

# Nailsea Neighbourhood Watch Committee Minutes

## Held at 19:30 on 11/01/2022 via Zoom

### **Attendees:**

Jeremy Blatchford, Sandra Hearne, Colin Oliver, Ken Hallett, Rich West, Gill McConachie

### **Apologies:**

Kimberley Hayes, Jane Starkey

### **1. Introduction.**

1.1 Jeremy welcomed all to meeting. It was confirmed that Kimberley Hayes had resigned from the Committee.

### **2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.**

2.1 No issues were raised.

### **3. Date for AGM**

3.1 Two dates suggested of February 23<sup>rd</sup> or March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Colin, Ken & Gill agree AGM should be March 02<sup>nd</sup>, as Feb date is half term. All agreed this made sense.

3.2 The police have proposed a speaker from the on-line fraud team to attend.

3.3 Gill queried if it was worth trying to get a face to face meeting? It was agreed, when we sent the notification of AGM out to say that we are hoping to have it as a face to face, but if not feasible it will be a zoom meeting.

3.4 Ken queried whether we can have a mix and match of Live and Zoom? Jeremy to ask town clerk for feasibility of this? Could have Zoom screen there with camera on chairman. Query – is there internet at any of these venues?

As such, we agreed we need a venue booked, with good internet connection.

3.5 Suggested venues were –

- ✓ No 65 High St – Jeremy to find capacity of room.
- ✓ Tithe Barn? Jeremy to check on availability? Will be in use that night? Too small with social distancing?
- ✓ Nailsea School? Jeremy to ask Jo if feasible. Lecture theatre has stage seating and disabled access. What would cost be?
- ✓ Scotch Horn – have classes every evenings so probably a no go.
- ✓ Scout Hut on Hannah More Rd - Gill to get back if internet available, and what charge would be?

- ✓ Leg Club – had 30 capacity but would need to check on current position. Gill to check.

3.6 Once settle on a venue, we will need to set a test prior to any meeting to ensure Zoom works. We could do a test link to pass out to members – see link from Age UK re ease of use.

3.7 Jeremy mentioned that in order to assist with getting a quorum the Town council could be the receiver of written votes.

3.8 Sandra pointed out that there is an online petition to get council meetings on Zoom – shows prevalence of Zoom as a means of communication.

#### **4. Constitution changes**

4.1 Colin has revised some Constitution wordings which have been added to website under Neighbourhood Watch – Nailsea NHW Constitution.

4.2 The main changes are -

- ✓ Section 12. Dissolution, para (4) where the quorate number has been changed from 30 to 15.
- ✓ Section 13. Signatories have been updated.
- ✓ Jeremy to pass on an updated more inclusive wording for “Minorities”.

4.3 The Constitution was originally written when we collected subscriptions (ref Section 3. Membership, para (4)) which was suggested to retain in case this is started up again at some time in the future,

4.4 When Jeremy issues Alerts via Paul, he will make reference to the Constitution needing to be ratified and make reference to the above website page.

4.5 Another document that probably needs to be reviewed is the N-NHW General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which was originally written in May 2018 ([Neighbourhood Watch \(nailseanhw.org.uk\)](http://Neighbourhood Watch (nailseanhw.org.uk))). There is now a UK version of GDPR, but Colin has had a look into it and confirms we are still covered for what and how we use data with our current wording.

4.6 Jeremy discussed the wording of Aims 2.3, especially in reference to “non political party” and the possibility of including “and quasi political”. It was agreed to keep current wording.

4.7 As the Constitution has been changed, we need to get it ratified at a General Meeting before it can come into force – ref Section 11. Amendments.

#### **5. Street Signs and De-Registered Schemes.**

5.1 It was agreed to remove signs from those streets with no co-ordinator. We need to prepare a leaflet to post to all member houses to explain why taken down, and maybe generate some interest in getting a Co-ordinator. Ken has prepared a draft to share with Committee as a starting point.

5.2 Ken & Colin are getting out and about now to repair and replace signs which are reported damaged or missing.

5.3 Query from Ken for Colin – any reply from Paul Johnson about why PCSO letters not received for one particular street, and whether actually delivered to those with no co-ordinator? Per Colin - No response yet but Paul may escalate to find out more.

## **6. Police attendance at future meetings.**

6.1 The new sergeant was on the national Neighbourhood Watch Team and has an incredible reputation for work done in Weston. He has 2 new constables for the Nailsea/Clevedon etc circuit area.

6.2 Agreed to invite him to online meetings.

## **7. Reaching out to Members.**

7.1 It was agreed we need to find ways to better engage with people and get them interested in Neighbourhood Watch.

7.2 Ken suggested that we need to go back to basics, and to explain what Neighbourhood Watch is, and the advantages of membership. Questions to ask, with answers ready -

- ✓ What is Neighbourhood Watch?
- ✓ Why should you be part of a Neighbour Watch?
- ✓ If you witness anti social behaviour do you bother to report it?
- ✓ Do you know where to report it?
- ✓ From Neighbourhood Watch Our News Nov 2021 – “Your local authority Community Safety Partnership website should detail all the ways you can report antisocial behaviour, who to report it to and how you can help.”
- ✓ Would you be interested in receiving info on how to spot new online and phone scams?

CAN BE QUITE HARD HITTING

- ✓ Did you know about the confirmed County lines Drug gangs activity, and child grooming going on in Nailsea?

7.3 Need a piece written about us along these lines.

7.4 Sandra suggested we could get something in North Somerset Times.

7.5 Ken suggested an online presence via Nailsea Community Group Facebook page to get this message out.

7.6 Police are keen to get info on what people see, but we must be careful not to be the conduit for this. Just point people in right direction eg CrimeStoppers contact number.

## **8. AOB**

8.1 Jeremy was considering starting a Business Plan. However, it was agreed we need to get things off the ground before we do this.

8.2 Jeremy looking to get grant money from National Neighbourhood Watch.

8.3 Sandra has agreed to remain on Committee in a non official capacity.

8.4 Colin to continue with website admin until someone comes forward.

8.5 Re possible use of Weston College to keep website up to date is taking a long time to get off ground, if it happens at all.

8.6 Jeremy has put together a General Report which can be found at the end of these Minutes.

Date of next meeting – 19:30 08/02/2022 via Zoom at the moment.

Meeting finished at 20:35

Ken Hallett - Secretary

## **GENERAL REPORT.**

The country is being swept once more by a new COVID variant. Whilst it is possible to have very limited face to face meetings it is clear that the risks and administrative burden at this time are too great to have an AGM until the end of February or first week in March. The latter is certainly more favoured.

Paul Johnson has suggested we make offer a simple guide to all members who can try out a Zoom test session in advance, once they realise how easy it is the more they more active they are likely to become. He certainly believes the overwhelming majority of members have e-mail though they may be unwilling to supply the data to Neighbourhood Watch.

Our greatest problem is that we have a very large membership most of whom do not engage. We must find a way to get them to engaged as the crime threat is rising. The reality is that local newspapers do not have the hard copy readership they once had and the most effective communications are on social media and the internet.

Bored teenagers misbehaving may be a something that many tolerate but what we have is far more serious. County Lines Gangs operate across the area selling drugs and in some extreme cases seeking to groom children for the sex trade. Yes, that does happen locally. People are in prison for doing so.

The CCTV system is superb when it works BUT the entire system is not yet resilient because, it lacks a robust power system and certain key elements have yet to be installed. Locally the infrastructure for the new system was paid for by the Town Council who are becoming increasingly angry with NSC over implementation.

We are fortunate enough to have Sgt Lee Kerslake leading the local police team. He was formerly at Weston super Mare and previously on the national police team dealing with Neighbourhood Watch. Looking at national websites it appears we have a long way to go to meet the needs of the modern environment.

It is clear that we need a business plan quite swiftly. My attempts to get communications with North Somerset are diplomatically described as uninspiring. If we want to have a safe and secure town, we shall have to engage across age and social groups ensuring our membership know what to look for and how to report it so police and NCA are informed swiftly. There is ample evidence on social media that people do not know what to do. I suggest that we, as a team, produce a proper plan for an AGM. I am quite happy to draft one as a starting point.