

SOUTH NORTHANTS NHW AREA SUPPORT TEAM

Minutes to AGM Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday 28th September 2021.

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	
Shirley Watson		Hinton in the Hedges	
David Connolly		Evenley	
David Ballard		Harpole	
Peter Howard		Towcester	
Lawrence Howes		Cogenhoe	
Christy Nolan		Rothersthorpe	
Katie Spruels		Milton Malsor	
Tom Smith		Chipping Warden	
Richard Akers		Gayton	
Alan Earle		County Chair NHW	
Sergeant Andy Mayer		Rural Crime Team	

Apologies

Colin Atkins	Weston & Weedon Lois
Bill Morris	Croughton
David Smith	Cosgrove
Mike Crouch	Quinton
Liz Dutton	Little Houghton
Craig Coppin	Potterspury

1. Introduction

Welcome and remarks

Jeff welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Jeff had already circulated his report with the agenda. A few points were highlighted

- Jeff would have liked to have had in person meetings but was hindered by the pandemic. Now making progress and hopefully personal meetings soon.
- Despite restrictions some progress has been made with Neighbourhood Police Teams. It is Jeff's hope and aim for all NHW Coordinators to get to know at least one member on their respective Police Team to contact. How to make contact will be circulated to everyone in due course.

- There is two guests at our meeting Sergeant Andy Maher who is Head of the Rural Crime Team and Alan Earle the County Chair Northamptonshire NHW. Jeff asked for everyone to use the opportunity to ask questions during the meeting.
- Jeff thanked the committee for their work over the last 12 months and their support and contributions to him in his first 12 months as chair. He also mentioned the excellent Treasurer's reports and minutes. Hopefully this will reflect in the support SNAST gives to NHW Coordinators.

The full report is attached with the minutes.

2. Annual General Meeting:

Approval of the minutes of AGM held 29th September 2020

The minutes had already been sent out with the agenda.

The minutes were approved. Proposed by Richard Houghton and seconded by Christy Nolan.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2020-2021

Copies of the accounts and Treasurer's report had already been sent with the agenda.

- The balance at the bank at end of July was £4108.72. 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. Tina said we need to do something about this.
- The accounts have been audited.
- Subscriptions received as of 31st July 2021 were £650 from 26 Parish Councils. Since 31st July Tina has received another £400 from a further 16 Parish Councils. There is usually 1 or 2 Parish Councils who say they aren't going to subscribe.
- The subs were raised to £25 this year.

We have a healthy balance as there has been little expenditure over the last 18 months due to meetings held via Zoom. Tina mentioned we should look to spending some of this money. The accounts were approved. Proposed by David Ballard and seconded by Tom Smith.

Election of Officers for 2020-21

The present committee agreed to stand as officers for this year.

- a) Chair Jeff Reynolds: Proposed by Linda Hemming and seconded by Richard Akers
- b) Deputy Chair Phil Renshaw: Proposed by Jeff Reynolds and seconded by David Ballard
- c) Secretary Proposed by Phil Renshaw and seconded by Shirley Watson
- d) Treasurer Proposed by Richard Houghton and seconded by Christy Nolan

Close of the AGM

3. Police Update – Sergeant Andy Maher, Rural Crime Team

- Andy introduced himself as the Sergeant for the Rural Crime Team. He joined the Force in 2000 and performed the role of PC for 5 years. During that time he worked on Response, Neighbourhoods, ANPR response teams and road policing. Andy Maher got promoted in 2008 and performed the Sergeant role working on Neighbourhoods, Police Custody and Investigation Team.
- In 2019 Andy moved from Custody to the Rural Crime Team. He managed the protest removals teams, and also managed the portfolio for HS2 for the County. Andy Maher has been doing this for 2 years now but Rural Crime is his main focus.
- There were only 2 PC's who managed the Rural Crime Team for the County. The Chief Constable and PCC have increased the team to 6 PC's and 1 Sergeant. Andy informed us the Rural Crime Team is in addition to the Neighbourhood Police Team.
- Andy will email Jeff with all the team email addresses and contact numbers which Andy is happy for Jeff to circulate.
- The main responsibilities of the team are: Wildlife Crime, Trailer thefts, Farm machinery, Heritage Crime and Church Crimes. Anything that doesn't fit in with normal Policing around Neighbourhoods is picked up by the Rural Team.
- They also do cross border operations with Thames Valley, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire and Bedfordshire.
- Within the role the Rural Crime Team also deal with hare coursing, badger baiting, fox hunting, theft from farms and estates, motorcycle nuisance (especially off road motorcycles) and anti social behaviour in and around villages, rural estates and farms.
- The Rural Crime Team also supports their volunteers on horseback. There are 50 volunteers on horseback who go out on patrol in their local area. For example around bank holidays there may be unlicensed music events and the volunteers on horseback are tasked with searching local areas.
- The Rural Crime Team support the road teams with Operation Close Pass, where motorists come too close to cyclists or horses due to the road network.
- The Rural Crime Team supports their RSPCA colleagues as well with enforcing warrants etc. This could be in recovering animals etc.
- They support the Neighbourhood Policing Teams as well.
They are fortunate to have 2 specialist Wildlife Officers, 3 Off Road Motorcyclists, 2 on road Motor Cyclists, Drone Pilot, Stolen Vehicle examiner and within that Public Order.
- The rural teams addresses are (Twitter) @norpolrural and (email) RuralCrime@northants.police.uk
- Andy Maher also chairs the Rural Action Group. Andy Crisp (Daventry District Lead and Executive Vice- Chair) is a member of this group and a great supporter. They pass out tasks and information to Andy.
- There was a Rural Action group meeting yesterday 27th September where Andy Maher was able to give a Crime Update.
Last 12 months (up until 2nd August) across the whole County there have been 6,119 incidents of Crime which is a reduction of 20.7% on the previous 12 months. There have been reductions in everything apart from Criminal damage and theft from a person.

In South Northants there have been 1,683 offences reported (a reduction of 20.4%). Some is down to Covid and people not being out and about but there have been increases in Neighbourhood Police Teams following reallocation by Chief Superintendent Ash Tuckley from response teams. Hopefully we will see more Police out and about over the next 6 months.

- Jeff asked how do they distinguish between rural or town offences?
Andy Maher said when someone calls into the control room the call handler attaches flags to each crime to identify whether it is a rural crime or not. The call handlers have been trained to distinguish what is a rural crime.
Anything where there is a location of less than 10,000 people is classed as a rural crime such as vehicle crime, burglary, shoplifting, bicycle theft, theft from a person, robbery, criminal damage, arson or wildlife crime.
- Jeff asked do the rural team have 4x4's or quad bikes?
No quad bikes due to injuries rolling them. The team have 4 four wheel drive, which are classed as advanced cars and can be used in pursuits. 2 are used for Tpac (Tactical Pursuit and Containment) and 2 for off road and also a Volvo XE 90 which is high speed motorway use.
They also have unmarked vehicles too and high visibility vehicles.
- What is the difference between what the Rural Team do and the Neighbourhood Team do?
The Neighbourhood Team will pick up neighbour disputes in a village or problem solving whereas the rural team look after farms, estates, and more remote locations where they may need specialist equipment or increased amount of training to deal with it.
They have specialist skills to support Neighbourhood Colleagues.
- Peter Howard asked where are the Rural Team based? They used to be based in Towcester. Now that the team has increased in size they have moved to headquarters in Northampton. This is because they are Rural Team for the whole of the County. Better access to the garage and resources to keep them on the road and easier to cover the whole County.
- How can we help Andy and the Rural Crime Team as NHW groups to carry out their job more effectively?
Andy Maher replied Information and Intelligence.
Tom Smith Chipping Warden had emailed the Rural Crime Team about a vehicle and they were able to respond quickly.
- The volunteers on horseback did 130 hours last month patrolling the rural community.
- Andy mentioned they have a Rural Crime Team trailer that can come out to events to engage with people. If the trailer is required please email the Rural Crime Team.
- Social chit chat sometimes picks up patterns that affect rural areas – builds up a pattern of vehicle behaviour. A good way of getting information.
- Are the Rural Team encouraged to put things out on the alert system?
Andy Maher said they are but they don't want to double up with Neighbourhood alerts. Andy Maher mentioned farmers seem to prefer twitter to Neighbourhood alerts.
- Jeff thanked Andy for a very interesting talk and very helpful. Jeff will circulate the list which will be very useful.

- Neighbourhood Teams have been delivering leaflets with their contact numbers to the Silverstone Beat area.
- Jeff will circulate contact details of the Neighbourhood Teams along with the Rural Crime team contact details.
- Andy Maher will email and remind Inspector Greg Taylor to send details to Jeff. Jeff will be meeting Greg Taylor on 22nd October.

4. NHW County Update – Remarks by County Chair Alan Earle

- There is a dedicated page on Rural Crime Team on the County Website **www.ourwatch.co.uk**
- Alan mentioned about the new **Knowledge Hub**. Information should come out in the next 2 weeks. It is a new system that NHW Central Support has launched. It will connect Coordinators with each other and help with knowledge in running schemes. It has already been launched in other Counties and Northamptonshire is next on the list.
- Operation Target – This has been running over the last 12 months. It has been difficult to engage with people because of the pandemic but 50 new schemes have been started with 6,000 houses.
- Alan told us they do a lot of work with the Community Safety Teams particularly in Northampton and Wellingborough. Putting a lot of organisations together. The Police have been doing bike marking events and also increasing the amount of people signed up to the alerts for Neighbourhood Watch.
- Also about the County going live with VISAV V4 system. Northamptonshire was the 1st to go live.
We can now delete people, create schemes, the Police can send messages out. Alan wants people to update their profile. If they have CCTV they need to indicate this on their account or if they have Ring doorbells. This is very useful for the Police. If there is a crime the Police Officer can look into the system and see exactly where the CCTV is. This is a useful tool.
- Alan also gets involved with the Central Support Team in London along with Andy Maher. They also have a rural Crime group. This is useful and they can feedback things to look out for and knowledge on what is going on.
- Alan also sits on a steering group developing strategic information on the alert system. They work very closely with the Police on alerts. County NHW recently sent an alert out on drugs and received 5 pieces of strong intelligence back from it on drug related crime. Alan then fed the information back to the Police.
Another alert that went out recently was on fire safety. Within 24 hours they had 25 people contact the Fire service. This doubles the message to more people.
- Recently Alan has been working with the Fraud and Cyber Teams. Fraud is on the increase. Different types of scams are going on. They have trained up one of the officers on the Fraud Team to send out alerts themselves.
There will be more types of alerts coming out on different types of Fraud. Things to watch out for and what to do about it if you believe you have been scammed.
- Using QR codes in Northampton Town where numerous problems have been going on. Produced by West Northants Unitary Council where people can report rubbish,

report crimes to the Police, to Crimestoppers, Neighbourhood Watch and several others.

Easy to use, you can flip your phone to the QR code and it will take you to the relevant website to report. Alan said it seems this is what the youngsters are using more and more.

- County AGM is 18th October. Steven Mold (Police and Crime Commissioner) will be a guest speaker. The Assistant Chief Constable Pauline Sturman is also a guest speaker. They are hoping to have someone from the Unitary Council there to talk about Community Safety Partnerships and how important that can be.

5. Any other Business and Conclusion

- Lawrence asked about NHW roundals. Allan will post tomorrow.
- The Neighbourhood Team – everyone needs a member to contact Alan asked who knows their point of contact – Christy (Rothersthorpe) knows her contact because she attended the Police Beat Bus at Blisworth today. Alan will get this moving?

- Police Liaison Rep – There are a few in both roles. The PLR is a scheme run by the Police in conjunction with Local Government and is not really anything to do with NHW.

Alan mentioned one of the things they can record on the system is who the Police Liaison Rep is. The Police asked if this could be put into the system. It's only a Police Officer who can put that information in. A member of the Public cannot just put themselves in.

Alan told us not all the PLR's on are the alert system. Alan is meeting Danny Moody in November and will speak about it.

- Jeff has a copy of the contacts in the Police but only because a couple of PLR reps sent it to him. It didn't come through the normal channels. Otherwise Jeff wouldn't have known anything about it. Jeff is worried because we seem to have a dual stream.
- Alan will contact Andy Maher to organise some training on the alerts.

Jeff thanked everyone for attending