

SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM

Minutes to Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday 24th May 2022.

Attendees

Phil Renshaw	Deputy Chair	Piddington	Philip.renshaw@yahoo.co.uk
Linda Hemming	Secretary	Pattishall	linda_hemming@hotmail.com
Tina Adey	Treasurer	Yardley Gobion	tadey51@btinternet.com
Nick Hamp	District Lead/Chairman		
Richard Houghton		Yardley Hastings	
Lawrence Howes		Cogenhoe	
Shirley Watson		Hinton in the Hedges	
Paul Broadfield		Woodend	
Tom Smith		Chipping Warden	
Katie Spruels		Milton Malsor	
David Smith		Cosgrove	
David Ballard		Harpole	
Charles Woodgate		Evenley	
Alan Earle		County Chair NHW	
Neil Mackenzie		Cybercrime Team	
David Reed		Cybercrime Team	

Apologies

Mike Crouch	Quinton
Andrew Jenkins	Grafton Regis
Sue Sharps	Brackley
Craig Coppin	Potterspury
Peter Howard	Towcester
Maggie Down	Paulerspury

Welcome and Introductions by Vice Chair Phil Renshaw

Phil welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced David Reed and Neil Mackenzie from the Cybercrime Team who will give a presentation.

Approval of Minutes to the SNAST Zoom Meeting held 8th March 2022

The minutes had been sent out with the agenda.

The minutes were proposed by Tom Smith (Chipping Warden) and seconded by Tina Adey (Yardley Gobion). Minutes approved. There were no matters arising.

Police Cybercrime Team Presentation

David Reed informed us he worked for Northants Police in the Cyber investigation team. Part of what they do, as well as investigating, is to give advice and inform people how to protect themselves against Cyber Crime.

They are a small team with specialist knowledge in this sort of world. They work with NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) This is part of GCHQ. They also work with other forces. They speak to a lot of victims.

Main Points below:

Misconceptions:

- Criminals target everyone. They will access anything. Not just payment details but personal information which they can use against you and to use it to attack companies you work with or colleagues or friends.
- People assume that Google and other search engines check their contents and links but they don't.
Need to be careful.

Securing Accounts:

- When we use passwords we need to make sure they are strong and long at least 12 characters.
One good way is to take 3 random words and put those words together.
- Close dormant or unwanted accounts. We all have old accounts that we don't use any more. Close them down. There is a chance that if these companies are breached or make a mistake criminals could get hold of your passwords.

Minimise information.

- Using a different password for each account:
- Your email should definitely have a different password.
David showed us a lot of companies that have recently had data breaches.
- If your password is leaked online criminals will try every account you have used online. Within a few hours criminals will have worked through each account and taken control. Emails are important.

Data Breaches

There is a website you can safely put your email address in and it will tell you whether any email you have set up in the past with that email account has had a data breach.

The website is: haveibeenpwned.com

If you have had a data breach it is worth closing that account or choosing a strong password. David advised us it is worthwhile visiting this site to check.

Enable two factor authentications

- This is a good system and it is free. This is a single best way of securing an account. A code is sent to your phone. If a criminal has your password they still can't access your account because the code is only sent to your phone or device.
David advised us to turn the two factor authorisation on. All cases in the last few years have not had this turned on.
- Cybercrime have a lot of free leaflets.

Malware

This is more for organisations. The biggest threat is 'Ransom ware'. This is where software gets on your device and silently encrypts your data. The criminals will require a ransom paid before they release your data. If we work with any organisation they may try to Northampton University was affected by this. Some schools have been affected too.

- Turn your device to automatically update. Make sure your laptop, phone etc is updated regularly

Backups:

- Regularly backup all important data and documents.
- Ensure default passwords have been changed on all devices.
- Consider using a reputable manager on all your devices.

Social Engineering Attacks

This is using various techniques to get you to release your details. Phishing

- Spoof email addresses. They can make emails appear to come from specific people. How do you know it is real? Assume any email that asks you to click on something or asks for personal details is suspicious. Use other ways of checking out. Don't click on any links.
- Criminals can scam text messages – A lot of them can be spoofed. Phones put all the messages in the same thread – a fake message could be put on the same thread. Be careful and don't click on the link.

Payment Diversion Fraud

This is where criminals use various techniques to modify genuine quotes and payment details. The email looks right but has different payment details.

If it says payment details changed check it with the company first.

Protecting your privacy online

- Consider what you are putting online. A lot of people give away information on social media, quizzes and surveys etc.
- Minimise information you make public on LinkedIn and Social Media.
- Don't automatically trust a post because a friend liked or recommended it.

Cybercrime have free Cyber Safety and Fraud Resources. Pass leaflets on to neighbours and friends.

The Cyber team email is: **CyberProtect@northants.police.uk**

Fraud

Neil MacKenzie goes out to speak to people on a daily basis.

- Report all Cyber crime and Fraud
- 42% of crime is Fraud related.
- Why is it not prominent? Neil told us it doesn't get talked about enough. This might be through embarrassment or feeling silly. Cybercrime have a 'Jessica booklet'. They can send this out.

The overall message is 'we must talk about Fraud'. People falling victim don't know about all this information. Talk about fraud.

Questions and Answers

- Alan mentioned there is lots of information on the Northants NHW website.
- Alan mentioned if asking for a callback from a Company give them a password and if they don't give you the password don't answer their security questions.
- Using VPN or Search engines: No extra protection but privacy.
- Losing data through malware if using drop box or One Drive. Disconnect or disable the shared drive when finished with it.
- Password Managers – Android or Samsung phones have Google built in Apple has it inbuilt. They generate passwords for you. Consider using a password manager on all your devices.

Phil thanked David and Neil for a very enlightening and detailed talk.

Election of New Chairman/District Lead Nick Hamp

Nick told us he had just retired and moved to Bugbrooke. He wanted to get involved with a local and worthwhile organisation. Spent some time as a uniformed Police Officer and has an understanding of what the Police do. Learnt a lot about working with people and wants to make a contribution.

Nick was proposed by Richard Houghton (Yardley Hastings) and seconded by David Smith (Cosgrove)

Treasurer's Report on current bank balance

The balance at the bank is £3548.31. This includes the sum of £200 for Nether Heyford NHW and £138 for Roade NHW which we have been holding for the last few years. Nether Heyford received their money from Waitrose tokens a few years ago and asked us if we would hold on to the money for them. Roade NHW received their money from the builders. Roade has spent some of the money they received but we are still holding on to £138. **Tina will contact Nether Heyford and Roade.**

Bin Stickers and Street Signs

In June Tina will be sending out annual requests for subscriptions.

- SNAST has bought a number of A4 wheelie bin stickers. Every Parish Council who pays their subscription will get 10 stickers.
- Street Signs special Offer. These will be £10 for a limited period. (usually £14) NHW Coordinators can pick them up from Committee members.
- Alan (County Chair) will check their stock of Signs because other areas may want to buy some signs from us.

Update on County NHW and National NHW by County Chair Alan Earle

- A lot of documents are coming up for review.
- County AGM will be in September. The Assistant Chief Constable Ash Tuckley will be doing a presentation.
- National NHW 40th anniversary this year.
- Knowledge Hub: This is working well. Using system 4 software.
- Neighbourhood Alert System. Police Liaison Reps will be registered on the system. The alert system is being used wider now.

- Area Coordinators: Northampton has appointed area Coordinators. They provide the first level of support for the schemes in their area. This will help ease the chairperson's workload. Most other Branches don't have a committee and survive with a Chairman and Treasurer. They need area Coordinators.
- Nick will be invited to the next County Exec meeting
- If removing a member from the alert system you need to give a reason.
- Some people have asked to receive alert information through SMS but they won't get NHW information. Have to be GDPR compliant.
- One County won't approve a NHW Coordinator unless they have 6 names.
- The County Website www.ourwatch.org.uk

Any Other Business

- Phil mentioned an email has been sent out to all NHW Coordinators asking them to contact the PCSO's. The PCSO's wanted to make contact with NHW Coordinators but couldn't due to GDPR. There has been a good response.
Alan mentioned the Police can see who the NHW Coordinators are. They can't have a list due to GDPR. We have to be cautious.
- The next meeting will be SNAST AGM on Tuesday 13th September. There will be a presentation by Detective Superintendent Richard Tomkins. Phil and Nick will be meeting him on 21st June.
NHW Coordinators to email questions to Phil before 21st June. We will try for a face to face meeting.