



WORKING FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Annual General Meeting of the Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association held on 2nd May 2019

At the Church of Christ the Servant King, Booker

Attendees: committee – Chair Stan Jones, Geoff Pegg, Doug Meredith, Ian Burrell, John Moore, Ray Cox, Eric Hambling.

The chairman welcomed everyone, and in particular the speakers Korinne Leney and Inspector Pete Wall. He also welcomed Brian Hill from Risborough NHWA.

The Chairman gave his introduction: the trend of crime in our area in the past year is much the same as the previous year. ASB, drugs, burglary and theft have again crept up, but are still relatively low. The problem we all face is still cons & scams. People, especially vulnerable ones, are still falling for the latest version of cons & scams, be they doorstep, mail, telephone or via the digital media. The usual pattern is to start with small amounts and then slowly escalate, with average frauds netting the criminal several thousand pounds.

The best protection is to get information on how scams take place, some available as leaflets on the table, and prepare yourself for known versions but also to recognise the new versions that are invented by criminals on a daily basis. If you are a member of your local NHW scheme then you can turn to your coordinator for advice & he can in turn get advice from our committee.

As Trading Standards would point out, if you have a “we do not buy at the door” sticker on your door, again available on the table, be clear to anyone strange coming to your door they are not welcome. If you buy from them you might end up on a list of “soft touches” and get repeated callers.

Our main aim is to let you feel safe in your neighbourhood and in your home.

Apologies for absence: Chris Johnston, Stephen Boyes, Peter Keen, Val McPherson, Selina Jackson, Margaret Hearn, Bill Potts, Ernest Smith and Jennifer Swallow.

The minutes of the last AGM held on 24th April 2018 were tabled without comment.

Geoff Pegg, Director of Operations gave his report of work done by the association in 2018.

The audited accounts were presented by the treasurer, Ian Burrell. The sale of goods increased again resulting in a trading surplus of £454. Donations and

grants exceeded £1000 allowing us to support the purchase of various goods such as Street signs for free issue to our coordinators.

Jennie Evans was proposed to continue as auditor/examiner by Ian Burrell, seconded by Pat Scully and passed unanimously.

The chairman thanked Geoff Pegg and David Gresswell for their work on cons and scams that has been recognised by Trading Standards as exceptional. The election was held for the committee and officers that was agreed to be carried out en bloc. Details of current members who offered to stand again and new nominees, Eric Hambling and Ray Cox, were available prior to the meeting. The committee was accepted unanimously. The election of officers, Stan Jones, Geoff Pegg and Ian Burrell was also accepted unanimously.

There being no other business the formal meeting was closed.

The first speaker was Korinne Leney from Bucks County Council. She described a project on the BCC website, called Bucks on-line Directory, which presents the community support organisations that can be accessed by inputting the person's postcode and it shows the nearest facilities.

The second speaker was Insp. Pete Wall, Neighbourhood Inspector for the High Wycombe Local Policing Area. His topic was volunteering. He explained there were 527 volunteers in the Thames Valley area (including Neighbourhood Watch formal volunteers) and 227 police cadets. Police cadets, aged 14 and 15, are often engaged in anti-burglary events handing out leaflets. Most Special Constables are doing courses at Bucks New University in policing. They police events such as the Marlow Regatta. They are volunteers but have the same powers as a PC. When questioned he agreed there had been many complaints recently about the response time when people phoned 101 and that the Chief Constable was committed to getting the phone answered more quickly.

The chairman thanked the speakers and attendees and closed the meeting.