

**Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting
of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches
held on Tuesday 30th June 2015 at
The Community Hall, Goldwater Lodge, Wishbone Way, Woking GU21 3RT**

Present:	Chairman:	Mr. Tony Kremer
	Membership Secretary:	Mr Martin Stilwell
	General Secretary:	Mr. Geoffrey Johnson
	Committee Member:	Mr Alan Taylor
	Committee Member:	Mrs Angela Williams
	Committee Member:	Mrs June Weaver
	And 12 members of the Association	
Guests:	Mark Rios-Vinos:	Surrey Fire & Rescue Service
	Camilla Edmiston:	Community Safety Officer, Woking BC

1. Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked those who had organised the evening and everyone for their attendance. He apologised for the short notice which had been due to a combination of availability of Speakers, securing a venue & an interruption of the Association's email service at a critical time.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Approximately 10 apologies had been received from members including the Treasurer Mrs Fui Ling Bolton

3. The Constitution of the Association & the Annual General Meeting.

The General Secretary Geoffrey Johnson addressed the meeting & drew attention to the Association's constitution Item 7 which states inter alia:
Notice of intent shall be given to all members no later than 21 clear days before the AGM.

A quorum at the AGM shall be no less than 10% of the members registered with the Association in addition to a quorum of the Committee.

As neither of these requirements were met (members present approx 7% of membership), he asked that those members present accept the meeting as the AGM to enable the formal business to be completed. He undertook to notify the full membership of the position & ask that any dissensions be notified to the Secretary.

Acceptance of the position was proposed by Sandra Tognarelli & seconded by June Weaver.

4. Minutes of the AGM held on 17th July 2014.

Acceptance of the minutes of the above meeting, copies of which had previously been circulated, was proposed by Derek Bartholomew, seconded by Sue Alexander and accepted.

5. Chairman's Report. (see end of these minutes for full version)

Mr. Kremer thanked the Committee & the general membership for their support during the year, especially in the light of the illness affecting both the General Secretary and himself. He summarised the work during the year particularly the initiative in Barnsbury to start a major new watch proactively. He also highlighted preparations for a pilot running of a Junior NHW scheme in the New Monument Primary School in September for which volunteer leaders were also requested. NHW's deeper engagement with cybercrime prevention was mentioned and he stressed the need to get all residents on-line so that news can be circulated quickly.

Looking ahead, he said that the Committee would start a Facebook page if a volunteer could be found and they would investigate the broadening of the Coordinator's role to become

Street Champions. A second proactive opportunity to carry out a "Barnsbury" initiative would also be sought.

As there were vacancies for Committee members he asked members present to consider joining.

6. Treasurer`s Report.

In Mrs. Bolton`s absence the General Secretary presented the accounts for the year to the end of March 2015, copies of which had been circulated to members.

The accounts had been independently examined. Total expenditure had increased to £567 mainly due to purchase of security items for resale both to the membership & at public events. Income had also increased to £138 leaving a cash shortfall for the year of £429. This had the effect of reducing the Association`s Balance Sheet to £693 plus the value of stock in hand.

Donations were principal source of income excluding sales. These were mainly through Easyfundraising.org.uk, an internet purchasing route. This rebates a small percentage of members` internet purchases back to the Association. The identity of the purchaser is not revealed.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by June Weaver & seconded by Alan Taylor. The accounts were duly accepted.

7. Election of Officers.

The following members of the current committee:

Mr Tony Kremer	Chairman
Mrs Fui Ling Bolton	Treasurer
Mr Martin Stilwell	Membership Secretary
Mr Geoffrey Johnson	General Secretary
Mr Alan Taylor	
Mrs June Weaver	
Mrs Angela Williams	

were offering themselves for re-election.

In the absence of any additional nominations having been received by the General Secretary prior to the Meeting or from the members present, the election of all of the above names was proposed by Derek Bartholomew and seconded by Sue Alexander. All the above officers were duly elected.

Mr Mark Wilson had also agreed to continue as Independent Examiner. His re-appointment was proposed by Martin Stilwell & seconded by June Weaver. He was duly re-appointed. It was noted that following a move away from the area Mr Wilson would be willing to hand over his responsibilities.

8. Area Co-ordinators.

The Chairman appealed for members to act as Area Co-ordinators to fill vacant positions.

The role involves acting as the main WAN contact point for the area, developing relationships with the Neighbourhood Police & the WAN members.

9. Any Other Business.

Future Focus. Following the Chairman`s report a question was raised from the floor as to whether the Committee were focussing on the key issues, which were agreed as being expanding the WAN coverage within the Borough & starting new watches. The Chairman accepted the point but the felt that Barnsbury project should help to achieve this aim. WAN were also aware of the current new housing developments & had discussions with major Town Centre apartment complexes.

The Chairman closed the formal AGM at 9.40pm.

WAN CHAIR'S REPORT JUNE 2015

This has been a very challenging year for us in WAN. We have undertaken new things - which I will outline in my Chair's report - with some success, I must say, in the teeth of a continued reduction in the input from our friends in Surrey Police. Unfortunately we have no representation tonight: Mark Saunders our Crime reduction advisor is taking a career break & his replacement Mike Jones who covers all of West Surrey is unable to be with us. The Inspector's duty rosters don't fit the evening (but I will be meeting him shortly) and both the Community Safety Sergeants are unavailable this evening.

Your Committee has been working very hard and my thanks go to Martin Stilwell, Alan Taylor, Geoffrey Johnson, Angela Williams, June Weaver, and also to Fui Ling Bolton and Derek Bartholomew who support us on various initiatives.

Geoffrey and I are facing health issues at present and so even more has fallen on the others than usual. But they remain undaunted. We would like to increase our committee strength though, so please make yourselves known to one of us if you want to help.

What have we been up to?

Our main role is to start new watches which is an all year activity. This year however we have decided to become proactive, as you will have seen in our latest newsletter, "Watch over Woking". We have set about starting a combined Watch and Residents' Association covering the 450 or so houses on the Barnsbury estate. We have leafleted every house, held two open meetings and WAN will support them as they become self-sufficient. At the last meeting we were able to report positively about the Walking Group, Walking football & Garden scheme. Rev. Zoe Pimentel was able to give a full update on the plans for the Big Lunch in July. We will use the Big Lunch as the fulcrum around which we would launch the Walking group and the Walking football.

An even more important innovation which we hope to launch in September is Junior NHW. This involves delivering six sessions at the top end of a Primary School, opening their eyes to personal security and watchfulness, more of this in a few minutes. For this we need to recruit two confident people, possibly ex-teachers, to be trained up. All the sessions are well-scripted and supported by worksheets, thanks to Sussex NHW, who will deliver the pilot at a School selected by the Council, but we do need to learn how to deliver them ourselves in other schools. Please do volunteer for what will be a great experience and a very valuable contribution to the community.

WAN represents Woking at various levels of the Police hierarchy: we meet the Deputy PCC at Surrey level, we are in West Division so quarterly we meet with Divisional inspectors from its four Boroughs, and we are in South East Region so we meet with Police and NHW reps from Hampshire, Kent, Sussex and Thames Valley also quarterly. We have good relationships with Woking Borough Council who provide specific support such as copying/printing and room hire.

As part of a Surrey Police initiative, a new body has just been set up called CyberSafe Surrey, pooling resources, best advice and key contacts on a new network. At a recent meeting we all agreed that NHW can play a core role in communications between the Police and the residents. A key part of this is passing on email alerts from the Police and WAN. For this to be effective coordinators should have, wherever possible, residents' email addresses (use BCC or "blind copies" when you do this) or hand-deliver them. Remember to say you'll be keeping these email addresses confidential.

This year we started stocking a wide-range of good value anti-theft devices and these are offered on stalls at village fairs, street parties etc., in part to promote the idea of NHW more widely. I am glad to say that the idea has started very well and will be extended. Items will be on sale at tonight's AGM too. I also have special DNA marking kits for your high value items such as jewellery, watches and cameras. This we have

bulk-bought in order to be able to sell on to you at half the normal price, namely just £17 for a kit that will mark around 50 items. Please speak to me directly about this.

Looking at next year, apart from continuing work in Barnsbury we plan to identify other communities where we can take a proactive role. Have you any suggestions yourselves? If you live in an area where there are only a few watches we can work together to greatly increase the take-up. Please let us know this evening.

We would also like to look more closely into a scheme running in other Boroughs called Street Champions, a role for which our Coordinators may be very well suited. This involves them being recognized by the Council and Councillors as spokespersons for their street or estate when raising issues for the Council to address. Residents can help by being the eyes and ears of the community. You may see things that can be reported that the Council may not know about: graffiti, broken street furniture or lights. Small actions can help transform our neighbourhoods into even greater places to live and work. Would you support such a scheme? Please let us know.

If we can find a suitable volunteer we would also like to launch a Facebook page this year which will help communications with the Coordinators, Police etc. – or at least the more switched-on ones among you!

So there are lots of new things to do for which we would very much need to have more hands helping on, so please do step forward and help us.