

EASTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Wednesday, 12 November 2008 in Christ the King Church Hall

Present: Lionel Lacey-Johnson (Chairman), Jan Newens (Vice Chairman), Colin Sargent (Hon Treasurer), Juliet Heasman (Hon Secretary) and 31 co-ordinators including members of the Committee.

In attendance: Bob Lacey (Chairman East Sussex County Council), David Rogers (Lead Member from Eastbourne on Sussex Police Authority), Chief Inspector Dick Coates, and David Kemp (Eastbourne Council Crime Reduction Partnership).

Apologies: Patricia Sneath, Simon Evers, Heather Singleton, Nigel Parker, David Visick, Margaret Procter, Gillian Grimmond, Gerry Gillett, Jill Haughan, Michael Blackmur, Howard Longton, Colin Rhodes, Roy Smith, Mike Noble, Colin Akers, Harry Stanley and Nigel Goodyear.

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and in particular introduced Bob Lacey, David Rogers, Chief Inspector Dick Coates and David Kemp to the meeting.

2. **MINUTES**

Having been proposed and seconded it was RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the last AGM held on 22 November 2007 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman said that as this was his last AGM, he wished to reflect on the last four years of his Chairmanship. There had been three Chief Inspectors during this time, Police Community Support Officers had appeared on the street in increasing numbers and with great effectiveness, and Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been set up to meet Home Office requirements on community policing. Police Forces throughout the country had been urged to make more use of the potential help that NW could offer to reduce crime. In Eastbourne three Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been formed consisting of one or two police constables and up to 10 PSCOs in each team and these teams were now working closely with NW.

Eastbourne NW was very fortunate in having an office at the Police base at Hammonds Drive and all the Police volunteers had access to the Police incident log. NW was now fully accepted at Hammonds Drive and this coupled with close liaison with the other crime reduction agencies was the greatest success of the last four years. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Chief Inspector Dick Coates for allowing these arrangements to continue. The way Eastbourne NW was organised with a Committee consisting of mainly nine Ward Co-ordinators and a NW Support Office in Hammonds Drive had become a role model for the organisation of NW in the 15 Police districts in Sussex.

Unfortunately it was still difficult to get volunteers to act as co-ordinators and the Chairman suggested that this was probably because younger people were at work and did not have the time; people were shy about becoming involved with the Police, although this was improving due to the implementation of neighbourhood policing policies; and a fairly high proportion of properties in Eastbourne were

second homes. There was also still confusion in the minds of the public over when to call the 0845 60 7 0 999 number (for non-emergencies) and the 999 number (emergencies).

The Chairman was drafting a new NW Handbook and thanked the Chief Inspector, the Crime Reduction Partnership and the Fire Service for the funding which had been made available. He reminded the audience that the NW Office could only deal with NW matters, and was not for reporting crime. Although not a responsibility of Eastbourne NW, there was still no satisfactory replacement for the old Ringmaster messaging system which has proved unable to cope with the extra number of addressees. The NW Federation had hoped to have a new system in place by last July. As an interim measure contact was being made by telephone or e mail. It is possible that contact by text to mobile phones could be instigated in the future.

The Chairman concluded by saying that he had the greatest confidence in the new Chairman and the existing Committee. None of the successes mentioned could have been achieved without the unfailing support of the Officers and the Committee, or the co-operation and support of the Co-ordinators. To all whom he had had the pleasure of working with over the last four years, he gave his most sincere thanks and offered his very best wishes for the continuing success of the Eastbourne NW.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

The Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2008 were circulated and having been proposed and seconded it was RESOLVED THAT the Accounts be adopted.

5. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

It was RESOLVED THAT Mrs Carrie Parker be reappointed the Independent Examiner of the accounts for the ensuing year.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The Chairman said that currently there was no nomination for a Vice Chairman and he urged the audience to give this consideration as an appointment was needed.

It was RESOLVED THAT the following nominees be elected as follows:

Jan Newens – Chairman
Colin Sargent – Hon Treasurer
Juliet Heasman – Hon Secretary

7. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The Chairman commented that due to its size, Ratton Ward would benefit by having two representatives. He also informed the AGM that a Neighbourhood Police representative was co-opted to the Committee.

It was RESOLVED THAT the following be elected to the Committee:

Colin Akers – Newsletter Editor
Gill Ashby – Sovereign
Keith Fillery – Hampden Park East
Nigel Goodyear – Devonshire and the Eastbourne Council representative

Nigel Parker – St Anthony's
Alf Pulfer – Ratton
Roger Strange-Burlong – Hampden Park West
David Visick – Old Town
Colin Sargent- Upperton
Meads- Roy Peacock
Langney-Vacant

8. **FAREWELL**

Chief Inspector Dick Coates expressed the thanks of the Police and everyone involved in NW to Lionel Lacey-Johnson for all he had done for NW over the last four years during his time as Chairman. He had started at the time when NW was in a poor state and it was now a model for the Police operation in Sussex. As Chairman he had liaised with personnel on a daily basis in Hammonds Drive and had also represented Eastbourne in the Sussex NW Federation. The Chairman's support to the Inspector had been exceptional and he was delighted that the Chairman would be continuing his involvement by producing a much needed Handbook. With his enthusiasm, the Chairman had encouraged involvement and commitment and everyone in Eastbourne was grateful for the many hours he had devoted to NW activities.

Lionel Lacey-Johnson responded by thanking the Chief Inspector and saying how much he had enjoyed the company and support of all those involved in NW.

After a short break following the formal business of the AGM, the meeting received short addresses from Chief Inspector Dick Coates, Bob Lacey, David Rogers and David Kemp bringing members up to date with recent developments in neighbourhood policing and crime reduction. All expressed their praise for the work being carried out by NW in Eastbourne.