

SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM

Minutes to Meeting via Zoom

Thursday 20th May 2021.

Attendees

Jeff Reynolds	Chair	Blakesley	jreynoldsnhw@gmail.com
Linda Hemming	Secretary	Pattishall	linda_hemming@hotmail.com
Phil Renshaw	Deputy Chair	Piddington	
Richard Houghton		Yardley Hastings	
David Smith		Cosgrove	
David Ballard		Harpole	
Lawrence Howes		Cogenhoe	
Katie Spruels		Milton Malsor	
Richard Akers		Gayton	
Paul Broadfield		Woodend	
Tom Smith		Chipping Warden	
Craig Coppin		Potterspury	
Bill Morris		Croughton	
Carol Lloyd		Horton	
Christy Nolan		Rothersthorpe	
Andrew Jenkins		Grafton Regis	
Maggie Down		Paulerspury	
Moya Fish		Paulerspury	
Sergeant Michaela Simons		South Northants NPT	
Alan Earle		County Chair NHW	

Apologies

Tina Adey	Treasurer	Yardley Gobion
Sue Sharps		Brackley
Shirley Watson		Hinton in the Hedges
David Connolly		Evenley
Kev Corcoran		Tiffield
Mike Crouch		Quinton
Colin Atkins		Weston & Weedon Lois
Claire Hopcraft		Maidford
Mike Crouch		Quinton

Welcome and Introductions

Jeff welcomed everyone to the meeting. A good attendance this evening. Jeff introduced Alan Earle from County NHW and Sergeant Michaela Simons. Everyone was asked to mute themselves. Jeff informed us the meeting was being recorded. Jeff asked for attendees wishing to speak to put a yellow hand up on their screen.

Approval of Minutes to the SNAST Zoom meeting held 16th February 2021

The minutes had been sent out with the agenda.

A couple of alterations needed: Chipping Norton page 5 should read 'Chipping Warden' and Brackmills page 3 should read 'Blackthorn'. This has been amended.

The minutes were proposed by Tom Smith (Chipping Warden) and seconded by Bill Morris (Croughton). Minutes approved.

Minutes are sent to every NHW Coordinator.

Police Report from Sgt Michaela Simons of our Neighbourhood Police Team, including Q & A's

Sgt Michaela Simons introduced herself as the Sergeant for Towcester and Brackley Safer Community Teams.

- Sgt Simons reported that her team are starting to get back to normal after dealing throughout the past year with Covid related breaches and reports. Since May there has been an upturn in the usual reports of neighbours fighting with each other, antisocial behaviour and crime creeping in.
- The Police can now focus on issues relating to individual villages and towns.
- Staffing. For a long time Sgt Simons has been very short on staff. It has been a difficult couple of years. PC numbers were cut back considerably. There is now a new Chief Constable and new Officers coming in. Sgt Simons has been operating with just 1 PC but by the end of May there will be 4 PC's in Brackley and up to 3 in Towcester with a 4th PC coming in the next couple of months.
- PCSO Pete Firth has retired and PCSO Kev Thompson (the schools officer) is retiring in the next couple of weeks. There will be 2 new PCSO's coming mid June to take over these roles.
- There will be a new Inspector who is basing himself in Towcester.
- There will be a 2nd Sergeant who will take the Towcester side. Sgt Simons will take the Brackley side. Both will cover each other. This will give Sgt Simons the extra assistance. This will allow the team to focus on more significant things. Focus more on partners such as Neighbourhood Watch.
- Ward boundaries have changed: Brackley sector is dividing into two Wards – Brackley and Middleton Cheney area will be one and Silverstone Beat which will encompass the majority of Brackley and also include a small part of Towcester.
- Brackley will have 2 PC's and 2 PCSO's for the town and Middleton Cheney and Silverstone will have 2 PC's and 1 PCSO. Towcester Rural and Towcester Town will have 4 PC's and 5 PCSO's. 1 of the PCSO's will be the sponsored role for Bugbrooke and Nether Heyford which they pay for currently and this falls in to the Towcester Rural area. Sgt Simons is hoping to recruit 1 more PCSO so there will be 4 for Brackley.
- Chief Constable Nick Adderley outlined the Force priorities on TV. Sgt Simons mentioned there will also be locally identified priorities which relate more to what the Neighbourhood Teams do like antisocial behaviour. Towcester is very different to Brackley. The locally identified priorities will be agreed in consultation with the community and should be set over the next couple of months.

- **Sgt Michaela will send a list of PC's and PCSO's to Jeff.** Jeff will then send out the list to NHW Coordinators so we know who is specific to our area. Each area will have a specific point of contact. Hopefully it will now be a better quality of contact.
- Sgt Simons is keen to maintain good staff and she herself has worked in the area for many years. Her knowledge is invaluable. She wants to recruit and keep staff who are keen to work in the area for a long time.
- Maggie (Paulerspury) thanked Sgt Simons for all her help. Sgt Simons said it had been a difficult couple of years with a small team and appreciated the feedback.
- The role of the Police Liaison Representative which is starting to develop will bridge the gaps with Parish Councils.
- Smartwater – It seems to have gone very quiet. There are different methods of technology coming out and lots of products on the market. Sgt Simons will find out about Smartwater. She suggested looking on the Police Website for information at the moment – Depends on the property that needs protecting. The information on the website is constantly being updated. Alan (County Chair) is meeting Kate Bailey (the Crime Prevention Officer) tomorrow. He mentioned the video on 'Protect my home' and will also ask the Crime Prevention Officer about Smartwater.
- Alerts: More information required on alerts. Sgt Simons agreed it was a good point and perhaps the Police could provide some more information. Some officers provide more detailed alerts than others. It also depends on the Officers discretion. Sometimes it is down to Officer's time sending alerts out. Sgt Simons will feed this back. They are investing some training around alerts.
- Jeff thanked Michaela for attending. If any more questions let Jeff know and he will contact Sgt Simons.

Update by County Chair of Northants Neighbourhood Watch Alan Earle relating to County NHW and National NHW

- An alert was published before Christmas on a new working relationship with the Police. Alan will resend a copy to Jeff and Linda.
- Information getting fed to the Police wasn't being officially reported. If you are reporting a crime or suspicion to a local officer it is important to report online as well so it is registered. A lot of things are reported on Facebook but not reported to the Police. Priorities can't be set without having crime and suspicious activity registered.
- PLR – Alan has had a discussion with Danny Moody (CALC). This is a good opportunity for the Police Liaison Reps to work with Neighbourhood Watch. Great initiative.
- Alan has had a meeting with Assistant Chief Commissioner. He has been in the force for 25 years and knows Northamptonshire very well. He has been invited to County NHW AGM
- Area Coordinators. This is an initiative in Northampton town. There are 6 sergeants to 8. 17 wards in the new unitary.

Northampton Town has 240 schemes registered and a lot of street schemes. Northampton Town is very different to village schemes. They only have a very small team. There is a lot of anti social behaviour and deprivation causing problems with drugs and organised crime.

Alan will share how it is going with SNAST at a future meeting.

- County Executive meeting expanded to include Crimestoppers and a representative from the Fire Brigade. Safety messages can be sent and this will help vulnerable people.
- Keep your Pooch safe initiative. Northants Police are interested in this. Not a big crime in Northamptonshire but creating this information raises awareness of the risks. Not to create fear and worry.
- Facebook. The County Facebook page is more of a Bulletin Board. They do not duplicate alerts. Sometimes Police articles on there or scams.
- Whatsapp - can copy an alert on to a Whatsapp file. Good supplement and a lot more secure than using Facebook.
- Fraud. There are a lot of scams. These people are very clever and we need to be vigilant.
- The County Website www.ourwatch.co.uk

Treasurer's Report

i) Report on current balance

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. The annual subscription is being increased to £25.

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

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

Update on VISAV and Alerts Neighbourhood Watch issues

- The system of receiving alerts is run by VISAV.
- Version 3 has been operating for a number of years. Version 4 is being rolled out. NHW Coordinators won't see any changes.
- Multi Scheme Administrators have the ability to look at data in the scheme. They have to have GDPR training and DBS checks. This is for data protection. Jeff and Phil are multi scheme administrators. They can message people and see how people manage their schemes. They can map the scheme and can see where it is. A problem with version 3 is they can't see the schemes side by side. Benefit of Version 4 allows them to line the schemes up and see where there are gaps.
- This reorganisation is also taking place with the Police and it needs to be updated to their new Beats. The Beats have changed significantly in Northampton but not in our area.
- The Scheme Administrators can see NHW Schemes and also persons outside the scheme as just alert members. They can then invite these people to join the scheme expanding it.
- Version 4 will go live on Monday 24th May.

Communication may drop for a few days. Police Officers and Multi Scheme administrators have to be trained to use it.

This system should give better opportunities.

- In a future version County NHW is asking for additional tools for NHW Coordinators. One is for the system to work on a handheld device or tablet. This can then be used to sign someone up to the alert system straight from a mobile phone. Asking for this facility to be made available if the NHW Coordinator wishes. A way of increasing membership.
- Important to get as many of our members to sign up electronically, otherwise when we lose a Coordinator we lose the scheme.
- A lot of people don't have emails so looking at a way that is GDPR compliant. To record vulnerable people on the system. Eliminates the need for private lists which causes NHW nationally and locally a big problem.
- Alan is happy to organise some training if needed.
- Craig (Potterspurty) mentioned about an alert not received. Jeff will check the settings on this account.

Report of Scheme Development Officer re: Croughton

- A need was identified for a Scheme Development Officer. Sue (Brackley) had volunteered to take on this role
- Croughton is the first area concentrated on. Once this scheme is up and running again the Scheme Development Officer will be able to set up new schemes and help schemes who need direction. Anyone needing help to revive their scheme can approach the SNAST committee and their scheme will be put on the list.
- Bill (Croughton) has been in contact with Jean Coles (the present Coordinator) and a meeting has been arranged with Sue.

Appointment of Training Officers – role to be defined

- After a Scheme has been set up/revived Sue will hand this scheme over to the Training Officer. This person will show them what is required.
- A copy of the NHW Coordinators Role was attached with the agenda.
- SNAST is in the process of appointing Training Officers. Richard (Yardley Hastings) who is on the committee has volunteered and been appointed.
SNAST would like to recruit 1 more.
- The training Officer might teach a small group of 2 or 3 Schemes
- Jeff is working on a role description
- SNAST now has a committee, a Development Officer and a Training Officer to help support all the NHW Coordinators and in turn the members.
- Richard mentioned we are not looking to create a model scheme because every Scheme is different.
- Need to highlight GDPR because some Schemes run with a written list of members. Signposting and the VISAV system.
- The VISAV system is funded by the Police and it is a resource we need to use. National NHW pays a subscription to use the VISAV system

- The County 'Ourwatch' website has a lot of support material on there to use in training.

Any Other Business and questions

David (Cosgrove) asked about the Police Liaison Rep. This is an arrangement between the Police and the Parish Council and not to do with Neighbourhood Watch.

This is administered through Northampton 'CALC' Danny Moody.

Jeff thanked everyone attending.

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