

**Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood  
Watches  
Held on Saturday 20th May 2017 at the Goldwater Lodge,  
Wishbone Way, Woking GU21 3RW.**

**Present:** Chairman: Mr Tony Kremer  
Membership Secretary: Mr Martin Stilwell  
General Secretary & Treasurer: Mr Geoffrey Johnson  
Committee Member: Mr Marc Alderman  
Committee Member: Mr Steve Dew

And 18 members of the Association  
List of those who sent apologies is at the end of these minutes

**Speaker:** Councillor Marc Pengelly:

**1. Welcome.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked those who had organised the event and everyone for their attendance. He noted that despite ample notification, the attendance level whilst being disappointingly low, did exceed the 10% of the current membership required by the Constitution.

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

A number of apologies had been received from members.

**3. Minutes of the AGM held on 12th May 2016.**

The minutes of the 2015 AGM having previously been circulated were accepted by the meeting.

**4. Chairman's Report.**

Mr Kremer began his report by regretfully announcing the recent death of Committee member Mrs June Weaver who in addition to having been a Committee member for a number of years had also been active as a tenants representative & Chair of the Residents Association in her locality .Mr Kremer also thanked his Committee for their support & appealed to the membership to consider joining the Committee

A copy of the Chairman's address is to be found at the end of these minutes..

**5. Treasurer's Report.**

Mr Johnson reported that during the year the Independent Examiner Mark Wilson had retired. A replacement had been found, Mr Deryck Fowler who seen & approved the Accounts which were now ready for signing.

Mr Johnson explained that the 2015/6 Accounts had been restated to reflect the stock of security items being now held at Nil value. This had had the effect of reducing the Current Assets at 31<sup>st</sup> Mach 2016 by £100 down to £700.

Mr Johnson explained that total expenditure during the current year amounted to £229 which included £102 in respect of organising a training conference on behalf of National & Surrey Neighbourhood Watch .This cost in the process of being recovered but had the effect on the accounts of producing a loss for the year of £177. He also mentioned that room hire costs had reduced as no charge was made for the use of Goldwater Lodge.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Marc Alderman & seconded by Steve Dew. The accounts were duly accepted.

Mr Johnson also proposed a vote of thanks to Chairman Tony Kremer who in addition to his activities on behalf of the Association was also the very active Chair of Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Committee.

**6. Election of Officers.**

The following members comprised the current committee:

Mr Tony Kremer: Chairman

Mr Geoffrey Johnson: Treasurer /General Secretary

Mr Martin Stilwell: Membership Secretary

Mr Alan Taylor

Mr Steve Dew

Mr Marc Alderman.

All of whom were offering themselves for re-election.

The election of the Committee as above was proposed by Derek Bartholomew, seconded by Maureen Thomas & duly elected.

### **7. Appointment of Independent Examiner.**

The Treasurer reported that following the retirement of Marc Wilson, qualified accountant Mr Deryck Fowler had agreed to act for WAN in this capacity. The appointment of Mr Fowler, proposed by Sue Alexander & seconded by Hillary Alder was accepted.

### **8. Any Other Business.**

#### **Police Weekly Crime Updates:**

Committee Member Steve Dew reported on the recent reintroduction of the weekly crime information emails which were being sent to Woking NhW co-ordinators. As a Community Engagement Volunteer he is allowed a restricted number of hours per week to compile these from the Police database. The members present welcomed this development.

#### **Byfleet:**

This area is currently experiencing a crime wave involving house thefts, vehicle damage/theft mainly during the hours of darkness when the street lights are turned off. Local PCSO Lesley Foster has organised a Neighbourhood Meeting to discuss this & the sensible Crime Prevention measures that can be taken. Lesley has set up a Facebook page (as opposed to using a website) which is proving very successful in residents being aware of and reporting incidents, attempted crimes etc.

**Incident Reporting:** The Crimestoppers phone service provides an anonymous route for reporting domestic violence & other sensitive issues.

**Police Response:** The communication with residents who have been the victim of burglary or reported attempted ones was felt in need of improvement. Members were not being made aware of burglaries in their watch areas.

**CCTV** on domestic premises must be very good quality to be of use to the Police.

### **9. Speaker: Councillor Mark Pengelly.**

Mark Pengelly was elected onto Woking BC in May 2016 having set up a Neighbourhood Watch at Hillview Court shortly after moving to Woking in 2014. Mark gave a brief overview of the recent & planned changes in Woking town centre & went on to discuss the setting up of the new Watch covering the development in which he lived. A copy of his slides is attached to the email.

### **10. Martin Stilwell. Surrey NhW Multi Scheme Administrator.**

Committee member Martin reported on his recent attendance at a workshop in London held by the National NhW & the Metropolitan Police on electronic communication. The Met Police were moving away from website & email based systems to Facebook & Twitter to achieve more immediate communication. As cybercrime is not physical location based, the conventional street centred Watch is not appropriate & NhW will need to respond to meet the changes. Martin also mentioned that the Police Forces nationally had individual IT systems which were not always compatible.

### **11. Close of Meeting.**

The chairman again thanked the speakers & closed the meeting at 4.00pm.

**Those giving apologies:**

Alan Taylor, WAN committee  
Mirian Winchmann, Loop Rd, Woking  
Hilary Maskell, Lincoln Drive, Pyrford  
Brian Davis, Weybarton, Byfleet  
Tony Trangmar, Dartnell Park Rd (east), West Byfleet  
Alan Eaton, Maybury Estate, Woking  
Victoria Millar, Waldens Pk Rd, Horsell  
Jill Hayes, Blackdown Ave, WB  
Sal Dobbie, Victoria Rd (north), Knaphill  
Crista Rayner, Saunders Lane, Mayford  
Angela Hughes, Guernsey Farm Drive, Horsell  
Mandy Ferguson, Woodham Waye, Woking  
Jenny Davis, Waldens Pk Rd, Horsell  
John Evans, Hockering Gardens, Woking  
Jan Dale, Gorselands Close, WB  
Lesley Labram, St Nicholas Cres, Pyrford  
Richard Hennessy, Park Rd, Woking  
Malcolm Pritchard, Haves Barton, Woking  
Tony Jennings, Grassmere Way, Byfleet  
Alan Brook, Brackendene Close  
Geoff Lane, Heathside, Woking  
Maureen Mullaney, Burnham Rd, Woking

## WAN CHAIR'S REPORT MAY 2017

This is the fifth time we have met on a Saturday afternoon in Goldwater Lodge: we had a meeting on the Community Information Systems in February 2016, a session with the new PCC David Munro in September and then a meeting on cybercrime this February by a Microsoft security expert. We hope you approve of this venue & timing, we hope to hold an autumn session in September/October & would welcome your feedback.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge today's guest speaker Cllr Mark Pengelly who will talk about Woking Town centre development plans following my report.

It's good to be able to report that this past year has at last seen a meaningful change in approach from Surrey Police and I will give you a full account of this in a moment.

But first I want to speak about your Committee. It's customary for the Chair to thank those who have been working very hard and my thanks do go to Martin Stilwell, Alan Taylor, Geoffrey Johnson, Stephen Dew, Marc Alderman and June Weaver. Very unfortunately June is not among us to hear these words of thanks. Sadly she passed away a few weeks ago, and will be missed by so many in Woking, not just ourselves in Neighbourhood Watch. Very active as a representative on behalf of those in rented accommodation, very involved in addressing problems felt in the Alpha Road area and Maybury generally, she was always busy on behalf of others. June had just volunteered for a new role as Scam Champion, and was booked on a training course so that she could help everyone resist the dangers of online fraud – more of this later.

Alan Taylor is unable to attend today due to a prior engagement but his selection of security products are available from Marc Alderman.

The rest of the Committee, all volunteers, unsung heroes. Neighbourhood Watch is for them just one of a number of community-based activities that they devote so many hours to, for absolutely no personal benefit. So, in a more heart-felt way than ever before, I would like on your behalf to thank all the Committee for what they do.

Today we will be conducting the normal AGM business, and all the Committee, except of course June, will be standing again, but we would welcome one or two more volunteers. Marc and Stephen are relatively new boys, and so they would be the best to speak to about what it's like being on the committee, so please indicate at the earliest opportunity if you'd like to join in. Can I say that we have an unbalanced gender situation now, and so if any ladies would like to join us and follow in the footsteps of previous valued committee members of Fui Ling, Angela and June would be very welcome.

So back to the series of very positive changes in approach that Surrey Police have taken in the past year. In outline these key points are:

- I spent an hour with the Chief Constable's three top Officers. I reported on this in the latest Watch over Woking, and I am confident that we have the backing of the top brass in pushing for a complete overhaul of the way the Police engage with residents and in particular with Watch Coordinators
- I also recently met the new Officer who has now taken over responsibility at Surrey Police for Neighbourhood Watch across Surrey, I mean at Senior Officer level. This is Chief Inspector Terri Adderley. I took the opportunity to express the frustration felt by Coordinators that has grown over the past 18 months. Terri was very responsive to our concerns and made a number of notes to herself on things she wants to address. - Ali Dunlop remains active at Sergeant level
- One particular issue is of course InTheKnow. We have been invited by Terri to attend and to present for 15 minutes or so at a 3 hour meeting planned for June at which Police representatives from all 11 Boroughs will meet to discuss the system and its effectiveness following its few months of implementation, the scope and surrounding procedures, and frankly anything else people want to talk about. We can give voice WAN's own complaints at that time.
- Here in Woking, a big step forward is that we are now getting information flowing again in the form of regular crime reports. That is in good part because Woking has a Police volunteer to do the work, in the form of WAN Committee member Stephen Dew. Other areas of Surrey, for example Waverley where I am helping rebuild NHW virtually from scratch, does not have one yet. Having said that, timing is erratic and I have asked Terri to set a timetable as a standard for how frequently messages should be sent.

I do need to emphasise one point. These meetings with the Police are not about restoring relationships to the good old days which are gone. It's about launching a fresh start to a "modern" relationship between Police and Neighbourhood Watch, one of mutual benefit and relevance.

Let me give just two examples of what we are trying to develop, and I would welcome your feelings on these:

1. We would like to access more information on cybercrime, to be shared with approved NHW persons so that we can tackle crime against vulnerable people. I mentioned that June was to be trained as a Scam Champion, but now we need a new volunteer please.
2. I want to pilot new ways for NHW to make up for the absence of Panel Meetings, both to ensure local communities are kept informed about policing in their area, and to feedback input to setting local priorities. I want to initiate one pilot based on calling a meeting (Horsell perhaps) and one via email (West Byfleet/Pyrford perhaps). Any views on this?

Of course the fundamental things that are traditional within the Force will not be forgotten in the process of developing a modern relationship with the Police. Let's take Burglary as an example:

- NHW will always assist the Police in crime prevention, in spreading good advice on how to avoid being burgled.
- I was told that to obtain a conviction the Courts look for one of three things: – best of all is a witness – and there are some recent stories from the Guildford area:
- An entry was forced through a kitchen window of a property and an untidy search was made with jewellery and an iPad being taken. However, unknown to the burglars CCTV footage was being recorded of them and on reviewing the footage the victim was able to identify the burglars, confirming reported statistics that indicate a victim's burglars are often people they know. Hopefully, arrests are imminent!
- An up and over garage door has been damaged in an attempt to force it open which was unsuccessful. It looks as though the offenders were trying to take the garage door off, but were disturbed. A witness reported seeing a white, but dirty, van drive off with two male occupants inside and described the occupants to Police.
- A vehicle drove onto a property driveway and a female got out and knocked at the door (an occupancy test). On not getting a reply, returned to her car picking up a garden ornament which was by the front door and then placed it in the boot of the vehicle before driving off. Unfortunately, unknown to this offender, she was being watched by a witness who noted down the registration plate of the vehicle (Neighbourhood Watch strikes again!). This registration was known to police and further charges to the vehicle's owner are imminent
- An Informant spotted a burglary in progress at a neighbour's property and rang the Police. On Police arrival the burglar had already fled. However, the Neighbour was able to give Police a description of the burglar. Furthermore the resident had even jotted down the registration of a grey vehicle which he discreetly observed the burglar returning to. This is another good example of Neighbourhood Watch at work and is hoped this information will lead to an arrest and conviction

Second best is video or CCTV of the crime in progress: through our friends in Surrey Heath we have the opportunity to purchase CCTV at discount

Thirdly is DNA evidence on stolen goods and again we have offered SelectaDNA kits at a good price and would like to do that again if there is enough demand.

Incidentally, did you know that people can register themselves on ITK as having CCTV? You can tick a box. The Police Admin can do the same. Surrey has 445 such registered.

One last thing on ITK: please do keep your contact details up to date. For example several email providers are changing, O2, Orange, Wanadoo, Freeserve and FS are, we understand, already closed down or are shortly closing down. We therefore need you to advise us your new E-mail address in order that we can continue to keep in touch.

Thank you and progressing on to our guest speaker today Mark Pengelly who is Woking Borough Councillor for Mount Hermon ward, & a town centre-based Watch Coordinator.

A bit about Mark as a way of introduction:

Originally from Reading, he studied politics at Queen's University Belfast and business at Baker University, Kansas and spent the past 10 years working as a financial journalist and editor in London and New York. In 2014, he moved with his family to Woking .