

**Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches
Held on Wednesday 16th May 2018 at the Byfleet Village Hall,
High Road, Byfleet, KT14 7QL**

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

And 30 members of the Association
List of those sending apologies is at the end of these minutes

Speaker: John Hayward-Cripps Chief Executive Officer Neighbourhood Watch Network.

1. Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked those who had organised the event and everyone for their attendance. He was pleased to see that the attendance level clearly exceeded the 10% of the current membership as required by the Constitution.

He also welcomed guests including the speaker John Hayward-Cripps, Chief Inspector Terri Adderley who in addition to being the senior neighbourhood officer for the Surrey Western division was responsible for Surrey Police relations with Neighbourhood Watch. Other guests Acting Woking Inspector Emmie Harris & members of Surrey NhW Committee from other Boroughs were also welcomed.

He noted the significance of the meeting being held in Byfleet where Fiona Syrett & colleagues ran the very successful Facebook based forum.

2. Apologies for Absence.

A number of apologies had been received from members see attached list at the end of these minutes.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th May 2017

The minutes of the 2017 AGM having previously been circulated were accepted by the meeting.

4. Chairman's Report.

Mr Kremer began his report by announcing that he was standing down as Chair of the Association & that Martin Stilwell would (subject to being elected) be taking over in July. Mr Kremer was pleased to have been asked to remain on the Committee & would be continuing as Chair of the Surrey Neighbourhood Association.

A major feature of the past year was way in which the Neighbourhood Watch values were being promoted via new social networks. A training courses for administrators based on the successful Byfleet model had been held & new groups were expected to be formed across the borough. The course was to be repeated for other Surrey boroughs.

Woking Inspector Mark Offord had been very supportive & spoken to a co-ordinators meeting during the year, however, he had now been promoted to a divisional role. Temporary Inspector Emmie Harris currently acting as his replacement was present at the meeting.

Mr Kremer also thanked his Committee for their support. He was particularly pleased that Martin Stilwell had been given an award by the Surrey committee for his outstanding contribution in respect of the InTheKnow system. He appealed to the members present 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 funds totalling £110 had been received from the National & Surrey Neighbourhood Watch organisations. This represented a full recovery of the previous year's expenditure on a training Conference.

In addition the Association had received £97 from the Byfleet Forum with the agreement that until August 2018 the funds were available for Byfleet use.

Receipts from sales of security products totalled £27.70. Expenditure during the year was confined to IT costs of £34.80 largely due to no charge being made for the use of Goldwater Lodge for co-ordinators meetings.

The result of the above was that the Accounts show a surplus for the year of £200.18 and accumulated funds of £722.27.

Acceptance of the accounts which had been signed by the Independent Examiner was proposed by Steve Dew. & seconded by Sue Becklake. The accounts were duly accepted.

6. Election of Officers.

The existing committee were offering themselves for re-election .In addition former Woking Borough Councillor Mark Pengelly had agreed to stand.

The committee for the coming year was proposed as follows:

Mr Martin Stilwell : Chairman, replacing Tony Kremer
Mr Geoffrey Johnson : Treasurer /General Secretary
Mr Steve Dew : Membership Secretary/Multi Scheme Administrator, replacing Martin Stilwell
Mr Alan Taylor
Mr Marc Alderman
Mr Tony Kremer
Mr Mark Pengelly

The election of the Committee as above was proposed by Hillary Alder, seconded by Derek Bartholomew and duly elected.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

The Treasurer announced that qualified accountant Mr Deryck Fowler had agreed to continue act for WAN in this capacity. The proposal to appoint Mr Fowler was included in that for the committee election.

8. Speaker: John Hayward-Cripps, CEO, Neighbourhood Watch Network

John introduced himself as a man of considerable third-sector experience, with young offenders, victim support and social work. He joined Neighbourhood Watch in early 2018 as Chief Executive under a new Chairman of Trustees, David Huse. Their vision is to revitalise an organisation whose membership was down from a historic high of 8 million to today's 2.3 million, which was still a massively impressive number, in his view. He saw the key challenge was a demographic one: how to attract the next generation of activists as the current generation gradually aged (averaging over 65 at present).

To achieve this, he believed we had to find a way of making Neighbourhood Watch relevant to today's challenges and to keep it valid for the 20 years ahead (the typical life of a coordinator).

Turning to the relationship between Neighbourhood Watch and the Police, he said that it varied from one extreme to the other across the country. It is a vital relationship to both parties and not just because of the need for information to flow both ways.

It is not just about the Police though. Crime could be lowered where communities were well connected and looked out for each other. Neighbours should know one another, and watch out for the vulnerable in our number. He believed the way forward lay with social media networks.

What is more, we had to reflect in our movement the diversity of today's society. For example John has seen on the ground projects involving young and old exchanging skills for mutual benefit.

John then outlined the three-year transformation projects that were being fleshed out and around which consultation would take place this summer.

Year 1:

- a) fix the fundamentals - addressing the gap between top and bottom of the Neighbourhood Watch movement.
- b) Align to a strategy, being developed at Head Office supported by individuals from across the country
- c) Start the change process

Year 2:

- a) Move the movement in line with the new strategy
- b) Bring on-board new associate members (see below)
- c) Measure what we do - producing statistics such as that in areas with a Watch compared to similar areas without, there was a 10% difference in the crime rate
- d) Diversify income stream with new sponsors

Year 3:

- a) Embed changes
- b) Scale up
- c) Ensure we add value.

The point about bringing on-board new associate members was explored a little more deeply. John was referring to loosely linked members who shared our goals but who were not necessarily part of a Watch. Reference was made to Surrey's co-opting a Partnership Officer to develop some of those looser links.

Finally John emphasised that these were all changes that would not be imposed but he expected to be embraced voluntarily as areas exchanged best practice ideas and shared success stories. He looked forward to meeting the Champions who would be coming to the workshops this summer.

In subsequent questions the idea was voiced of starting a Young Neighbourhood Watch movement to increase diversity and spread our influence to the school environment. This would be examined by the Committee, but it was noted that an attempt to get this off the ground based on the Sussex model had been tried two or three years ago and not enough trainers had come forward.

Woking would be publicising the workshops and the call for Champion volunteers immediately.

A copy of the slides he used can be found <[here](#)>

The video he played (where the sound didn't work – apologies) will be available online soon. We will issue an Alert with the link as soon as we can as the video is worth watching.

9. Chief Inspector Terri Adderley & Acting Sgt Emmie Harris.

Mr Kremer invited Chief Inspector Terri Adderley to give the Police's point of view on their work in Surrey. CI Adderley is Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for West Surrey and is responsible for the relationship between Surrey Police and NhW. CI Adderley said that there were now committed neighbourhood teams in the boroughs helping to build up the relationships with the residents.

In response to a question from the floor she confirmed there were currently no plans to reinstate the Police panel meetings as formerly held across Woking. They had been poorly attended by residents in many cases and she could not justify the use of her officers' time. The neighbourhood team will always respond to requests to attend meetings.

Operation Popcorn in Woking, to address drugs and associated crime, is going well and arrests have been made.

Acting Insp Emmie Harris introduced herself to the meeting and emphasised that the Police look to the residents for information on unusual activity.

10. Martin Stilwell. Surrey NhW Multi Scheme Administrator.

The newly elected Chair, Martin, reported on advice for coordinators on the new General Data Protection Regulation. The main message was 'business as usual', but coordinators will need to seek approval from new members of their Watch from 25th May. Coordinators should take the opportunity to review their Watch membership. Details on GDPR for coordinators can be found here <[here](#)>

There has been progress on engaging the public in helping the Police to find missing persons across Surrey. The Police will only ask the public for help in finding missing people who have been classified as High Risk. This risk is usually because the missing person is a child, or under medical care and needs to take medicines regularly, or has problems that means they can become a danger to themselves. The Police will contact the public via 2 routes:

- 1) Via an Alert with details of the person and a link to Surrey Police website where there is a photograph. The Alert will only go to those registered on the InTheKnow system who live a chosen distance from where the missing is missing from. Trials have shown that these details quickly get onto social media and distributed widely. This process is already in place and being used.
- 2) The Police will send the details direct to those people on the InTheKnow who are known to be administrators of Social Media groups. This is expected to reduce the time gap that may occur in method 1) with getting the initial contact to the public. This option will require some more developments by Surrey Police and Surrey NHW but is currently being trialled.

Martin has made it clear to Surrey Police that all missing person requests from Surrey Police to the public must be followed by a "thank you, the person has been found" message as soon as the incident is closed.

The public can continue to use social media at a local level to find someone who has gone missing, but need to ensure that the Police are aware of the missing person and allow them to progress searches through well-established Police processes and not expect them to react in force to find someone who may have just "wandered off, again".

11. Close of Meeting.

The chairman again thanked the speakers & closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

Martin Stilwell thanked Tony Kremer for all his excellent work as Chairman of Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches. Tony is staying on as a member of the Woking committee and continues his chairmanship of Surrey NhW.

Those giving apologies:

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ali Dunlop | Surrey Police |
| Angela Hughes | Horsell |
| Angela Williams | West Byfleet |
| Brian Davis | Byfleet |
| Chris Rowsell | Pyrford |
| Christa Rayner | Mayford |
| Colin Mitchell | Mayford |
| Fui Ling Bolton | Pyrford |
| Hilary Maksell | Pyrford |
| Jill Drinkwater | Mayford |
| Jim Dale | Byfleet |
| Ken Chapman | St Johns |
| Lisa Hutson-Fox | Goldsworth Park |
| Mandy Ferguson | Sheerwater |
| Maureen Thomas | Knaphill |
| Paul Summerhill | St Johns |
| Richard Kelly | St Johns |
| Sue Alexander | Goldsworth Park |
| John Washbrook | Woking |

WAN CHAIR'S REPORT MAY 2018

This will be the last WAN AGM with me as Chairman. I shall be handing the reigns over to a proposed new chairman, Martin Stilwell, in July.

It has been quite an experience promoting our value to local residents and our visibility with the police. Our new initiative to get NHW social networks up and running in Woking reached a climax in April when we ran a 2-part training course, based on the very successful Byfleet Facebook group. We are now expecting to see new Virtual Watches emerge in Pyrford/West Byfleet, Goldsworth Park, Hook Heath, Maybury south, though it will be miraculous if they can grow by their first anniversary to 2,000 members which Byfleet expect to have reached imminently! Well done to the team that makes that happen there, Fiona, Lynn and John, and to all the newly trained administrators across Woking.

We will be running the courses again in other parts of Surrey and it will be open to any of you to join one of those if you want to get your community online and talking to one another.

Since the arrival of Insp Mark Offord it is personally satisfying to see that the latter objective – improving our visibility with the police - is also bearing fruit. Mark is now Chief Inspector and has been transferred to run North Surrey Division and I have written to express our thanks and good wishes to him. In the meantime Emmie Harris is acting Inspector and we look forward to a permanent replacement in June/July.

Back to WAN matters.

In addition to being the new Woking chairman, Martin Stilwell will continue to administer the computer system InTheKnow for Surrey, but will hand over Woking membership and administration to Steve Dew. Martin has played a pivotal role in the introduction, training and operation of InTheKnow system and often holds dialogue directly with their development teams to resolve bugs and anomalies. This major effort has recently been recognised by Surrey NHW who selected Martin for its 2017 Outstanding Contribution award, presented by the PCC.

I have been invited to remain on the WAN committee with a more strategic role supporting the new Committee in the development of NhW in the Borough. It is my intention to remain dedicated to the organisation and will also retain my chairmanship of the Surrey County NhW.

Your 2017/18 Committee has been working very hard and my thanks go to Martin, Geoffrey Johnson, Alan Taylor, Marc Alderman, and Stephen Dew who also volunteers at the Police station preparing the crime reports. Our thanks go to them all.

We do have a new face who has offered himself as a Committee Member, namely Mark Pengelly. Mark spoke to our 2017 AGM Meeting if you remember, about watches in town centre locations. I am delighted to get fresh blood in, especially one with Mark's experience on the Council and in South Woking where we have fewer watches. My only regret that we have been unable to attract a female candidate to come forward as we are all men at the moment.

I would like to thank all of you who are supporting WAN in your neighbourhood, for encouraging your neighbours and for your support and encouragement to us in the WAN team.