

## **SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM**

### **Minutes to AGM Meeting via Zoom**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

#### **1. Introduction**

##### **Welcome and remarks by retiring Chair Nick King**

#### **Attendees**

Jeff Reynolds	Chair Designate	Blakesley	jreynoldsnhw@gmail.com
Nick King	Retiring Chair	Towcester	
Linda Hemming	Secretary	Pattishall	<a href="mailto:linda_hemming@hotmail.com">linda_hemming@hotmail.com</a>
Phil Renshaw	Deputy Chair	Piddington	
Tina Adey	Treasurer	Yardley Gobion	tadey51@btinternet.com
Jean & Barry Glanville		Grafton Regis	
Richard Houghton		Yardley Hastings	
Shirley Watson		Hinton in the Hedges	
Sue Sharps		Brackley Town Council	
David Smith		Cosgrove	
David Ballard		Harpole	
Mike Hornett		Towcester	
Lawrence Howes		Cogenhoe	
John Roberts		Pimlico	
Alan Earle		County Chair NHW	
Paul Goddard		County Treasurer NHW	
Chief Superintendent Mick Stamper	Head of Local Policing		

#### **Apologies**

Glenn Dudman	Roade
Christy Nolan	Rothersthorpe
Colin Atkins	Weston & Weedon Lois
David Connolly	Evenley
Jackie Ibell	Old Stratford
Gill Taylor	Aston Le Walls

Nick welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Chief Superintendent Mick Stamper, Alan Earle the County Chair Northamptonshire NHW and Paul Goddard County Treasurer. The Minutes, Treasurer's report, Accounts and Chair's report had been sent out with the Agenda. Questions to be asked at the end of the meeting. Nick told us there were 19 different villages who had showed an interest in joining the AGM via Zoom. Last year there were 13 at our AGM in Brackley. Nick mentioned Zoom and Microsoft Team meetings are a positive to come out of Covid.

## **2. Annual General Meeting:**

### **Minutes of AGM held 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

The minutes had already been sent out with the agenda.

Nick informed us the agenda has been slightly turned around this year. Usually the technical items are near the end of the meeting. The reason is Nick is stepping down as chair at this AGM. He said he had been happy to carry on as caretaker chair this year and worked with Jeff Reynolds from Blakesley while he has been learning the role.

Nick personally thanked each member of the committee who he said have been very loyal and professional. Nick said SNAST is there to help all the NHW Schemes in South Northants. The Chair is not a massive job.

Nick mentioned it is a shame not to have had our face to face meetings which is a great chance for the local Police Inspector or PCSO to join us. We have also been unable to share leaflets and stickers with NHW Schemes and also information.

Nick asked for a show of hands to approve the minutes from last year. The minutes were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2019-20**

Tina informed us the accounts had now been independently audited and signed off. There were no alterations or comments. Copies of the accounts and Treasurer's report had already been sent with the agenda.

The balance at the bank as at the end of August was £3062.13. 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.

Subscriptions received so far £540 from 27 Parish Councils. This was in response to our first communication. Tina expects more Parish Councils to subscribe.

Nick asked for a show of hands to approve the accounts. The accounts were approved.

### **Election of Officers for 2020-21**

- a) Chair            Jeff was nominated.    Proposed by Nick and seconded by Linda
- b) Deputy Chair Phil was nominated.    Proposed by Linda and seconded by Sue.
- c) Secretary      Linda was nominated. Proposed by Nick and seconded by Phil
- d) Treasurer      Tina was nominated.    Proposed by Richard and seconded by David.

### **Acceptance remarks and report by incoming Chair and close of AGM**

Jeff said he was very pleased to be able to carry on with the same team which is a great help. Jeff mentioned he hadn't had the pleasure of meeting everyone yet due to Covid 19 but hoped to in due course. Jeff thanked Nick for continuing as caretaker chair for the last 12 months and wanted to build upon Nick's achievements. Jeff then presented Nick with a garden token from the SNAST team for going the extra mile. He wished Nick good luck for the future. It is Jeff's aim to build upon Nick's achievements with the help of the committee and the Neighbourhood Team and with streamlining communication and membership.

Jeff then closed the AGM.

Jeff then introduced Chief Superintendent Mick Stamper whose responsibility is for local policing in Northants.

### **3. Police Update – Chief Superintendent Mick Stamper Head of Policing**

CS Stamper informed us that if ever we don't get whatever information we need we can always contact him and he will try to sort it out for us.

CS Stamper said on behalf of the Police command in Northamptonshire he wished to thank Nick for all he has done in supporting the Police and the help he has given.

CS Stamper then introduced himself as head of the local Policing Command for the police. He would try to answer any questions put to him.

CS Stamper explained Officers in uniform who do not carry guns are responsible to him.

- **Structure of the Police**

CS Stamper is responsible for emergency capabilities, Neighbourhood Policing, Community Safety and Officers going in and speaking to people. He is responsible for all Police services we get.

He is a great believer that the Police serve and we are the customer. It can be challenging at times but they have to remember they are there as an emergency service.

Nick Adderly is the current Chief Constable. CS Stamper informed us he is the best chief they have had and an outstanding leader. He has focussed the force's approach on more meaningful targets.

Therefore Northamptonshire Police Force has been split into 2 areas, aligning to the 2 unitary authorities. These are north and west. In the North at the moment there is Superintendent Dennis Murray who is moving on to British Transport Police and CS Stamper is in the process of appointing another person.

In the West there was Superintendent Chris Hillary who has now moved on. They all get moved around and now we have Superintendent Kev Mulligan who has transferred from Staffordshire Police. He has a lot of experience and been investigating officer and operations officer for serious crime. He is going to try to hang on to him for as long as possible so there is some continuity.

Chief Inspector James Willis has moved on to the Police Control room which is a shame but good for the Control room because he understands what it is like being at the other end of the phone. James has been replaced by Rachel Hanford who is fairly new to local Policing but a quick learner.

Inspector Kev Byrne retired and was replaced by Inspector Tracey Moore who has also moved on to other things. She has been replaced temporarily by Chris Thomas who agreed to fill the role while a replacement was found. CS Stamper is just in the process of working through a replacement. It is a responsible position and delivers so much. Chris is our inspector for now.

- **Expansion of ANPR network -**

This will affect the rural areas of Daventry and South Northants. This will create a ring of steel around the County. A lot of cameras will be put into the rural areas. Parish Councils affected by this will have had letters from the Police. There has been no resistance to this. By Christmas the cameras will start to be erected. CS Stamper has had to source lampposts for these cameras. The cameras will be a huge benefit to South Northants.

CS Stamper said the Chief Constable and the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner have funded new interceptor vehicles. These vehicles will be out there 24 hours a day and will be the primary response to the ANPR cameras.

Every month from now the Police will be running a high visibility Interceptor led operation in rural areas until the end of March/April.

- **Neighbourhood Policing** – The Chief Constable has already announced an increase of 20 Police Officers dedicated to Neighbourhood Policing. The force already has 50 officers but CS Stamper said that isn't enough. They are a neighbourhood Policing force and crime happens in Neighbourhoods. CS Stamper has put 10 officers into centre of Northampton. This is because the centre (2 mile radius) around the Guildhall is responsible for 13-14% of crime in the County.

Kettering will have an extra 4 officers and 3 in Wellingborough. The other 3 will go into growth in our rural crime team.

An extra 264 Constables will be recruited by January 2022, and about 100 will be lost, but overall the number will double. Then he will start to allocate them across the County.

Rural Crime Team – John Hutchins Abby Anstead and Chloe Gillis are our rural crime team. CS Stamper is going to increase the size of that team to 6. These 6 officers will work around the county with farmers and the rural community and try to be proactive to prevent and tackling crime. Sheep slaughtering a while back is an example. The crime commissioner has given £750,000 to kit the team out with equipment, vehicles. As from 1<sup>st</sup> November there will be a rural crime team of 6 officers with a dedicated sergeant. CS Stamper said this is a great plus because the rural community don't get the same service as the urban areas. He hopes this will improve things.

- **Citizen Support** – The Chief knows we have NHW, Street Watch and volunteers and different schemes who work and are affiliated schemes with the Police. If you live in some areas you have a wealth of people offering their time to make their area safe. There is more help available with people offering their help in some areas but not others. He wants a citizen support scheme in every sector. There will be a lead officer to support in every sector and their job will be to coordinate support and recruit in those areas.

Jeff thanked CS Stamper for explaining the new structure.

Paul Goddard raised the point about recording the meeting and asked if everyone was comfortable with that. Everyone including CS Stamper was happy to be recorded.

#### **4. NHW County Update**

##### **Remarks by County Chair Alan Earle**

Alan explained the Goal and Vision of County and what they hope to achieve.

Their vision is where neighbours come together to create safer stronger and active communities. Their mission is to support and enable individuals and communities to be connected active and safe which increase wellbeing and minimises crime.

He explained to be neighbourly, Get involved and volunteer in order to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Alan explained how they plan to move forward and work more closely with the Police.

Alan thanked everyone who has helped in their communities during Covid 19.

Alan had regular meetings with the County council, Police sergeants, PC's and PCSO's and worked a lot with community groups during this time and this will continue.

He said they have Invested in a Zoom licence for the next 12 months.

- Alan explained that Coordinators should:  
Know who their members are  
Arrange for NHW signs to be put up and maintained  
Welcome new residents to the NHW scheme area and inviting other neighbours to join through the website  
Communicate regularly with members to pass on information  
Organise meetings to bring everyone together  
For this reason County has invested in a Zoom licence.  
Communicate regularly with local groups and agencies  
Keep an eye on any elderly or vulnerable neighbours or arranging for others to do so.
- Each scheme is a community initiative so success depends on what you put into it.  
It is only supported by the Police, but not run or owned by them.  
There is no right or wrong way to run a scheme  
Support is available but ALL members take steps to prevent crime improve safety and reduce fear of crime.
- County Neighbourhood Watch has got a Constitution, Media Policy, Child Protection policy, a financial policy.

Alan reminded us about Making Communities Safer and Stronger:

The County website [www.ourwatch.co.uk](http://www.ourwatch.co.uk)

Operation Target run a couple of years ago increased NHW schemes by 80-90 and the membership by about 80%.

They have received increased funding from the Crime Commissioner.

Neighbourhood Watch and the Police are working more closely together. Coordinators know where their problems are. The feedback we can provide is very important.

Jeff thanked Alan and asked for any questions:

### Questions

- Mike (Towcester) mentioned the information from CS Stamper was very informative. The information about ANPR cameras was very interesting. He asked about Parish Council cameras and in particular Towcester Town Council. CS Stamper replied that if they want to erect cameras in particular areas they have to consult with the relevant authority. If more cameras are going up in Towcester the Town Council would have had a letter from the Police. He said if a Parish Council has not received a letter it's because they aren't going to erect a camera in that particular village.
- Mike (Towcester) also mentioned about a lot of activity on social media and on their Towcester NHW website. Mike said he tells people to ring 101 but when it has been rung through they have ignored the problem. Problem doesn't get resolved because they pass it on to someone else. CS Stamper said they do try to pass to relevant agencies in some instances. He said the Police are the only 24 hour public service and some things need to be dealt with by relevant agencies.
- Mike (Towcester) asked if we could have a list of the names in the Police structure – CS Stamper will provide names on the website and Jeff will follow up.
- Pete Mummery asked about Capabilities of ANPR Cameras.

CS Stamper told us they are digital cameras that scan registration plates day and night and checks them against the Police National computer and a number of other databases. It captures the fact that a car has gone through a camera. If a vehicle is known or a source of interest it flags to the Police. It can also be used for directed surveillance which has to be authorized. This can be by surveillance operatives or CCTV or ANPR. The Police are allowed covertly to follow someone by ANPR tracking. This is done by serious crime.

For example in Operation Stock where in retrospect the Police went through ANPR hits to identify vehicles in that area and whether cars travelled together. It is monitored and regulated and for surveillance it has to be authorized by senior officers.

Pete asked where the ANPR cameras are: CS Stamper informed us they are on M roads, A roads and some B roads. There are about 100 at the moment but they are putting another 150 up. They will be erected on lampposts, some bridges and some solar ones too.

- David (Harpole) mentioned people taking photos of houses and gardens in their village a few days ago and tried ringing 101 but wasn't answered. They then decided to report online. CS Stamper said this should have been a 999 call. If anything is urgent don't report online. CS Stamper said if you call 999 and when relaying the details they decide it is not an emergency they will say and put you in a queue in the 101 system. It is the same when triaging on 101 – if it is urgent they will put it into the 999 system. The 101 call system is answered within 30 seconds 80% of the time. If it will be a long wait you are offered a call back.
- Richard (Yardley Hastings) asked who the person responsible for travellers now. We were told the lead person for travellers is Chief Inspector Peter Basham??? But if there are any issues to contact CS Stamper who is ultimately responsible. Richard also mentioned about the horse fair incident in Wellingborough district. CS Stamper mentioned the Covid situation is just another situation they have to deal with. There are some laws which some people don't want to follow.
- Nick King asked if Operation Crooked focusing on residential dwelling burglaries was still ongoing. CS Stamper assured us it was. He told us that when focusing on burglaries it does come right down.
- Nick asked about Citizen Support and how the sectors are divided up. CS Stamper informed us there are 4 sectors: Northampton North East, Northampton Central, Northampton South West and Daventry and South Northants together. For each sector there is a lead Constable and PCSO. Part of their job is to develop this. CS Stamper is preparing a report on how to do this. Nick mentioned it is good to have lead officers in sectors to help citizens support. Nick also said losing watch liaison officers in 2010 hurt Northamptonshire. He suggested in the recruitment plan to have dedicated staff is invaluable. Alan reinforced that having Police Officers involved with Neighbourhood Policing was working.
- Sue (Brackley) mentioned about anti burglary Posters which are old. She asked if there the Police would be working together with County NHW to produce some new ones. Alan Earle mentioned County is looking to appoint 4 Super Coordinators across the County. They would be developing posters and leaflets for an initiative on working more closely with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Jeff said it was going to be an exciting time with closer contact between Neighbourhood Watch and the Police.

Jeff thanked everyone for attending.