

SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM

Minutes to Meeting via Zoom Tuesday 16th February 2021.

Attendees

Jeff Reynolds	Chair	Blakesley	jreynoldsnhw@gmail.com
Linda Hemming	Secretary	Pattishall	linda_hemming@hotmail.com
Phil Renshaw	Deputy Chair	Piddington	
Tina Adey	Treasurer	Yardley Gobion	tadey51@btinternet.com
Richard Houghton		Yardley Hastings	
Sue Sharps		Brackley	
Shirley Watson		Hinton in the Hedges	
David Smith		Cosgrove	
David Ballard		Harpole	
Lawrence Howes		Cogenhoe	
David Connolly		Evenley	
Colin Atkins		Weston & Weedon Lois	
Katie Spruels		Milton Malsor	
Richard Akers		Gayton	
Paul Broadfield		Woodend	
Tom Smith		Chipping Warden	
Craig Coppin		Potterspury	
Bill Morris		Croughton	
Denise Matthews		Deanshanger	
Peter Mummery		Towcester Member	
Alan Earle		County Chair NHW	

Apologies

Kev Corcoran	Tiffield
Tina Morris	Whittlebury
Mike Crouch	Quinton
Rebecca Blow	Towcester
Andrew Jenkins	Grafton Regis
Sergeant Michaela Simons	South Northants NPT

Welcome

Jeff welcomed everyone to the meeting. He mentioned 25 NHW Coordinators had showed an interest in joining the meeting via Zoom. Perhaps this is the way forward rather than holding meetings around South Northants especially on dark winter evenings. Everyone was asked to mute themselves. Jeff informed us the meeting was being recorded.

Approval of Minutes to the SNAST meeting held 29th September 2020

AGM (section 2) General meeting (sections 3 and 4)

Jeff explained the meeting of 29th September was 2 meetings in 1. It was the AGM and a general meeting. The minutes had been sent out with the agenda.

The AGM minutes were proposed by Richard (Yardley Hastings) and seconded by Phil (Piddington). The minutes were approved by a show of hands.

The general meeting minutes were proposed by David (Harpole) and seconded by Tina (Yardley Gobion). These were also approved by a show of hands.

Police Report from our Neighbourhood Police Team, including Q & A's (if present)

A Police Report had been emailed to Jeff by Sergeant Michaela Simons.

Jeff informed everyone Sergeant Michaela Simons controls the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the whole of South Northants (A team in Brackley and a team in Towcester).

Jeff read out main points:

- There will be additional Police Constables posted to South Northants over the coming months. The team will be strengthened
Sergeant Michaela Simons is aware Police visibility is frequently a point of contention, for example 'we are a rural village and we never see a Police Officer'. She points out that during the Coronavirus she has had to deploy more Police Officers than usual.
There has already been correspondence circulated about this.
Alan (County Chair) advised us there will be an extra 50 Police Constables across the County doubling the 50 we have at the moment.
- There are going to be 36 beats across the County. Each Beat PC will be responsible for all engagements in that beat with key partners. Neighbourhood Watch and Parish Councils are included in this plus others. The Beat Officers will have a team of Officers underneath them.
- No restructuring in South Northants. Northampton will be restructured.
- There are some Sponsored PCSO's but this is expensive for a Parish Council. A suggestion could be to share with a neighbouring Parish. This is in the report.

This report is designed to go to Parish and Town Councils in time for their AGM's.

If anyone wants to add anything to this report about a particular problem in their area please inform Jeff who will ask Sergeant Michaela Simons to add it in. This was sent out as an alert a few days ago. Please respond to Jeff before 20th.

The full report is attached.

Lawrence (Cogenhoe) mentioned at this point about the icons on our Zoom screen about raising hands (In yellow)

Sue (Brackley) asked if we should write a note of thanks to the Officers because it has been a difficult and challenging time for them. Jeff will write a note.

Lawrence (Cogenhoe) also asked for a special note of thanks to go to PCSO Pete Firth who is retiring in a few weeks. Linda will remind Jeff.

Jeff had already sent a note of Congratulations to PCSO Nicola Degg on the birth of her new baby.

Update on matters relating to County NHW and National NHW

Alan (County Chair) reported on Operation Target which is quite a challenge at the moment. A lot of this is engaging with people and is very difficult. Alan reported they are looking at ways to do this without physical engagement.

- Alan told us they have signed up 10 schemes in Northampton in the last 8-10 weeks. Even though the number of schemes is quite low the number of people they are engaging with within those schemes is high (four and a half thousand)

Alan has got to do an interim report to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. He gave us an example of Brackmills. There are a lot of issues and problems in Brackmills and even the 'County Line gangs' are too scared to go in there. The funding from Operation Target has enabled them to put up 60 signs in that area. This is following a letter the Borough Council sent out and they can now start sending alert messages. A press release is coming out later this week. This is to try and further engagement in that area.

- Another project run by the Police Crime Commissioner's Office is 'Save our Streets'. This is affecting Wellingborough, Kettering and Northampton.
- Main issue at the moment is an increase in burglaries. Alan said trying to increase people's vigilance, reporting vehicles in an area that shouldn't be there. Most of these burglaries are taking place in the evening when it is dark. They are targeting when people are going out to exercise and maybe leave windows open.
- Increase in dog thefts. Mainly from breeders. Alan has also seen a couple of reports about people pretending to be in RSPCA vans and stopping people in the streets saying their dog is not being looked after properly and taking the dog away. Make sure people are vigilant about what is going on in their areas.
- Alan also wanted to make us aware that houses being targeted are marked with chalk on the street or fence. (This happened some years ago too)
- Fraud. There are a lot of scams. These people are very clever and we need to be vigilant. Alan had sent an alert out earlier about this.

Sue (Brackley) asked about cat mutilation. She wanted to know if there had been any incidents lately. She asked what information to share because she is doing pastoral care with cat groups.

The County Website www.ourwatch.co.uk

Treasurer's Report (Tina)

i) Feedback on ideas for expenditure

ii) Subscription update, including suggested increase and timing of requests

The balance at the bank is £3394.72. This includes the sum of £200 for Nether Heyford NHW and £138 for Roade NHW which we have been holding for the last couple of years. Tina has had no statements for 2 months because there hasn't been any activity on the account. This is because we have been holding meetings on Zoom instead of hiring village halls.

Subscriptions received £900 which is more than last year.

Jeff mentioned increasing the annual subscriptions to £25. This will be discussed at the next Officer meeting.

The first request is sent to Parish Councils June/July with a reminder in September.

Requests are sent to Parish Clerks and a copy sent to the NHW Coordinator.

Jeff asked if anyone had any ideas what to spend the money on.

Update on VISAV and Alerts Neighbourhood Watch issues

The system of receiving alerts is run by VISAV. There are changes in progress. The new version will be rolled out soon called Version 4. Jeff said he hopes it will be a lot easier than version 3. Only certain people have access to it and they can disseminate information across the County. Jeff and Phil have access to it.

Alan mentioned he will be having a meeting on Thursday with Visav. There are two systems. One is where they send the alerts out and one that each Coordinator has to manage their schemes.

- There will be changes in both of these systems. Alan informed us that County have asked for an expansion to the Coordinator's scheme whereby the scheme members can talk to other scheme members.
Forty Six Police Forces use this around the country.
- There will probably be changes in names. Lead Coordinator in the system will change to Main Coordinator.
- Alan is hoping to set up Area Coordinators. They might decide to put a collection of Coordinators into an area and then have an area administrator helping support those schemes. They may not decide to do this in Northamptonshire.
- The system will be a lot friendlier. Alan said they will launch the version 4 when Northants Police launch version 4. The launch date hasn't been decided but will probably be the middle of the year.
- Bill Morris (Croughton) asked about registering on the alert system. He is on the Parish Council and acting as an intermediary between Jean the NHW Coordinator. Jeff suggested Bill register as a NHW member.
- David (Cosgrove) sends out invitations to people in his village to register but some already receive the alerts. It won't allow them to join their scheme. They are already identified in a different setup. Jeff and Phil are able to move people across from one scheme to another. The people who want to change need to approach Jeff by email to say they want to be a member of that scheme.
- If schemes are not approved they will be stopped.

Alan then shared his screen to show us how to find my local schemes. Bill (Croughton) has now joined.

- Sue (Brackley) suggested people who sign up via Facebook should not put the link on Facebook direct but put in the comments section otherwise Facebook will shut you down every time you put a link on. It then generates more pickups.
- Lawrence (Cogenhoe) mentioned when he first started the scheme he managed to increase it up to 140. People in his scheme are not getting his messages. This was because although they had joined NHW they hadn't joined the local scheme. Lawrence has no idea who they are and they can't just be transferred because of GDPR. Alan suggested he could send out an alert to just those people and ask them if they want to join that scheme. Then Jeff or Phil can reallocate those people into the scheme.

Alan informed us people can untick the type of messages they want to receive and if they do that they won't receive the alerts.

There is also a way of shrinking the area a person wants to receive alerts about. (i.e. not the whole of South Northants)

Appointment of Scheme Development Officer (to be ratified by SNAST Committee)

Jeff told us he wants to develop the number of members we have. Sue (Brackley) had kindly volunteered to do this. It's a new idea and the aim is to try and revive certain schemes that have fallen into disuse and generate new schemes where there is a demand.

Does your scheme need a boost?

Sue will be formally appointed by the committee and a job description worked out. She will be supported by the committee. The aim is to put the name of NHW in front of the public.

Pete (Towcester) mentioned the survey he had done last year with Nick and Phil. He thought the information recorded would be useful to Sue. This information is on a spreadsheet and will form the basis. Jeff asked if Peter might be able to help with this.

- Richard (Yardley Hastings) mentioned about the meetings held by Stephen Mold Police Fire and Crime Commissioner with Parish Councils about 6 times a year. He said a lot of Parish Councillors are not aware of these Police meetings. At these meetings, they talk about topical issues in the County. There is usually a theme and lasts about an hour.

Richard informed us there is a meeting next Monday evening when they are having a presentation by Superintendent Adam Ward (north area) and Kev Mulligan (our area) about the new layout they are bringing into our areas.

Police Liaison Representatives – appointment by local councils

This has been arranged between the Police and local government. The idea is the Council has an appointed local representative. It doesn't have to be a member of the Parish or Town Council, it can be a member of the general public or a NHW Coordinator. Some NHW Coordinators have already agreed to take on this role. Jeff urged others to take on this role if they hadn't already done so. If anyone is interested speak to your Parish Clerk who will put your name forward to the Parish Council. Once this is approved your name goes forward to the Police.

The idea is to improve Community communication.

Phil (Piddington) asked about the uptake. Jeff said there had been about 50 applicants so far. Hoping to get this started at the local government AGM's (April/May)

Tom (Chipping Norton) and Paul (Woodend) have put their names forward but haven't heard anything yet.

Sue (Brackley) mentioned she has put her name forward but their clerk has taken on the role as a safety option until after the elections.

Any Other Business

David (Harpole) mentioned about a 112 emergency number he became aware of. There has been some traffic on social media. Lawrence (Cogenhoe) gave us some information on this. The number is triangulated so they know exactly where you are. This is the number used worldwide. Alan will check with the Police.

Alan has been informed by a senior Police Officer not to use this number

Jeff thanked everyone attending. He said it was nice to see the new faces.

Dates of next meetings	18 th May 2021
	28 th September 2021 (includes AGM)
	7 th December 2021

