

Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association

Minutes of the 125th Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2015, at
10:00hrs

in the Tower Room, Millennium Community Centre, Great Baddow

Present: Clive Stewart (Chairman & Braintree), Roger Passfield (Vice Chairman & Thurrock), Alan Norman (Southend), John Wright & Alan Marshall (Tendring), Graham Jackson (Uttlesford) Peter Salmon (Vice Chairman & Brentwood), Mick Sheen (Epping) Clive Bass (Colchester) Mike Hooper (Treasurer & Rochford), Sergeant Tina Pavelin (Essex Police).

1. Welcome: Clive Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting they introduced themselves. There were many compliments for CBS on the new format of the Agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

Chief Inspector Craig Carrington (Essex Police), Sandy Miller & Maureen Figgins (Castle Point), Graham Stehl (Colchester) Mike Rees(Maldon) Sally-Ann Judd (Minute Secretary and Rettendon & Battlesbridge), Clive Woodward (Basildon),Samantha Atkinson (Tendring), Paul Wadley (Harlow), Gwanwyn Mason (PCC) Colin Freeman (EWLD's), Alan Johnson (County Co-ordinator & Uttlesford), Mandy Chapman (Maldon), Sergeant Jamie Mills (Essex Police)

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of 124th Executive Committee meeting held Tuesday 23rd July 2015 were agreed as a true record. Clive Stewart did say that there does not seem any need to have any discussions on the minutes as they are never filed or referred to and there is no need for "Matters Arising" and any omissions or errors should be advised to him or the Minute Secretary as soon after they had been distributed.

4. Police Report - Sgt.Tina Pavelin.

The first report from Sgt. Jamie Mills had been distributed with the Agenda.

Sgt Tina Pavelin introduced herself and gave a description of her work at Police HQ i.e. Crime Reduction.

TP said that whilst Essex Police continue providing the best service they can faced with the challenge of saving £60,000,000 over the next 5 years, it is essential they pay particular attention to managing the public's expectations. Essex Police will become more reliant on its relationship with NW to help to do this. Essex Police will continue to appreciate the NW team being their extra "eyes and ears" and keeping the community informed of local information and crime reductions plans and ideas.

There is a Rogue Traders Week from Monday 28th September to Friday 2nd October. To support this national campaign, Essex Police are working with Trading Standards during the foreseeable future to visit 3000 identified vulnerable victims of postal scams. The aim of the visits is to give advice and reassurance to the victims and their families. Essex Police have also provided the education councils with a Rogue Trader/ Bogus Caller lesson plan for schools to present to their year 5 and 6 pupils during their PSHE lesson that week if possible.

There have been two new types of Watches launched recently. Dog Watch has been a tremendous success with over three hundred members since the first launch. The aim of this Watch is to ask dog walkers to be another set another set of eyes and ears whilst walking their dogs and to alert the police to anything suspicious. The success of this Watch will be due to the unpatrolled land dog walkers cover and the early and late walks dog walkers often do. Heritage Watch has also been launched and aims to harness the enthusiasm of members of the public in looking after our historic sites and other heritage assets.

ECM: There were questions from Tendring District & Southend District with regards to NW members who do not appear to have been "recorded" that they are members in statistical counts. A few other Districts also seem to have the same "issue". (This was mentioned in the last ECNWA meeting).

After a general discussion it was agreed that:-

Action: TP and Clive Stewart will send a request to Essex Police ECM Team to request that the "box" to advise if a member of NW can be moved to the first page. (This seemed to have been requested by ECNWA/ECM team in earlier meetings).

UPDATE See email send on 11th September. It was also agreed that NW co-ordinators would ask their current members to check they had gone far enough into ECM when signing up in order to tick the NW box.

TP was also asked about Essex Police's view on security firms who seemed to have the "authority" of Essex Police to "patrol" areas. The concerns of ECNWA is that they "look like Essex Police" and may give the wrong impression.

Action: TP to investigate and send an email to CBS for distribution.

UPDATE: An email was received from Essex Police and CBS distributed it to ECNWA members on 9th September.

TP advised that there is to be a Rural Crime Awareness day on 26th June 2016.

5. OPCC Report: CBS sent out a report on 28th August (See AGM/Conference item below).

6. Sponsorship : RP. Various Companies have been contacted but no replies as yet.

7. Street Signs: RP.

Roger Passfield has a number of signs to distribute to those who paid for them after the meeting.

It was appreciated that RP could get such an excellent price of £3 plus Vat and ties at under £2 for ten street signs.

8. Message in a Bottle: RP.

Roger Passfield will hand out the bottles which have been received from RCCE/CAE.

However CBS said that RP had a lot of difficulties in organising the bottles, in fact CBS felt RP has been given a "white elephant" to sort out and has done an excellent job , and has expressed this to Brian Goodwin (RCCE/CAE Manager) and has requested a meeting (which should occur in the next few weeks). In the meantime CBS has requested BG that no more Bottles are purchased using the NW funds in CAE until the administration has been sorted. There was no quarrel with the price which was considered good. But it was all agreed that the administration has taken a very long time and that RP could have resolved and managed it more effectively.

9. DISTRICT REPORTS

Peter Salmon - Brentwood

Usual sessions have been held in our Libraries, The Community Hospital, Brentwood High Street and at Family Fun Days.

We have various Senior Safety Day Roadshows planned in conjunction with our Community Safety Partnership.

In conjunction with our local Community Agent we now have the green light to start a scheme whereby any elderly/vulnerable resident taken into hospital or into respite care can receive a visit from NhW who will supply (and install) a Timer Light Switch, 2 off vibration activated window mounted alarms plus a loan of another Timer Light Switch with Flick'r TV simulator. This should help them feel that their home looks occupied whilst they are undergoing treatment. Visits pass the house will also be made by NhW and it is hoped the Police will also be able to pass by whilst on regular patrols.

Grahame Stehle - Colchester:

This period Colchester District has launched three new schemes and supported existing schemes at community events organised by coordinators and scheme members. We also have two or three new schemes in the pipeline.

We have recently obtained one hundred Street Signs about thirty of which are already accounted for.

We are working through the process of organising a District meeting of coordinators and addressing the usual difficulties of availability of attendees and venue, and the prior commitments of participants.

Lastly one of our Parish Council is organising a Care Forum and Colchester District has been invited to participate which of course we are pleased to do.

Mick Rees- Maldon

Not much action to report for this month I'm afraid, however the watches in Tollesbury and Tolleshunt D'Arcy continue to expand at a gradual, but regular extent. Great work from the girls in Tollesbury and Claire in Tolleshunt D'Arcy. We have helped to get volunteers trained for two new, and one old, Community Speed Watches. The Police have trained a fair number in the last month and although CSW does not directly come under NHW, it seems that most if not all of the volunteers have stepped forward as a result of being NHW members. The launch of Dow Watch has been met with great interest. Sessions were held in Maldon and Burnham and the organisers were really pleased with both the interest and the number of people signing up. With thanks to Roger Passfield for his contacts, Maldon & District will shortly be setting up a 'Shop' selling alarms, armbands, and fake TV lights and lighting timers. We hope that this will be 'up and running' by the middle of October.

Mick Sheen - Epping Forest

Our Facebook page, in its new simpler role as purely a notice board, continues to be a popular and effective tool. We continue our recruitment drive across the district with 2 new groups established in Ongar. However one of these groups has come up against ECC Highways refusal approve any signs on concrete posts. Hopefully they can be persuaded to take a more sensible approach as our new plastic signs only weigh 13 ounces. Although not strictly a NW initiative several of our Epping members are undergoing training on the use of the Speed Watch equipment with a view to making our streets a bit safer.

We have taken our recruitment material and small security items along to the last two LCMs and have made some new contacts. Hopefully we will be able to convert these into new Watch Groups.

Clive Stewart - Braintree

Braintree are issuing their six monthly newsletters which has a print total of 7,000 and 30 NW members receive it by email (saving over 3,000 being printed). We have a number of enquiries based on various promotions but very few actual planned days as volunteers are not always available. However I have at least two/three enquiries per month to follow up and visit and create new groups. We have Steering Group meetings now every three months. We have purchased 1,000 pens to hand out and increase the awareness of Braintree NW, and this seems to be well received. I have been pleased that I have persuaded Halstead NW Steering Group to come along to our District's next meeting in October- as it has been many years since anyone for that Steering Group have attended meeting. We are exhibiting at BDVSA Conference on 16th September.

Mike Hooper - Rochford

7500 Summer Newsletters have been distributed throughout Rochford District by our street Coordinators with a growing number of email copies saving on printing costs.

We continue to erect Street Signs with the permission of the Wards Parish Councillors who are as frustrated by Essex Highways tardy attitude as we are.

Following on from our success in obtaining 100% NhW coverage in Stambidge last year with the help of the Parish councillors in Great Wakering & Pagalsham we are trying to replicate the process there. Packs containing ours & their Newsletters, ECM and Heritage Watch leaflets, and an introduction note are now being delivered to every household to facilitate this.

Geoff Jackson - Uttlesford:

Copies of the Newport Information Directory were given out for all members to see. This was an idea that won an award at the last awards ceremony. It was funded by Newport Parish Council. It has been so successful that it has been decided to do a copy for Elsenham on which Graham and another village co-ordinator are working on at present. Funding was obtained from the District Councillors fund. Also copies of The Observer paper which is printed every 3 months and distributed to 15,000 residents of Uttlesford. This edition contained an article by Nick Alston regarding "Bobbies on the Beat". Several fetes and shows had been attended throughout t the year offering advice and the sale of alarms etc., with very positive results.

Clive Woodward – Basildon:

In July we attended a "Together Against Crime" event organised by the CSP. This produced 6 new Co-ordinators which are being developed into Watches. In August we set up stall in the Essex Fire and Rescue Open Day held in Basildon which produced a further Co-ordinator. In September we shared a stall with NhW Thurrock, Brentwood, Rochford and Castle Point at the Essex Country Show held at Barleylands. A further two Watches were signed up.

Colin Freeman – EWLD : No report

Paul Wadley – Harlow: The report format was not as requested.

Steve Leverett – Chelmsford: No report received

Alan Norman – Southend:

The two main focal points in the District at the moment are Recruitment and promoting ECM. Our Secretary and Treasurer have managed to get an article in the local press on both these subjects which were reported in a positive light.

Roger Passfield-Thurrock

We have attended 4 shelter housing complexes where we have set up NHW.

We have attended 4 events with in the Thurrock area, also attended Orsett Show.

This weekend 13/14 we are at Barleylands with other members of NHW.

In October we are hoping to launch 8 new watches.

We have been invited to attend a W I meeting next week, where I will be doing a presentation with the help of Terry Fowles.

John Wright – Tendring :

On 29th July myself and another member attended the Shree Ram Mandir Hindu Temple, Cultural and Heritage Centre in Clacton and after explaining the workings of NHW were given a tour of the temple and shrine. We were invited to take part in a blessing ceremony which we dutifully did, as a result of our visit we came away with a new coordinator.

Clacton Carnival Week: On 8th August 10 members performed duty as street marshals for the Carnival Procession, luckily it was a lovely dry and sunny evening.

Not so when we attended the Fete & Fireworks on 13th August as stallholders, after an hour or so the heavens opened and we were all soaked to the skin, however before the rains came we gave out ECM cards to those that visited our stalls.

We have historically always assisted during the Carnival Week and are usually awarded with a cheque at a Presentation Ceremony later in the year.

On 27th August we had our usual stall at the Clacton Air Show, we used to be accommodated on the greensward beside the mobile police station.

But in the past few years the organisers have asked us for £350 to have our stall there for two days.

We declined and now along with other voluntary organisations pay £25 to have our stall on Christmas Tree Island on the first day of the show.

The usual four members turned up to run the stall which this year was successful in that several potential coordinators came forward and I worked the other stalls networking.

We at last met our local Community Agent with whom I had a long conversation.

We have been trying for years to get NHW up and running in Brightlingsea and at last an energetic young couple have come forward and I have met with them and we are organising a local meeting in the very near future.

Our attempts to form NHW groups in the villages has so far met with little success, talking to residents and local parish councillors they tell me that residents are pretty insular and we may be banging our heads against a brick wall, but we will persist.

The interest in Community Agents Essex among NHW in Tendring is zero and I can understand this as most NHW members are elderly and as one said to me "You now want the old to look after the old" It is apparent that people are not grasping the concept of CAE.

I continue to give NHW talks at different local organisations and potential coordinators keep coming forward in dribs and drabs.

Only three coordinators took up the offer of No Cold Calling Zones, two have met with no interest in their street and the other has now had a reply from Trading Standards.

10. Chairman's report - Clive Stewart

The report had been distributed with the Agenda.

UPDATE: Re ECM: (a) ECM/NW Administrator job interviews have a short list and the dates of any interviews will be advised to CBS by Essex Police soon.

11. Treasurer's report - Mike Hooper

MH distributed the report. It showed clearly all Expenditure regarding payments to Districts who have received £700 as their contribution from OPCC £10,000. Maldon have not yet banked the cheque. Action: CXBS and MH will send them a reminder. Income of sales regarding Window stickers were shown too. £75 for the Millennium Centre main hall hire of AGM/Conference 2016 has been paid (this was £25 less than previous year).

The Bank account shows £2662 .00 but less the £700 cheque (Maldon).

CBS said that it is essential that we must ensure our expenditure does not exceed income this year- all agreed.

12. National & Regional Update: CBS

Clive Stewart opened the discussions by saying that he did appreciate all the work done by Alan Johnson and had distributed not only AJ's "The Way Forward " proposal but also the Eastern Regional Partnership meeting minutes.

In addition CBS acknowledged that AJ had spent some considerable time at the last meeting giving a presentation on the future plans of Eastern Regional. It was noted that AJ is in favour of all proposals and "maybe" this was due to his responsibilities on the Executive of Eastern Regional Partnership.

CBS also stated that the Eastern Regional Conference would be over two days 2nd and 3rd December and asked if anyone was interested in attending as ECNWA had been requested to give an answer by 14th September!

If we were to attend what budget should be allocated for hotel and other expenses, the mileage would be paid as always this was approved. CBS informed the meeting that Alan Johnson was unavailable.

There was a very lengthy discussion on the contents and proposals and many of the proposals were acceptable however the "tone" of the minutes which stated such wording as "Not for consultation as they are already approved by the Trustees and Regional Reps", plus "Keys roles will be defined more clearly and a mandatory database to be created "and finally "Will include training for co-ordinator "was not supported by the meeting unanimously.

Everyone agreed that Eastern Regional NW Partnership seemed to have forgotten the fundamentals of NW which is based on volunteers doing what they can with the time they have to reduce the opportunity of crime. It was agreed by all that should there be any mandatory instructions from ERNWP this may well mean many NW members leaving NW.

The instructions to Clive Stewart , Chairman, by the members was that he will advise that we may not be sending anyone to the event , as there was no use attending if all proposals were not to be discussed /consulted and will express the views of this meeting to ERNWP .

Action: CBS to send them letter and also put it on the Agenda for the next meeting.

UPDATE: See the Notes of CBS's conversations with National NW/Home Watch on all issues discussed and emailed on Friday 11th September.(Since that date further conversations are taking place with them) .

13. "New" NW Booklet:

CBS advised that the booklet (from Essex Police) is an ongoing project and RP has found a colleague who will design and create the booklet. However due to other commitments Essex

Police will not be able to meet up and discuss the booklet until early October. Action: CBS to update at next meeting.

14. AGM/Conference – CBS.

CBS advised that the Millennium Centre has been booked again for Thursday 2nd June 2016, as we all agreed that the venue is excellent with great parking and plenty of room for 100 people comfortably.

The AGM/Conference will start at 10:00hrs and close at 14:00hrs with lunch at 13:15 hrs.

Lunch will be less cost per person and numbers to be advised to the Centre at the appropriate time. . The Team for the event is Colin Freeman, Roger Passfield, Sally-Ann Judd and CBS. The tasks for the Team will be to find two speakers and organise the Awards and also find exhibitors.

CBS was delighted to advise that OPCC have agreed to sponsor the event with £500 (he requested this amount after his last meeting at OPCC). These funds are to be paid directly to ECNWA in the next few days and will be ring fenced for the event.

Action: CBS will talk to AJ regarding the expenditure on certain items for 2015

AGM/Conference i.e. Photographer £150, Banners £180, as these items included equipment which will be needed for 2016

UPDATE: Email to AJ on 14th September and a reply was received and CBS will have further discussions with the previous Team will take place in the weeks/months ahead to clarify all costs in detail

15. Media and PR: CBS advised there had not been any contact with the media since the last meeting.

16. Crime Stoppers meeting : CBS.

CBS advised that since the last meeting he has “appointed” Peter Salmon as the ECNWA contact with Crime stoppers. PS will meet up with their contact and we shall invite them to attend our meetings as a proof of working together. It was agreed that we had a presentation by Crimestoppers some months ago, so really needed updates on how we can work together-which PS will do at the next meeting.

17. County Co-ordinators Report: Alan Johnson was absent so a report was not available.

18. Bulk Paying: PS He asked that all those who have not advised Paul Wadley of their top three items they may like to purchase should do so as soon as possible. Once the final list is known then PS/RP and PB can review the items to obtain quotes.

19. Community Agents Essex Update

CBS had already sent a report (see email 28th August). However he updated the meeting with a reply form Essex County Council who complimented ECNWA for carrying out all the “duties” which we said we would action.

CBS said that he (or AJ) had never agreed any targets or specific actions to which ECNBWA had been committed to, other than distribute the CAE services throughout the Districts which this service is available.

CBS has tried to attend various” Delivery” Team meetings but whilst he has been unable to attend some many have been cancelled, some at the last minute. (See RP’s report on Message in a Bottle).

CBS is expecting to meet Brian Goodwin (RCCE/CAE) in a few weeks’ time.

20. Cold Caller Stickers :

Peter Salmon said that Cllr. Walker is in discussion with the Manager of Trading Standards. They are trying to find a sponsor but no success yet.

21. Key Activities & Responsibilities Update:

The information was emailed to all by CBS- any volunteers to fill the vacancies would be welcome.

22. Any other business

(a) Website: CBS thanked everyone who replied regarding “upgrading” the website, which would have caused a lot of work for Peter Fisk. It was unanimous that the website is to remain as it is and that Peter is doing a great job. CBS requested (again) that all Districts should send their reports to PF for the website.

(b) Restorative Justice.

CBS has sent all the information on the two events to all Districts. He said that it was up to each person to decide to attend or not, and to contact them directly. There was no need to have one person attend on behalf of ECNWA and then report back, as the report may reflect their interpretation of RJ. Everyone agreed and so did OPCC at his recent meeting with them. Roger Passfield advised that he is attending again as he found it worthwhile. CBS said that he had invited Emma Callaghan (OPCC) to attend our next meeting for a brief update but it was agreed by some members that it was not necessary as they all had the information and had taken the opportunity to attend the events. CBS will advise EC accordingly.

(c) Mid Essex Workshop 14th September:

CBS has sent the details to everyone. Those who wish to attend to contact them directly. No report is required from anyone at the next meeting.

(d) Window Sticker Updates:

CBS said that he has 2,000 left at £80 for 500 or £150 for 1,000. So anyone who wants to purchase them to contact him. UPDATE: See email 13th September to request each District to purchase 140 from stock at only £22..

(e) Charity Registration number regarding NW.

Tendring along with others did comment that the National NW is a registered Charity and wondered why we as ECNWA or our Districts could not use the NW/Home Watch registered Charity number when seeking funds from various sources, as it was all agreed that this would be most useful.

CBS was advised by Alan Marshall (Tendring) that he used the number once some time ago and was told by Alan Johnson never to do so again without any reason.

After a lengthy discussion CBS said he would write to National NW/Home Watch and ask them what the formal answer would be and then we should know exactly what we can do in future.

Action: CBS to write to National NW/Home Watch

UPDATE: See email sent to all Districts on Friday 11th September. NB: CBS will wait to have replies from every District and report at next meeting.

Meeting closed at 12:15 hrs.

Next Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 10th November 2015 at the Tower Room, Millennium Community Centre, Great Baddow at 10.00 hrs.

It should be noted that future meetings are: Tuesday 12th January 2016 and Tuesday 8th March 2016.