

SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM

Minutes to Meeting via Zoom Tuesday 8th March 2022.

Attendees

Jeff Reynolds	Chair	Blakesley	jreynoldsnhw@gmail.com
Linda Hemming	Secretary	Pattishall	linda_hemming@hotmail.com
Phil Renshaw	Deputy Chair	Piddington	Philip.renshaw@yahoo.co.uk
Tina Adey	Treasurer	Yardley Gobion	tadey51@btinternet.com
Richard Houghton		Yardley Hastings	
Lawrence Howes		Cogenhoe	
Shirley Watson		Hinton in the Hedges	
Craig Coppin		Potterspury	
Paul Broadfield		Woodend	
Tom Smith		Chipping Warden	
Alan Earle		County Chair NHW	

Apologies

Mike Crouch	Quinton
Katie Spruels	Milton Malsor
David Smith	Cosgrove
Andrew Jenkins	Grafton Regis
Christy Nolan	Rothersthorpe
Sue Sharps	Brackley

Welcome and Approval of Minutes held 7th December 2021

Jeff thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He hoped all attending would join in with discussions, ask questions and raise any topics at the open discussion at the end of the meeting.

The minutes had been sent out with the agenda.

The minutes were proposed by Tom Smith (Chipping Warden) and seconded by Shirley Watson (Hinton in the Hedges). Minutes approved.

Update by County Chair of Northants Neighbourhood Watch Alan Earle, on NHW matters, national and local.

- National NHW 40th anniversary this year. Promotional items have been sent out.
- Knowledge Hub: This is another way for NHW Coordinators to gain knowledge. It gives Coordinators the opportunity to talk to other Coordinators. They can join in forum discussions. This is a useful tool.
- Operation Target: In Northampton 70 NHW Schemes have been signed up since the pandemic. In the past (in Northampton) it has been smaller schemes (streets) signing up but now it is larger Schemes. Alan has taken on board how SNAST works in rural areas. He has signed up complete housing estates. This is about 10,000 houses in the 70 schemes. Alan told us they have taken on a different technique to expand the NHW network and members.

- Safer Streets: This resolves a lot of problem areas around Kettering, Wellingborough and Northampton. Alan said that because of the support they had given to the Office of Police and Fire and Crime Commissioner they had been given another £8,000 of Signs and literature for Safer Streets. Most of the Signs were out with their district leads.
The idea is to look at local hotspot areas with the local sergeants to reinforce NHW and safer streets. This will strengthen the schemes in certain hotspot areas.
- Savi/Safer Streets: An initiative where business premises provide a safe environment especially for females.
- Alan is now a fully fledged Police volunteer. He is meeting more and more sergeants.
- County Lines: Drug gangs coming into towns and villages. Recently seem to be targeting children to become mules.
Children as young as 10 years of age are being targeted from affluent families because they don't have a Police record.
Alan told us we need to look at the signs of this happening and raise awareness. We can protect our own communities. Alan is waiting for materials so we can raise awareness by simple and clear messages.
- Alan has had lots of meetings with senior Officers and direct contact with sergeants. He has spoken with Dave Wakeman in our area and will be doing some training in Towcester and Brackley with PCSO's.
- QR codes: For NHW, Crimestoppers and Police. This was primarily done for Northampton and a leaflet has been produced with QR codes on. The leaflet also has a QR code for fly tipping, anti social behaviour etc. It is easier then to report.
- Challenges on new estates with anti social behaviour.
- Software: There are a lot of new tools available.
When you log in to your scheme you can look at suggested members and invite them to your scheme.
- Area Coordinators: Northampton has started appointing area Coordinators. They will provide the first level of support for the schemes in their area. They will carry a stock of Signs, leaflets and stickers. Northampton has 17 wards and is currently recruiting 12 Area Coordinators. The Area Coordinators will also be a member of each of the NHW schemes in their area. This will help ease the chairperson's workload.
Messaging will be sent out on the alert system as before.
- Fraud is on the increase.
Jeff mentioned he has been reading about students being approached and asked to launder money.
Alan mentioned about an alert sent out this week on Impersonation Fraud. There is a lot of information on Action Fraud. Alan mentioned we need to do more.
Fraud on your doorstep – it is a crime in progress. You can ring 999.
Alan said we need to raise awareness that it is going on and how to protect ourselves.
- Cyber Crime – Jeff has chatted to P C Neil Mackenzie of the Fraud Protection Department who is happy to come and talk at a SNAST meeting

Richard mentioned the Cyber Crime Team. They had given a presentation at village hall week in their village. The talk was very detailed and Richard recommended them. They are keen to give a presentation to SNAST.

- Sustainability of the NHW Organisation: Need to attract younger people. Alan mentioned the organisation needs to look at doing things differently.

Alan asked us to consider area Coordinators in our area.

The County Website www.ourwatch.org.uk

Treasurer's Report on current bank balance

The balance at the bank is £4582.65. 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. We haven't spent much and need to think what to spend the money on.

Some money saved by having Zoom meetings.

- Bin stickers. Tina will investigate. Alan will send details to Tina.
The stickers are for putting on dustbins.

Jeff thanked Lawrence, who had retired as NHW Coordinator and has now come back.

Replacement of SNAST Chair

Jeff is retiring at the end of April. He has already approached the Officer Committee. None of the Officers wanted to take on the role of Chairman but are happy to continue in their individual roles and will support a new Chairman.

Jeff mentioned it should be someone who has experience of NHW.

Anyone interested to contact Jeff on jreynoldsnhw@gmail.com

Jeff has a number of NHW items in his garage which need to be housed elsewhere.

Open Discussion/Questions/Conclusion

- Zoom meetings. Jeff asked if we should continue with Zoom or have face to face meetings. Richard suggested a mixture and have the AGM face to face. Zoom is convenient. Some would find it difficult to attend face to face meetings unless they were local.
If there is WiFi we could take a laptop and put it on the screen. SNAST has a laptop, projector and screen.
- Other Branches operate:
Most other Branches don't have a committee and survive with a Chairman and Treasurer. They need area Coordinators.
The Chairman is invited to attend County Exec meetings.
The County NHW is comprised of someone/chairman from each Branch
- Can SNAST survive without a chairman? Our Constitution doesn't say we have to have a chairman. The SNAST Team works well. Legally can go forward but we need a chairman. Alan thinks it will be difficult to operate without a chair.
Jeff mentioned he gets a lot of support from the Officers and NHW Coordinators
Tina mentioned we need more people on our committee.
Richard suggested the Officers will meet and discuss and temporarily we will manage without a chairman.
- Phil thanked Jeff for all he has done. Jeff said he had enjoyed working with the NHW Coordinators.

- Tom (Chipping Warden) mentioned the Presentation given to Police Liaison Reps last week by Nick Adderley. He supported PLR roles and recognised the good work NHW perform.