

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NORTH SHROPSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD & FARM WATCH ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Thursday 30 June 2016 at the Tern Hill Hotel at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT WERE:

Margaret Gibbons (Sutton on Tern), Alan Jones (Mill Lane, Higher Heath), Hazel Roberts & Ray Hewitt, (The Fires & Bryn Estyn), Pete Pring (Valley View MD), John McGuinness (Hinstock), Pete Aspin (Soulton/Prees Green), Jenny Dawes (Mytton Estate Shawbury) Les Pemberton (Mytton Estate Shawbury), Phoebe & Roger Ashton (Ashton Lee Brockhurst), Chris Jeffries (Woore), Andrew Carter (Mytton Estate Shawbury), Ted & Debbie Scales (Waterside, Betton & Grove Gardens), Jackie Carter (Minute Taker)

Also present was Charmaine Woolley (Guest Speaker).

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Vice Chairman, John McGuinness, welcomed those present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Pamela Williams, Chairperson, (Newton on the Hill), Val Povall Minutes Secretary), Peter Turner (Bazeley Way, Wem), Steve Corbishley (Higher Heath), David Edge (Loppington), David & Una Haynes Christchurch Lane MD), Ann Watson (Westune), Eric Balchin (Hinstock).

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 24 March 2016:

It was proposed by Chris Jeffries and seconded by Andrew Carter that these should be accepted as a true record. All in favour.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising

5. GUEST SPEAKER – Charmaine Woolley with an update on Cyber Crime

Charmaine introduced herself as Business, Rural & Cyber Crime Coordinator.

She liaises with business and Neighbourhood Watch to try and prevent crime by getting people to be aware of the methods used in this electronic transitional age.

Charmaine commenced by getting everyone present to participate in an observation game, recognising and recalling bygone office equipment (Globe, typewriter, camcorder, Polaroid camera, cassette recorder, dictionary, map, pager, pen and mobile phone). Most of the equipment has been replaced by our laptops and smart phones making life very easy for cyber criminals. She said that cyber crime was enabled by the internet and social media and showed us online/youtube examples of how easy it is to get someone to divulge personal information.

The criminals will target anyone no matter how small or insignificant they think they are. Social Media like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Linked In and Google are all areas where security can be compromised. Check status settings to make sure your personal information is personal not Public. Facebook have approximately 600,000 breaches every day. So beware of what you post online!

Basic Hackers use social engineering to commit a variety of crimes including romance scams, where they build a believable story to convince their target to part with their money. Just getting your email address is worth £4.99 to them– not a lot - until you add all your contacts emails and their contacts, it then snowballs into quite a sum. Credit card details earn them £35 per card. They can pick up lots of personal information which can give clues to your passwords and security questions and use the information against you. Reported Cyber Crime netted in the region of £52 Billion.

Charmaine recommended we all treat our passwords like underwear: Change them Regularly, Don't leave them lying around and Never Share!! She recommended a website called 'How Secure is my Password' to check your current password. Safest ones use figures, symbols and letters. For example if you had 'Passwords' you could type it as 'Pa55W0rd£'.

Never be tempted to use coffee shops, hotels, airports or other crowded places with Free WIFI, to do personal banking. Also beware of USB sticks found lying around, as these can also be attempts to infiltrate your computers, especially if you're curious enough to try them out.

People have been taken in by emails purporting to be from banks or HMRC stating they are due for tax rebates or refunds, to get bank details from them.

The Vice Chairman thanked Charmaine for coming and speaking to our Members.

6. WEB SITE

As Steve Corbishley was away, Andrew Carter reported that Steve has made quite a lot of progress on the recommended free site Hugo Fox.com. Andrew suggested members have a look at the website and direct any comments or suggestions to either him or Steve. Your feedback would be appreciated.

John McGuinness reported a substantial number of hits on Facebook and important Cyber Crime alerts were being sent out regularly. Most of the hits were from the public as opposed to members, an indication perhaps that not many members were on Facebook.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Fortunately we had just enough members present to elect the Management Committee. Chris Jeffries raised a question over whether we should vote for candidates who were not present at the meeting. It was decided by the majority that in the absence of any other candidates willing to stand, those who were willing to volunteer but unable to attend should be elected and welcomed.

POSITION	ELECTED	PROPOSER/SECONDER
Chairperson	Dave Roberts*	Andrew Carter/Debbie Scales
Vice Chairperson	John McGuinness	Jackie Carter/Andrew Carter
Secretary	Jackie Carter	John McGuinness/Ted Scales
Treasurer	Andrew Carter	John McGuinness/Phoebe Ashton
Membership Secretary	Debbie Scales	John McGuinness/Andrew Carter
Website Manager	Steve Corbishley	Andrew Carter/Ted Scales
Farm Representative	Peter Aspin	Jackie Carter/John McGuinness
Coordinator Representative	Chris Jeffries**	Andrew Carter/John McGuinness
West Mercia NW Rep.	Vacant	
Publicity Officer	Vacant	
Minutes Secretary	Val Povall	

*Dave Roberts was not able to attend the meeting but was willing to be elected as temporary Chairperson until another candidate was found. He has until recently served on Shawbury Parish Council as Chairman so has experience of chairing meetings.

**Chris Jeffries stated he was willing to continue as Coordinator Representative for 6 months

We still desperately need someone to take on Publicity Officer if anyone would be willing to consider being co-opted onto the Committee.

8. THE WAY FORWARD

The Vice Chairman said we needed to rethink the way operate.

The police have been cut back to about a fifth of what it was and members complained that 101 were not always interested in calls made to them. It was suggested that we should get the telephone number of the local policing team officer and ring them direct to report any incidents.

We need to recruit younger people as we are all getting older. He suggested that it might be advantageous to try and attend village community events to drum up more interest.

It was suggested that more members might attend if we cut down on the amount of meetings held. Perhaps we should have two Coordinator/Members meetings per year, being the AGM in March and another in October for all Members and three Management Committee meetings (to comply with the Constitution). This would still allow members to come along to share and discuss best practice in running their schemes.

Coordinators who are able to get email addresses from their members should ensure any crime alert emails sent out are emailed to themselves and BCC'd to members, so that all member's details are not shown. Anyone not sure about how this works can contact Andrew Carter.

It was also suggested we try to revive defunct schemes and try to find coordinators to run them. Andrew and Jackie have mail dropped Eckford Park scheme and have someone who is considering running the scheme.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were some members who were having problems registering for the Community Messaging Service through the West Mercia site. Chris Jeffries said that he had attended a meeting at Hindlip Hall with a presentation about the new service. The work is contracted out and a lot of work has gone into the creation of the service which in time should supercede the old Dotmailer system. The new service incorporates choice and enables users to select what they want to receive. There is a 2-way contact and this should eliminate the hassle of getting no alerts at all when Mick Jones is away. It is still a work in progress at present. The meeting was attended by the new PCC John-Paul Campion, Chief Constables and a senior member of NHW Our Watch representative. The question was asked as to how Scheme Coordinators can get approved by the Police – no-one present seemed to know!

Andrew also warned about making contactless payments in busy crowded places. Scammers have devices that are able to scan the details from cards. He said that Card shields can prevent cards from being read. He showed some he had obtained from an ebay site at 10 for .99p and suggested we could possibly get a quantity, get the Neighbourhood Watch logo put on them and use them for promotional purposes.

The Public Liability Insurance had been renewed until 2017.

John McGuinness thanked everyone for attending and asked that we all try to think of ways of attracting more members.

Charmaine had left some goody bags for those present to take home.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.