

**Annual General Meeting of Cambridgeshire NHW
held on 13th October 2011
at Hinchingsbrooke Police Headquarters**

Attendees: June Warrington (Chair), Polly Wilderspin (Hon Treasurer), Vic Nickson (Web-Site), Kevin Evans, Lawrence Wright, Dave Harrowing, Inspector Paul Ormerod, John Fuller

Apologies for absence: Simon Carney (Chatteris), Carol Aston (Peterborough)

No of Cambs NHW Members present 75.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes of the last AGM (13th October 2010) were agreed without alteration.

[Approved: Eddie Cloke St Ives, Seconded: Kevin Evans, Ely]

2. Matters Arising:

- In relation to the Honorary Treasurer's Report, the process and guidelines for obtaining funding were quickly posted on the website in November 2010.

3. Report from the Chair:

The Chair shared a statement by Jim Madden, the Chair of National Neighbourhood and Homewatch group that was given at a recent meeting of the Peterborough NHW Association:

"Neighbourhood Watch is changing, gone are the days of curtain twitching, we are now tweeters not twitchers. People don't want to go to cold village halls, people want to surf the internet to find out how to stay safe....there are 1070 schemes forming a collective voice for local communities.

In 1829 Sir Robert Peel formed the Police. The key to the effective policing is the concept that the police are the people and the people are the police through voluntary observation. This concept is never truer than today with Neighbourhood Watch part of the Big Society and we should be proud."

Cambridgeshire Executive Group Report

Achievements this year have been on the core business of creating and maintaining groups, mainly Whittlesey, Ramsey and Hemmingford.

Areas where there have been problems in communicating with the police, and introducing a fresh dialogue between the communities and the police. PCSO's are invaluable in this process, in March for instance in the Chair's area, the PCSO sends out crime reports fortnightly and works in setting up new schemes and recruiting members. Groups currently being targeted are the 6th Form students, who are interested in NHW. This along with the re-launch and trying to regenerate NHW we hope more young people will come forward.

NHW is re-establishing links, helping to link communication between villages and extending messages between the County Team and Village Group Coordinators.

A joint working group including the Executive Team is working with Cambridgeshire Police on Op-Redesign in redeveloping how communities work together, and as NHW Exec has a place on Op-Redesign it shows how valuable NHW is in community communication.

The web site has been revamped and launched 14 February 2011, it is now better and quicker to use. We've had over 40 contact us messages and over 100 hits per week. The web site helps

coordinators make contact with group members and the coordinators handbook is available to download as well as information about ordering NHW items. Please take a look if you have not done already and let us know what can be improved.

Work to do:

- Recruitment – new coordinators in towns and villages in Cambridgeshire, but also recruitment for people to join the Executive Group. The latter will allow the Executive Group to represent all areas.
- Explore where NHW groups are needed and how to communicate to these groups. The Chair and Insp. Paul Ormerod are working to map and see where there are crime hot spots.
- Roll out clustering of village and parish groups. Some villages are spread apart, so there are few meetings, but linking up with surrounding villages/parishes allows more frequent meetings to be held, these are cluster groups.
- Develop communications between the Executive Group, NHW and Policing teams. If you have any thoughts on how communications can be improved, please let the Executive Group know.
- There is support for groups, but want to hear from other groups who feel they are not being supported.

On 18th August 2011 the Executive Group passed a special motion of thanks and congratulations to the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary for their response and communications provided during the time of the UK Disturbances. The police staffs readily abandoned personal time to work 12 hour shifts in Cambridgeshire to be available across the County and beyond. The Constabulary took unprecedented measures to communicate with NHW teams with salient information and assurance.

Once again, the Chair advised that they are seeking new dynamic and enterprising people to become members of the Executive Group and to promote neighbourhood watch in new ways: please make yourselves known to the Chairman or use Contact Us on the web-site.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report:

There is still a healthy balance of £10,875 however there continues to be an annual deficit of expenditure over income.

It has been a busy year with staff changes in the Executive Group and subsequently group members covering for one another.

Op Redesign has taken some resource in preparing the NHW Business Case, but from the end of October core activities will once again take priority.

There has been some wastage in the laborious stock taking task, but all stock is now accounted for and there is a clear invoicing paper trail. The stock will never again be in this position. Replacement street signs will be sold at £10 per sign, with despatch only after monies have been received.

The Executive Group will also now be paid 20p per mile for Group meetings, all other travel to NHW meetings will as before be borne by members.

Future Outlook

Accountancy advice has been given at zero cost by a chartered accountant. There have been no audit costs and the web site costs are now also zero (previously £180). Refreshments have a

zero cost as for this meeting they have been kindly sponsored by Safe Local Trades. Application for grant funding will be examined as fundraising is now an urgent task, but there are few funding opportunities for general running costs as grants are invariably oriented towards specific projects.

The accounting year starts in July, and the Treasurer appealed for a volunteer to help and then take on the responsibility the following year.

5. Revisions to the Constitution

Kevin Evans advised that a booklet was circulated with the proposed changes highlighted in red. This year focus would be on recruitment to the Executive Group, one of the obstacles to this was the constitution, and so a few amendments have been proposed to make future recruitment easier.

1. Section 4 - Membership of the Executive Group

The main changes are to allow provision for up to 20 members at an AGM, currently this has been 14, but there are presently many vacancies and with a heavy workload the Executive need to call upon more assistance of seconded members during the year.

There are basically two routes for appointing members onto the Executive Group :

- At the AGM, and during the year, experienced members can be put forward by NHW Associations and accepted as appointed to the Executive Group.
- On all other occasions during the year, Members can be nominated and put forward by their local NHW Groups for acceptance and be formally voted onto the Executive Group at the following AGM.

In order to meet the needs of heavy workload and special projects during the year, the Chairman may nominate up to 5 additional members for the Group to work and vote during the year as a full member of the Group. At the following AGM these additional members can then be nominated and formally voted onto the Executive Group.

These appointments are valid for a term of one year and, subject to the person volunteering to remain in post, there will be no need to be nominated at subsequent AGMs, but they will need to be re-elected by vote.

2. Appendix 1 - this is revised to bring it into line with the forthcoming new Cambs Policing Structure of six Districts that will replace the current three Divisions.

3. Section 7 Monies and Property

To improve financial accountability, the proposed change will bring in the requirement for an audit or an independent examination to replace the present internal audit.

[Proposed by; Vic Nickson. Seconded by Roger Daw (Orwell) and the vote was unanimous].

6. Nominations and Election of Members of the Group:

Nominations of serving Executive Group Members-

June Warrington, Poly Wilderspin, Kevin Evans, Vic Nickson, Lawrence Wright, Simon Carney

[Proposed by Lester Johannes : seconded by Grace Everson

Election of Honorary Officers for the Executive Group :-

- Chair – June Warrington [proposed by Elizabeth Deer : seconded by Debbie Hose]
- Treasurer – Polly Wilderspin [proposed by Rita Swiekhorst : seconded by Paul Spencer]
- Secretary – *(formal appointment deferred until a suitable candidate is recruited)*

These appointments were all unanimously approved by the meeting

7. AOB

No topics had been notified so the formal AGM was closed and the meeting was re-opened for a general Open forum of Q and A from the Members.

The AGM and Presentation Evening was finally closed at 9.00pm