

Executive Group Meeting of 23rd October 2013 held at Police Headquarters, Hinchingsbrooke

1. Attendance

Present

John Fuller (Chair)
Val Godby (Secretary)
Morcom Lunt (Treasurer)
Inspector Paul Ormerod
Polly Wilderspin
David Godsmark
Vic. Nickson
Geoff Varley
Dave Harrowing
Brian Wilson
Richard Taylor
PC Lisa Raby



A welcome was given to Richard Taylor newly elected Vice Chairman for Peterborough District Association. Brian Wilson attended to represent Huntingdonshire in an advisory capacity.

Apologies for absence

Roy Gerstner, Alan Paul and Karoly von Glos offered their apologies.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 10th July 2013 - Comments and approval

Minutes of the July Executive meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising that remain unresolved - see also Action Log for all updates (Annex A)

Ref 3.2 Skydrive

DG concerned about privacy issues and who owns site. Committee agreed that the issue of where we store documents needs resolving a.s.a.p as we are in danger of losing audit trails as members change, Richard Taylor offered to look into issue as he is more experienced at using such data storage systems. RT to liaise with DG and Kevin Evans to progress.

ACTION RT & DG

Ref 4. Alert – Information sharing

It was noted that more information is required when sharing information about reported crimes and requesting members help. This was now included in the joint working group's plan of action and would be progressed through that group.

Action PO and JF

Ref 5.1 Accuracy of Force Websites

Force website was out of date in respect of NHW details and policing team and event publication. JF reported he had sent an email to Corporate Marketing requesting changes be made. PO stated that National ALERT site not up to date and there were problems with the interface between Alert and Ourwatch sites. BW reported his experiences of schemes not being properly designated on OURWATCH site. Work in progress to resolve.

Action PO and JF

Ref 6. Change to S. Cambs. Agreement

PW reported that changes were being considered as part of on-going work in South Cambs. PO reported that the first edition of the document had now been considered by all district commands and been accepted in principle as a good base position from which to build relationships and good working practices. PW and JF to continue review with Sergeant Paul Rogerson and report back through working group.

Action PW & JF

To be agreed at meeting 22.01.2014

Ref 9.2. Publicity Material

Acquisition of more copies of the 'The Guide to Getting Involved' was not finalised. The publisher had responded but no details were available. JF also mentioned NHWN were also producing a similar guide to be made available nationally. Content had been prepared but no details were available as to how this would be distributed and whether charges would be made. JF to follow up.

Action JF

Ref 12.2 Street Signs

LR reported on action taken to clarify requirements regarding the erection of street signs in light of different procedures across the county. The role of Balfour Beatty needed clarification as it was they who had taken over the lighting contracts to renew and maintain streetlights. LR agree to continue to follow up on previous advice.

Action LR

4. Treasurer's Report

ML presented an updated balance sheet and reported on the need to spend unallocated money from the P&CC's grant. ML felt that Cambridge City would have bids as did PW and RT. Agreed that members would consider and advise ML of their 'shopping list'. To be raised at next meeting.

Action All

ML requested that cost of replacement street signs and new signs be rationalised to £12 for both. All agreed. VN to update website.

Action VN to

5. NHW Development

5.1. Executive Membership

The gaps in executive membership and support were discussed. This was acute in March and Chatteris areas of Fenland and in Huntingdonshire. JF and PW had met with Sergeant Alan Boughen to try and progress issues in Fenland. It was hoped that this meeting would result in renewed efforts to develop better liaison in Fenland especially as Carol Aston was now supporting Alan and was keen to assist him.

Eddie Cloake's offer to be co-opted onto the group was considered. Eddie had been a former chairman of the group during a difficult time. This was supported and JF to contact and discuss.

Action JF

5.2. Update on Work Streams

Meetings had been held but understandably business had been dominated by Alert issues over recent months. It was recognised now that more focus needs to be given to developing better working practises as well as refining strategic documents which do not reflect current administrations and commands. Alert issues would be included in work programme.

PW reported on her meeting with Supt. Mead Head of Contact Management (Force Control Room) to discuss issues regarding call waiting times when members wish to report incidents and updates requested by police. The issue was recognised and proposals were awaited to try and address the issue. PW to follow up.

Action PW

JF still sits on the Force Engagement Board and CCJB working group looking a new Victims' strategy.

5.3 Alert

Still some way to go to iron out problems relating to data accuracy, scheme mapping and user confidence, PO reported that feedback from trained staff had been positive. Training continues.

It was stated that members with problem should contact support@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk or ring 01159245517

To be agreed at meeting 22.01.2014

5.3 Police and Crime Commissioner

JF reported on meetings with Sir Graham and his staff. Sir Graham was keen to continue to support NHW and was planning to make further grants next year. JF stated that he had informed his deputy Brian Ashton, that whilst grant money was very welcome, support in terms of people time was ideally required to help on the ground.

JF reported that whilst the emphasis on supporting victims of crime had reduced the work being done to produce a comprehensive Victims' Strategy to comply with the new Victims' Code includes a role for watch group members to help build stronger and safe communities.

5.4 Regional and National Issues

The National Neighbourhood and Home Watch Awards will take place again in 2014. Further details to follow.

6. Website

A written report had been circulated.

7. A.O.B.

PW mentioned she had been given 5 Norton Security CDs and one went missing at the AGM. Members could not assist but felt a delegate had helped themselves no doubt presuming they were freebies!

JF thanked PW for all her hard work and leadership whilst she had held office on the committee. Polly will continue to represent the group on the joint working group and also attend regional meetings when either the Chairman or Secretary was unavailable.

8. Date of Next Meeting

7pm Wednesday 22nd January 2014 at Police Headquarters, Hinchbrooke Park, Huntingdon.