

**Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting
of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches
held on Wednesday 4th July 2012 at The Council Chamber, Woking Borough Council Offices,
Woking**

Present: Chairman: Mr. Tony Kremer
Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Mrs. Fui Ling Bolton
General Secretary : Mr. Geoffrey Johnson
Committee Member : Mr Alan Taylor
Committee Member : Mr Martin Stilwell
And 28 members of the Association.

Guests: Inspector John Davies: Woking Police Neighbourhood Team

1. Chairman's Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Inspector Davies. He thanked those who had organised the evening and everyone for their attendance.

He was delighted to announce that Fui Ling Bolton the founder Membership Secretary & Treasurer of WAN had recently been given an award by Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Association. This was for the Co-ordinator who had made the most significant contribution the Neighbourhood Watch in their Borough. The award recognised her work as a local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator in West Byfleet.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Approximately 38 apologies had been received from members.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd July 2011.

Acceptance of the minutes of the above meeting, copies of which had previously been circulated, was proposed by Mrs Fui Ling Bolton and seconded by Derek Bartholomew and accepted.

4. Chairman's Report.

Mr. Kremer started by thanking the Committee members for their support. He also thanked the two past Chairmen who were present, Derek Bartholomew & Geoff Lane. During the year, Mr Bartholomew had retired from the committee. Mr Alan Taylor & Mr Martin Stilwell had been co-opted onto the committee.

He reported that the membership of WAN had increased by 15% over the past year, with a new startup approximately every 10 days. This was encouraging progress in WAN's principal objective of expanding coverage of the Borough. The expansion had been supported by the Street a Week initiative.

The Chairman mentioned that the Committee were still seeking Area Co-ordinators for a few areas of the Borough & invited members to consider taking on the role for their area.

Turning to Woking Police he mentioned that Mark Saunders, the Woking Neighbourhood Crime Prevention Design Advisor would be moving to a part time basis from the autumn. This would create a position for a part time admin assistant which may be of interest to WAN members.

Surrey Police were currently in consultation over the proposed privatisation of certain services. Mr Kremer was making representations for Woking to host a consultation session.

Note: On the 11th July Surrey Police Authority announced that they were withdrawing from the discussions on further privatisation of services.

Mr Kremer then introduced the Guest Speaker, Inspector John Davies of Woking Neighbourhood Police

5. Inspector John Davies.

Inspector Davies mentioned his background as including time as a local Neighbourhood Sergeant in Woking. He thanked WAN members for their assistance to the Police.

He mentioned the challenges currently facing Surrey Police as including:

- Economic Constraints.. Surrey Police were well prepared for these having already reduced the number of Senior Officers. Inspector Davies stressed that the 30% cuts projected for next year should not impact on the number of front line officers nor should there be any reduction in Neighbourhood Support Staff which are actually scheduled to increase.
- Olympics. The Cycling Road Races pass through Byfleet & Pyrford. These have involved extensive planning & significant policing. However, local Police protection should not be affected.

PCSOs: Whilst providing valuable resource & support, PCSOs do not enjoy a career structure. For younger members the job is often seen as a route into becoming a Police Officer. Comments from the floor were positive as to the value of the local PCSOs.

In answer to questions from the floor Inspector Davies responded:

Special Constables . Normally only on duty on weekend evenings. Woking has more than other Boroughs.

Street Angels provide support to citizens who need assistance, usually late at night.

Town Centre. No further licences being issued outside an agreed zone. Some premises have had their licensing hours reduced. A `late night levy` is being introduced for licensed premises, 70% of which goes to the Police, 30% to the Council.

Violent crime in the Town Centre is down by 50%.

6.Treasurer`s Report.

Mrs. Bolton presented the accounts for the year to the end of March 2012, copies of which had been circulated to members. The accounts had been independently examined. Whilst total expenditure had reduced to £475, income had also reduced to £170. This had the effect of reducing the Association`s Balance Sheet to little over £400.

In the absence of any grant, the principal source of income had been a donation via the Waitrose collection scheme.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Mr Tony Hayes-Allen & seconded by Mr Paul Salt. The accounts were duly accepted.

7.Election of Officers.

The current committee comprising:

Mr Tony Kremer: Chairman
Mrs Fui Ling Bolton: Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Mr Alan Taylor
Mr Martin Stilwell
Mr Geoffrey Johnson: General Secretary

were offering themselves for re-election.

Mr Mark Wilson was also willing to continue as Independent Examiner.

In the absence of any additional nominations having been received by the General Secretary prior to the Meeting or from the members present, their election was proposed by Mrs Angela Williams and seconded by Dr Geoff Lane.

All the above officers were duly elected.

8. Appointment of Area Co-ordinators.

Mr Paul Salt (Sheerwater) & Mrs June Weaver (Maybury) volunteered to become area co-ordinators for their respective localities.

The role of area co-ordinator was discussed. This is to include:

- : WAN Membership Secretary to supply AC with details of WAN members in their area.
- : AC to send introductory letter to their members.
- : Act as a focal point for NW activities & concerns in their area & promote networking amongst co-ordinators.
- : Develop relationships with area Police team, attend & encourage members to support Police Panel meetings.
- : Assist the Committee in extending NW coverage within the area.

9. Fundraising.

Mrs Bolton mentioned the successful efforts using the collection boxes at Waitrose Goldsworth Park & West Byfleet.

Martin Stilwell explained how funds could be raised via the easyfundraising.org.uk website on which WAN is registered. This results in a donation of a small percentage of the cost of all online purchases to WAN. The identity of the purchaser is not revealed.

It was also suggested that some funding may be obtained from the management company for the former Woking Council properties.

10. Any Other Business.

Residents Associations: Following suggestions from the floor that WAN could benefit from more co-operation with Residents Associations, the Committee agreed to pursue this, with the Chairman offering to talk to local RA meetings.

Police Panel Meeting: Neighbourhood Watch should be an agenda item.

Mr Kremer thanked the members for their attendance & support and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.