

EASTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Wednesday 18 November 2009 in Christ the King Church Hall, Eastbourne

Present: Jan Newens (Chairman), Colin Sargent (Hon Treasurer), Juliet Heasman (Hon Secretary), and 52 members.

In attendance: Sgt Fiona Munro and PCSO Lee Osborne from Eastbourne Police, Lionel Lacey Johnson

Apologies: Philippa Flynn, Patricia Sneath, Rosemary McInnes, Marion Underwood, Teresa Brown, Harry Stanley, Dorothy Tutt, Jo Brown, Roger Strange Burlong, Pamela Pettitt, Roy Statham, Nigel Goodyear and Catherine Walsh.

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Sgt Fiona Munro and PCSO Lee Osborne from Eastbourne Police.

2. **MINUTES**

Having been proposed and seconded, it was RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday, 12 November 2008 be approved.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman introduced her report by thanking all for their support during her first year in office. She reported that Chief Inspector Dick Coates and Inspector Tony Wakefield had moved on to other work in neighbourhood policing, but she was confident that both their successors Chief Inspector Jayne Dando, and Inspector Rachel Barrow would be every bit as enthusiastic about the partnership between the Police and Neighbourhood Watch. Although neither had been able to be present at this meeting, the Chairman knew they had confidence that Sgt Fiona Munro, with her long experience, would fully represent the local Neighbourhood Watch Policing Team. The Chairman reported that every household in the town would shortly be receiving a leaflet giving details of their local Neighbourhood Policing Team and Neighbourhood Panel. Thanks to monthly street meetings held by local PCSOs and interest generated by the Neighbourhood Panels, plus the tireless work of the current Ward Co-ordinators on the Committee, whereas last year there were 227 schemes covering 7078 homes across Eastbourne, this had increased over the past year to 279 schemes covering 8405 homes, an extra 52 schemes and 1327 homes.

The Chairman praised Lionel Lacey Johnson for putting together the new Members' Handbook which had been circulated to all members, and reported that Dick Coates was using the publication to enhance the partnership between the Sussex Police and Neighbourhood Watch across the county.

The Ringmaster replacement was at last on line hosted by Cable & Wireless and the Chairman and the PCSOs had received training on the new system. So far she had been very impressed by the new replacement which had great potential. At present it was only able to send messages by e mail, but it was hoped that soon messages could be sent to mobile phones and leave voicemail messages on land line telephones.

Eastbourne Police had now succeeded in setting up all the 21 Neighbourhood Panels and some were more successful than others but all were doing a good job in bringing to the attention of the local Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Councillors, Trading Standards, PCSOs and others, problem issues

which affected the quality of life of local people and more importantly solving these problems. A website for Neighbourhood Panels had been set up to which there was a link to the Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch website.

The Chairman reminded members about the various small security aids that were on sale from the Neighbourhood Watch office.

The Chairman concluded by saying that she felt encouraged by the way Neighbourhood Watch was developing and wished everyone well for the ensuing year and everything that Neighbourhood Watch could do to help the Police keep Eastbourne neighbourhoods safe and enjoyable.

It was RESOLVED THAT the Report be accepted.

4. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2009 had been 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 reported that currently there was no nomination for Vice-Chairman and she asked the audience to give this consideration.

It was RESOLVED THAT the following nominees be elected: Jan Newens, Chairman; Colin Sargent, Hon Treasurer; Juliet Heasman, Hon Secretary

7. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that there was still a vacancy for a representative from the Langney Ward.

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

Keith Fillery, Hampden Park East; Nigel Goodyear, Eastbourne Council/Devonshire; Nigel Parker, St Anthonys; Roy Peacock, Meads; Alf Pulfer, Ratton; Tim Raggett, Sovereign; John and Pam Rollison, Hampden Park West; David Visick, Old Town.

8. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT OF EASTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Chairman reported that under the Constitution, the AGM could elect a President of the Association and with the greatest of pleasure the Committee had put forward the nomination of Lionel Lacey-Johnson. It was RESOLVED THAT Lionel Lacey Johnson be duly elected the first President of Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch Association.

After the conclusion of the AGM, Sgt Fiona Munro gave a short talk to the meeting thanking members for their work and commenting on how this was helping to improve communities. She also covered other aspects of neighbourhood policing including the work and role of PCSOs, and the current status of drug patterns in the UK. Afterwards she answered a number of questions from the audience, some of which had been raised earlier at the end of the AGM.