

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

Minutes - Annual General Meeting 2023

6.30 pm Thursday 30th November 2023 @ Cheshire Football Association, The Moss Farm Leisure Complex, Moss Lane, Northwich. CW8 4BG



Present:

Committee Members: Heather Thompson (Chair); Clare Harrison; Matthew Haynes; Mike Jones (Secretary).

Invited Guests: Mark Roberts (Chief Constable – Cheshire Police); John Dwyer (Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire).

Attendees: Mike Docker; Councillor Gillian Edwards; PCSO Michelle Gillett; John Lloyd & guest; James & Margaret Lockhart; Colin & Olga Lockett; Dave & Irene Nixon; Eric Wilkinson; Andy Brown; David North.

Apologies: Committee Members: Keith Stokes (Treasurer); Graham Bushill; Grant Shaw. John Hayward-Cripps, CEO Neighbourhood Watch Network

1. Welcome, Apologies & Order of Event

Heather briefly outlined the housekeeping rules for the premises and displayed the agenda via a PowerPoint slide.

2. Opening – Cheshire PCC John Dwyer

John thanked Heather for the invitation to the event. He then gave a brief introduction about how Neighbourhood Watch originally started in Mollington, Cheshire back in 1982. John expressed his appreciation of how volunteers working together with Cheshire Police – a prime example being Neighbourhood Watch - contribute to making the county a safer place.

3. Chair's Report and Financial Report

Heather presented both her Chair and Financial Reports to the meeting. Both reports are available on the CNWA website via the below links:

[Chairs Report 2023 - Heather Thompson](#)

[Financial Report 2023 - Keith Stokes](#)

The financial report showed there had been no income generation since 2020. Throughout the current year the balance had fallen from £913.02 to £482.47 with one only expenditure item – the CNWA website.

John Dwyer suggested to Heather to arrange a meeting in January to discuss possible match funding solutions.

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4. Election of Committee Officers

Heather stated that according to the CNWA constitution we must ask for nominations for committee members each year. An Alert message was sent out on the 29th September with the CNWA Notice of Election asking for nominations.

Due to receiving no nominations from any members, it was agreed by the committee to extend Graham Bushill, who is one of our existing members, for a further year. We have also co-opted on three new members during the year:

Mike Jones, who has become our permanent secretary;

Matthew Haynes as our Cyberwatch Ambassador and

Grant Shaw who has become our Communications Lead.

5. Guest Presentation: Matthew Haynes, CNWA Cyberhood Watch Ambassador

Matthew gave a presentation on IOT (Internet of Things) - a network of interrelated devices that connect and exchange data with other IoT devices and the cloud.

6. CNWA Awards:

This year there are four awards. The nominations received were discussed by a panel and shortlist drawn up. Heather read out supporting information for each of the shortlisted nominees before the category winner was announced. All winners were present and personally received their award.

Award Category	Shortlisted	Winner
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator	Mike Docker	Mike Docker
	Dave Nixon	
Neighbourly Neighbour	John Lloyd	John Lloyd
Individual for Services to the Public	Gillian Edwards	Gillian Edwards
	Margaret Lockhart	
PCSO (new for 2023)	Michelle Gillett	Michelle Gillett
	Liz Jolley	

7. Any Other Business

Heather explained that when the agenda was sent out the email also asked if any person had any questions or other business that they wished to be brought up at the AGM.

Tim Hodges, a coordinator in Northwich, who unfortunately was unable to attend, asked if it was possible to connect with other coordinators/members in his area. In reply to this there are several options currently available:

- Contact your local PCSO/PC who could email the other coordinators and/or arrange a meeting

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- There is also an online platform on the [Ourwatch](#) website called the [Knowledge Hub](#). If you join the Hub, you can get access to information and support.
- And finally, joining other local schemes.

Heather then asked if any person in the audience had any questions, or points, to raise.

Mike Docker stated that in the Chair's Report that sometimes you are struggling to grow the network. What about linking with other groups that are springing up such as Resident Associations and could slot in with Neighbourhood Watch. He asked if CNWA had approached any Resident Associations to become Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Heather replied that there are already some Resident Associations that are Neighbourhood Watch schemes and it is a really good way for the Resident Associations to link in with crime prevention, etc. Heather stated although CNWA have not reached out to all Resident Associations the link would be mutually beneficial. She went on to say that there is a recent national incentive which encourages affiliate membership through linking in with existing groups/associations/social groups. If one member of the group, for example admins for estate/village Facebook pages/WhatsApp groups or chairs of Resident Associations, was to sign up, they would have access to all the information/alerts that they can then distribute amongst the group.

8. Reflections and close – Chief Constable Mark Roberts

Mark informed the audience that, together with John Dwyer, he had been visiting the Local Policing Units which he found inspiring. Most of his time is spent dealing with the criminal elements of the county and what the force does about them. But attending meeting and events with Neighbourhood Watch coordinators and members is a reminder that the vast majority of people in this county are thoroughly decent people who Cheshire Constabulary are here to look after.

The fact that you make the time/commitment to what you do makes our job a lot easier and is a genuine partnership. He went on to say how much he values Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and members' efforts. He believes that, in partnership with CNWA, the force can help develop Neighbourhood Watch, and take it forward. He thinks it is important to keep up with technology to support the members.

He explained that in the forthcoming year the force is looking at digital evidence and many houses now have doorbell video/CCTV so the force needs to adopt a system whereby you can easily submit this evidence or get a local beat officer/PCSO to view the footage.

Mark went on to state that crime in Cheshire is currently down 11% (which equates to 6,500 less crimes). Assaults, burglaries, and car thefts are down and that is with your help, and it is appreciated.

Heather formally closed the meeting and thanked all those in attendance.

Meeting Closed @ 20:17 pm