

**Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting & Conference 2016**  
**at The Millennium Centre, Great Baddow**

Minutes of the 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 12:30

Present: Clive Stewart (Chairman and Braintree), Superintendent Steve Ditchburn (Head of Community Resources and Co-ordinator Local Policing Support Unit Essex Police HQ), Jeff Appleby (ECM Administrator Essex Police), ACC Maurice Mason (Essex Police), Roger Hirst (PCC), Mike Hooper (Treasurer and Rochford), Alan Johnson (Uttlesford), Brenda Pegram (Epping), Clive Woodward (Basildon), Sally-Ann Judd (Minute Secretary) Steve Leverett (Chelmsford), Colin Freeman (Event Co-ordinator), Jenny Brouard & Kevin Blake (Essex Police), Roger Passfield (Vice Chair, Regional Co-ordinator and Thurrock).

*There was a count of those attended which was 64 but not everyone signed the register.*

Speakers for Conference: ACC Maurice Mason (Essex Police) and Roger Hirst (Police and Crime Commissioner)

1. Apologies – Peter Salmon
2. Welcome and Chairman's report:

In my first year as Chairman I have to say that it has been a challenging time, but in many ways an enjoyable experience, and I would like to thank you for your support. Some of the time it did feel like I was back "at work" in a full time job as I am always available regarding Neighbourhood Watch issues by anyone who contacted me with phone calls and emails. So what have I achieved in the past year? Well our meetings are much more pro-active, as they are more about what each District Co-ordinator has actioned since the previous meetings. My Chairman's report is read as a summary but the full versions are distributed with the Agenda and also placed on our website. I feel it is the District Co-ordinator's meeting (and not a Chairman's) and it is their opportunity to keep us updated on what they have achieved and any new ideas too. As regards any guest speakers I decided that they are best left at the end of "business", this is a more effective use of our time, and of course we give them our undivided attention. I need to say that it would be appreciated to have a representative of Essex Police and The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner to attend more often – it is part of our Partnership Agreement. Our meetings are only every two months and despite my decision to bring their reporting to the top of the agenda (so if they have any other commitments they can leave) they still do not attend as often as they should. It is hoped they will be able to make more meetings in the months ahead. In the past three years one of my "responsibilities" has been the distribution of the window stickers which we receive from National NW. Recently 15,000 window stickers and 2,500 new "NW Guides" were delivered to my home on a pallet! These books are excellent so I arranged for another 2,500 to be sent to us via Roger Passfield. Over 200 books are now available for each District as well as 1000 window stickers and you all should have them by now if not by today!

My special thanks to: Mike Hooper, our Treasurer who has had a busy year and has been excellent in not only managing the books but also distributing the funds from The Office of Police and Crime Commissioners Office so effectively to each District. My two Vice Chairmen:

Peter Salmon: He has worked tirelessly in registering ECNWA as a Charity, also attending various meetings throughout Essex and representing ECNWA at Crimestoppers meetings.

Roger Passfield: He volunteered to be our County Co-ordinator and as such has been representing us at Regional NW Partnership meetings and also agreed to be on the Board of the Community Agents Essex. He also has the responsibility of many of our bulk purchases e.g. street signs/purse bells etc...

Sally-Ann Judd (Minute Secretary) has been excellent in taking the minutes. They are on our Essex County NW website. Her time is appreciated as it must be a busy time at Essex Police.

Colin Freeman (newly appointed Event Co-ordinator) we are so pleased to have his expertise in organising today.

Peter Fisk for all his work for our County Website which, not only now shows my Chairman's report for each meeting, but other reports from District Co-ordinators too. I do hope that each District will update their information to him on a more regular basis.

Finally a big thank you to The Millennium Centre who provide The Tower Room for ECNWA meetings every two months and not making any charge at all!

We all accept that Neighbourhood Watch is in the community to reduce the opportunity of crime and NW members are there to ensure that those who may feel vulnerable can have some support too in protecting their personal property. Indeed I strongly believe we are good at reducing the fear of crime.

So thanks to all of you for your efforts on NW – I appreciate it very much.

**WELCOME** our two Guest Speakers in our Conference:

ACC Mr. Mason who we have all met quite a few times over the past year and we are looking forward to hearing an update from him as to our working with Essex Police-some of the actions have been new to us and we have tried our best to find more time in our busy lives to do what we can. Welcome our newly elected Police & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst. Within minutes of being elected he received congratulations from ECNWA and he replied thanking us and looking forward to attending the Conference.

May I also welcome our exhibition stands Office of Crime & Police Commissioner, Essex Police, Community Agents Essex, Victim Support, and Crimestoppers. I hope that you have found the time to have a chat with them before this AGM and discuss how we can be work with them more effectively in the next year.

**ESSEX POLICE:** Not only myself but we have all had many face to face meetings with Essex Police since May 2015, including attending Tasking meetings and involvement with the planning of "Active Citizens" operations and also many Districts Co-ordinators have had regular meetings with their District Commanders and their Teams too which is excellent. Essex Police did not ask to have their funding so drastically cut, and therefore, they have had to change their ways of operating to keep within their new budgets. With crime changing so much in recent years too Essex Police's priorities have been based on challenging and various demands so we must support them in whatever way we can. Since my election in 2015, I have had more one to one meetings with Senior Police Officers, including ACC Mrs Wortley and ACC Mr. Mason, than the previous two Chairman of ECNWA had in total over the past ten years. At all these meetings Essex Police knew that we are keen to do whatever we can, with whatever time we have, to work more effectively with them to reduce the opportunity of crime. I have always advised Essex Police that we are keen to work more effectively with them however it is important for them to understand ( and I know that they do) that we are all volunteers and can only offer what time we have. So my requests to all District Co-ordinators in May last year was for all of us to make contact with their local Neighbourhood Policing Teams means even more now. ECNWA meet up with ACC Mason at Police HQ regularly now and the next meetings are Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** I have had regular direct contact with National NW and on 5<sup>th</sup> April they advised me they have "limited resources and the complexities of the new logo were not apparent at the time" (so could not give us a licence to use the new logo). They continued to say "We had to start using the new logo as our old website was at risk of failing, hence us starting to use it in November. If it was just dealing with the trademark things would happen a lot quicker but it is not. The NHW infrastructure is complex and not many understand how this impacts on all our work at NAWN". Despite launching the "new" logo on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, only in recent months have they offered "temporary licenses" to those who want to use the "new" logo. You may like to know that our current licence to use the NW logo is up to 2023, and also National NW have admitted to me that the "new" logo is not much different from the current one.

On behalf of ECNWA I have not yet applied for a temporary licence as the majority of you have not demanded it and some of you are happy to keep the current logo. When I advised National NW of that fact they replied by saying they were disappointed that I was not applying. My reply to that was that we are too busy at the moment and when the full licence is available we shall be in touch.

**BANNERS:** Many Districts have new pop up banners which were funded by Community Essex Agents /ECNWA funds and they are excellent.

**OPCC FUNDING:** It is very much appreciated that we received £10,500 from Office of Police and Crime Commissioner and each District has received £675.

**COMMUNITY AGENTS ESSEX:** We have continued to support their excellent work since their inception. Our commitment was to promote their services not only in our local NW newsletters but also mention them at any NW presentations. It has been agreed with them that should they receive any NW enquiries they will contact Essex County NW directly and we shall be responsible to follow up such enquiries. We do have a specific CAE/ECNWA budget that covers purchases of items e.g. Message in a Bottle, and general expenses. Many of the District Co-ordinators are known to their local CA Agents and this is good way to go forward.

**ESSEX COMMUNITY MESSAGING:** It was great to have on board Jeff Appleby who has made a significant difference to the promotion of the system as well as training so many of us to enter NW messages and ( as in some Districts e.g. Braintree ) have a dedicated person who sends ECM messages using the crime reports from Essex Police. Registrations have increased each month. If anyone wonders why each NW member in Essex (in the region of 120,000) do not register. One reason I was told by a few NW Groups is that local Co-ordinators have been asked by their members to register and then summarise the messages and report to them this avoids them having to receive the information by phone or email.

**MY VISION FOR 2016/2017:**

My theme for Essex County Neighbourhood Watch for 2016/2017 should be "Better Communication is the Key".

We must continue to send messages in whatever form to the community to reduce the opportunity of crime.

So please can we increase the distribution of information not only through ECM, but also by email, websites , texts, and phones and also the old fashion way "talking" face to face . We must always recognise those in the community who want a "piece of paper" and do not choose or are unable to have access to computers/broadband - it is Neighbourhood Watches responsibility to ensure they are never forgotten. *It is hoped that you all will have an enjoyable and interesting afternoon.*

3. Confirmation of the AGM Minutes of 13th May 2015, these had been made available to all via the website.
4. **Treasurers Report** – Mike Hooper submitted the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016: Income £14,914 Expenditure £13,650  
The Accounts were audited by John Metcalfe who is willing to be auditor for 2016/2017, the meeting voted in favour.
5. Proposals for amendments to the Constitution.
  - 6.1 "The Annual General Meeting (AGM) should be within twelve months of the previous year's AGM" (this is to replace "held before the end of May of each year").  
This was proposed by Clive Stewart and seconded by all of the ECNWA members at the meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May. *Meeting voted in favour of this change.*
  - 6.3 No members shall exercise more than one vote but in the case of an equality of votes the representative of the Essex Police shall have the deciding vote".  
This is to be replaced by "No members shall exercise more than one vote but in the case of an equality of votes the Chairman of ECNWA shall have the deciding vote" .  
Proposed by Clive Stewart and seconded by Roger Passfield. *Meeting voted in favour of this change.*

**8. RULES OF PRECEDURE AT ALL MEETINGS:**

8.3 No members shall exercise more than one vote but in the case of an equality of votes the representative of the Essex Police shall have the deciding vote". This is to be replaced by "No members shall exercise more than one vote but in the case of an equality of votes the Chairman of ECNWA shall have the deciding vote" . Proposed by Clive Stewart and seconded by Roger Passfield  
*Meeting voted in favour of this change.*

*The revised Constitution will be signed by every member of ECNWA at the next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.*

6. Approval for Auditor for next twelve months – John Metcalfe was voted in as Auditor for 2016/2017.
7. Election of the Executives (Each of these were nominated, proposed and seconded by ECNWA members at the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016).
  - (a) Chairman: Clive Stewart – Meeting voted in favour.
  - (b) Vice Chairmen (2): Roger Passfield & Peter Salmon – Meeting voted in favour
  - (c) Minute Secretary: Sally-Ann Judd - Meeting voted in favour
  - (d) Treasurer: Mike Hooper - Meeting voted in favour
  - (e) County Co-ordinator: Roger Passfield - Meeting voted in favour
  - (f) Event Co-ordinator: Colin Freeman - Meeting voted in favour

The AGM closed at 12:50