



**Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting of Park Hall Neighbourhood Watch Association Held at The United Reform Church, Gillity Avenue, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

Attendance: 62 Full Members and 4 observers. 3 Local Councillors were present. Apologies were received from 1 member.

The Chairman, Robert Read, opened the Meeting by welcoming all those present. He explained that, in common with all AGMs, attendance would normally be limited to full, subscribing, members of the Association, but as this was our first AGM we were happy for non – members to be in attendance, although if any vote was necessary only Members would be entitled to vote, on the basis of one vote per Household.

The Chairman then explained that although PHANW had been in existence for many years we had recently had cause to examine our Constitution and found that it was deficient in many regards. For instance, there was no procedure for electing Members to the Committee and no requirement for the Committee to report to the Members. The opportunity had therefore been taken to write a new Constitution which requires an annual AGM. Formal adoption of the new Constitution by this AGM is both desirable and necessary. The proposed Constitution has been well advertised, and has been available to Members for many months. The Chairman asked the Meeting if any changes were proposed, and when no alterations were requested, adoption of the Constitution was proposed by Mr Pat Marriott and seconded by Mr. Barry Morse. The Constitution was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman then informed the Meeting that despite there being 7 vacancies on the Committee only 3 nominations had been received. These were 3 Members of the existing Committee. Under the terms of the Constitution Committee Members were elected for a 3 year term but were then permitted to stand for re-election. 3 Committee Members had so retired but were standing for re-election. As there were more than 3 vacancies the 3 existing members who were seeking re-election were reappointed.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that there were no other nominations for Committee membership. Indeed, the Chairman and Committee were disappointed, and even concerned, that the Association was not receiving the support necessary to operate efficiently. Street Coordinators play an import role in Neighbourhood Watch and from time-to-time change. It is not easy to find members willing to take on the roles of collecting membership fees and delivering the Watchword magazine. We are trying to make the task

easier for coordinators, by giving residents the option of paying by Standing Order. We have 100 street coordinators in total, and he thanked all those present for their continuing support. He said we needed more coordinators for the following roads:-

Zone 1 Broadway North, Springvale Avenue, Park Hall Road (from the B'ham Road to canal) & Park Hall Close, part of Gillity Avenue;

Zone 3 Woodfield Close, Scott Road, Woodlands Ave.

Zone 4 parts of:- Park Hall Road, Newquay Road, Newquay Close, Bodmin Close, Redruth Close and Truro Road.

Zone 5 Gloucester Road (3), Norman Road(1), Greaves Avenue(2), Crescent (1), Richard Road (1), Connaught Close(1) , Athlone Road (1). Without coordinators we lose touch with many residents. This was most noticeable in terms of our subscription income.

The Chairman then outlined some of our activities and successes in the Year under review. As our finances, and the Streetwatch operation, were to be covered later in the Meeting he only touched lightly upon them but offered a few examples where the Streetwatch and WhatsApp operations had had pleasing and beneficial outcomes.

We have tried to make our publication, Watchword of greater interest by including articles of general interest, not necessarily related to Crime and Safeguarding. Should any of our Members have ideas for such articles, or maybe even wish to submit an article for inclusion, please contact us at [editor@phanw.com](mailto:editor@phanw.com)

We no longer include Crime Reports in the Watchword because many readers did not want such information to be published, as it caused them to worry. However, the information is published on WhatsApp every week.

The Chairman reported that we also operate a Facebook group for general social "chat". As with the WhatsApp group membership was limited to residents within our area. Should anybody wish to join they should contact us.

We are also developing a website. The website address is [www.PHANW.com](http://www.PHANW.com). It is our intention to use the website as a communication channel and much of our general, and specific, information, such as the Constitution, is available on the website. These Minutes will be available on the site.

The maintenance of NW street signs is important and Jay heads up that team. We will be trialling a new NW sign – getting a few made and put up, to gather feedback, before committing to a bulk order. We'll put them on the main roads in our area, so look out for them and let us know your feedback. The aim of the new sign is to deter troublemakers from entering our area.

The Chairman then introduced Barry Morse, our Treasurer.

Barry then stated that he was in essence reviewing the Financial Year 1st June 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019, although he would have a few words to say about our present situation.

Membership, measured in terms of subscriptions received was 1709, a slight increase on the previous year. This membership represented approximately 60% of the 2900 households in our area.

This was the first year we had asked members to pay by Standing Order and 110 households did so.

Our income in the year was £12152. £8502 came from subscriptions, £1305 from advertising, and £2250 from a Grant received from the West Midlands Police Active Citizens Fund.

Expenditure in the Year was £10590. The major expenditure was on the setting up of, and the provision of equipment for, Streetwatch, and the production of Watchword.

Our opening cash balance was £5205 and the closing balance was £6766.

We are 4 months into this financial year and it is of concern that our paid membership has declined by 300. This may be in large measure because of us not having a coordinator to visit all the households and ask for the subscription, but is also caused by Members who, having promised to pay by Standing Order, have not yet done so. We would again ask that all members, and potential and past members, pay by Standing Order.

The committee is always willing to consider suggestions as to how we may use our funds to the benefit of our Community. Please contact any Committee member if you have any suggestions.

The Chairman then introduced Bally Sohal who, apart from being secretary of the Association, was instrumental in the forming, and organisation, of Streetwatch.

Bally introduced a slide presentation which gave information about the formation and development of Streetwatch. It commenced in March 2018 with only 1 or 2 members. The Police then agreed to increase the number that they would train to 10. This rapidly grew to 20, then 30 and now the membership was approximately 60. There was a requirement that all volunteers should patrol for a minimum of 2 hours per month and at present the operation is operating patrols for approximately 125 hours per month.

The prime objective of Streetwatch is to reduce the opportunities for Criminal activity, which it is undoubtedly achieving, but a by-product has been a much greater sense of Community both within all our residents, and particularly amongst the volunteers. Bally finished by stating that new volunteers can be assured of a warm welcome, and can feel

that they are contributing to the well-being of our Community. He particularly emphasised the need for younger volunteers.

The Chairman then introduced Sergeant Mari Amos of the Police who, together with PCSO Tim Littlehales, was in attendance.

Sgt. Amos opened her remarks by stating that we were regarded by the Police as a low-crime area. She mentioned some recent crimes, such as the theft of BMW steering wheels. Her message was one of maintaining vigilance and taking sensible precautions on an individual basis.

A point was raised from the floor regarding an individual living in our area who had been convicted of a crime. Sgt Amos stated that the matter was for the Police and the Justice system. She emphasised that the crime had been committed on the internet and no individuals had been approached or involved. The individual concerned would be managed by a trained Police Unit and this would ensure that there would be no further similar activity by this individual. Her strongly stated message was that residents should leave the matter in the hands of the Police. If any attendees, or any residents, wanted to raise any matters related to this incident they should be raised privately with the Police.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at approximately 9.00 pm. by again thanking all present for their attendance and interest. He then made a renewed plea for volunteers, particularly as coordinators. We also had a need for a secretary to take minutes of Committee meetings.

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