing even more security. (Imobilise. Selecta DNA).
- f) I currently have 1442 co-ordinators of which 1323 are for West Kent. West Kent has had 31 changes, including the addition of some large new estates.
- g) I have been joined by Julie Walker and John Watson at events including a TAMS event at the Angel Centre and a talk at the Age UK in Tonbridge about scams.
- h) **Finding the answers.** If you have a question, please try the **Kent Police Website – Most Popular Questions** rather than calling 101. You can also report various incidents and reports crime.

11. Committee for 2018. Secretary.

- a) Four Members of the Committee, Julie Walker, John Watson, Richard Myers and Peter Brown are within their three years and continue to serve.
- b) Three Committee Members, Peter Rolington, Marguerite Bernard and Sue Mason, having served for three years, resign but offer themselves for re-election.
- c) Two Committee Members, Simon Wilshaw and Janet Ditchett, resign from the Committee and are not available for re-election.

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*. The motion having been proposed by the Committee. The motion was passed unanimously.

12. General Data Protection Regulations. (GDPR). The Chairman, Peter Rolington. I feel a bit of a fraud here as I am no lawyer and am struggling with the practical implications *vis-à-vis* GDPR and NhW. However, the fog is slowly clearing but before we are able to report and give guidance on this issue, I have a couple of courses to go on. Please bear with me, and I will be in touch with all Coordinators very soon, and certainly before 24th May 2018.

13. No AOB has been notified to the Secretary, but questions and general discussion will take place after the formal part of the meeting.

The Chairman closed the formal part of the meeting at 1938.

The Chairman introduced Clare Oldfield and Augusta-Overy of NatWest, who are working on a project against scams called Friends Against Scams, a National Trading Standards initiative. We have received the following précis:

In summary, NatWest is proud to be a founding partner of the Friends Against Scams programme together with National Trading Standards. The aim of the programme is simple – to reduce the number of people falling victim to criminal scams.

Here are a few facts:

- Scams are the fastest growing type of crime in the UK.
- More than 50% of the population aged over 65 has been targeted by a scammer.
- Only 5% of victims actually report the fact.
- Identity theft now accounts for 56% of fraud, and the greatest increase of this type of fraud is in the 21- 30 age group.
- Younger people are now falling victim to scammers, too.

If any of your Watches would like us to come and give a presentation covering Postal, Telephone, Doorstep and OnLine Scams (including those targeted at the younger generation) please let us know.

I cover the area from Bexleyheath and Swanley round to Sevenoaks and West Wickham. My contact details are below. Augusta covers Dartford, the Medway towns, Maidstone and round to Borough Green. Her mobile number is 07711761849, email Augusta.cookovery@natwest.com.

Another Community Banker has also been appointed to cover the areas around Crowborough, Heathfield, Wadhurst and round to Goudhurst. She is Jo Wallwork and she can be contacted on 07867194020 or by e mail at jo.wallwork@natwest.com.

Please pass our contact details on to your groups as we'd love to help.

Kind regards

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The Chairman introduced C.I. Dave Pate and ‘interviewed him:’ He asked a selection of questions; here are the questions and answers:

1. What are your links to WKNWA?
“I have worked alongside WKNWA for twelve years since taking up a role in the Police partnerships. When in-game back to Tunbridge Wellsas Borough Commander in 2013 I picked where I had left off in 2010 so mostly it was an uninterrupted partnership.”
2. Tell us how things have developed in policing since you started in 1988. What have you been up to for thirty years?
“ I started my career in Tunbridge Wells as a patrol officer on foot in the Pantiles area. After a short spell in the CID and a few other departments I qualified as a dog handler where I spent many happy years hunting humans (legally!).
“In 2007 Iplanned the Police element of the Tour de France in West Kent. In 2009 I became the Borough Commander for Tonbridge & Malling. In 2013 I took command of Tunbridge Wells, and both were joined in 2016.”
3. Tell us about a funny moment in policing.
“Chasing a bull that had escaped from the local abbatoir ... only funny to see the expression on people’s faces as three cops run down the road after a raging bull that promptly ran into the car park of what was Southborough Police Station where all the nice senior officers’ cars were parked. It was messy!”
4. Tell us about a rewarding experience.
“Finding a ninety-one year old war veteran with my Police dog. He had dementia and had hidden up in some woods, surely to perish.”
5. What are the current threats to our community locally?
“Gangs. Drugs.”
6. What do you feel about the role of NhW in tackling crime?
“It’s an essential part of the community acting as eyes and ears.”
7. As you leave Kent Police what legacy do you feel you leave?
“A safer West Kent knowing drugs and gangs haven’t been able to take over our streets.”
8. What next in policing?
“They must keep things local, but demand from cyber-crime etc. is immense.”
9. What is next for you?
“Summer off and a long list of jobs at home! Then I will find something to do to keep my mind busy!”

After this exceptional interview the Chairman closed the meeting, and thanked everyone for attending.