



# Annual General Meeting

held on 1 October 2022

## Minutes

### 1. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed and thanked those present for attending.

Apologies were received from Roy Gerstner & Phil Ingamells.

### 2. Approval of 2020 AGM Minutes

The draft 2021 Annual General Meeting minutes were approved – proposed by Kevin Evans and seconded by Carol Leonard.

### 3. Chairman's Report

Thank you to the Executive committee – they are a great team, the best in years and have been so supportive. Sadly we have lost several members of the Executive this year for a number of different reasons.

Neighbourhood Watch in the UK has been going 40 years. The biggest issue we face is lack of reporting. We have launched new software via OurWatch which has been well received. We've also launched a new website for Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch - [www.cnwa.org.uk](http://www.cnwa.org.uk).

A campaign to stop street harassment has been launched, encouraging people to become active bystanders, see the website for further details. We are an aging organisation and in 30 years' time the majority of us won't be here! We have to engage with younger people and have developed campaigns working with students and the younger population.

Neighbourhood Watch has introduced a lottery – only £1 a ticket per week.

We have introduced a Community Safety Charter which is the best thing we've ever done. You don't even need to be a member to use it.

Improving wellbeing prevents crime – you can make a difference! Use tools like Optimistic October – [www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar](http://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar). We need to be a recognised contributor to health and social wellbeing. If the community know each other, it reduces crime.

We want Neighbourhood Watch to be the authoritative voice on crime prevention and be the most popular gateway for signposting.

*Robin Sutton, Chairman*

### 4. Treasurer's Report

My thanks to Stuart Spink FCA for his time in examining the accounts and producing these documents. Copies are available on request. The accounts were approved by Patrick and seconded by Maggie.

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This has been another quiet year in terms of financial transactions following the Covid pandemic. Our main income comes from street signs and we have made a small profit. Overall, we take forward net assets of £4550 into next year.

*John Fuller, Treasurer*

## **5. Elections of Members to the Executive Group**

One nomination was received in advance of the AGM. The Chairman had circulated the current members in advance of the meeting that were prepared to stand for re-election.

Alan Paul – Peterborough	Patrick Kadewere (Huntingdon)
Kevin Evans (East Cambs)	Carol Leonard (Cambridge City)
Robin Sutton – Fenland	Kirsty Carter – South Cambs (Cambourne)
Frederick Roy Gerstner – Fenland (Whittlesey)	John Fuller – South Cambs (Histon)
Phil Ingamills (nominated for East Cambs)	Geoff Varley – South Cambs (Sawston/Linton)
	Amanda Large (Police representative)

Robin reported that we should have 18 members on the Executive. As mentioned earlier, we have sadly lost three Executive members in the last year for a number of reasons.

Please get in touch with any of the committee if you are interested in joining the Executive. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected at the first meeting after the AGM.

## **6. Darryl Preston, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and crime commissioner**

Robin welcomed our keynote speaker, Darryl Preston, to the meeting. Darryl expressed his thanks for being invited to the AGM and thanked Neighbourhood watch for their 40 years of service.

Darryl has a policing background, having been in the force for almost 40 years. He believes the PCC role is often misunderstood as it has been in place since 2012 and its statue is to listen to residents. He is responsible for £175M budget and finds it prudent to spend the majority of the budget on staffing costs. He is also responsible for appointing the Chief Constable. There are 43 PCCs across the country and each has a speciality. Darryl's is Forensic Science, and we are at the forefront in best innovations in Forensic science.

Darryl outlined the drivers of change over the past 40 years:

➤ The Law

Very little has changed though there have been minor amendments here and there. The Death penalty was finally abolished in 1998 when the Human Rights Act came in. Up until then, you could still be hanged for High Treason, Piracy with Violence, Arson in HM Dockyards and Espionage!

➤ Societal priorities and attitudes

Domestic and child abuse now has the full weight of Police resources. When Darryl first worked in the family unit, he dealt with abhorrent abuse against the vulnerable in society.

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- Diversity

30% of the force is now female. We need to try harder to represent our community from an ethnicity standpoint. It is a balance to strike in finding the best workforce.

- New and emerging trends

Digital footprints are now at the forefront of policing.

Darryl shared his Police and crime plan:

- Putting communities first

Neighbourhood policing is top of the agenda. Record numbers of Police in Cambs. Responding to crime is key and he is aware of issues with the 101 system. Supporting partnerships with crime prevention, community and youth funds are key.

- Crime Prevention

Absence of crime is true element of policing. Early intervention and rehabilitating those who have offended is the way forward.

- Supporting victims and witnesses

Working with the most vulnerable in society.

- Ethical Policing

Acting with integrity and social responsibility. Investing in recruitment, vetting and training to retain public confidence.

- Robust enforcement

Use all tools available to us to aid enforcement.

- Local priorities

Priorities outlined by area. In most areas it includes ASB, Drugs, Burglary, Road Safety and Aggressive/dangerous driving. Education is key with road safety and dangerous/aggressive driving to make it morally unacceptable in society.

- Finance and resource

We are the worse funded force in country. A review is currently underway.

The PCC was happy to answer two member's questions. Robin thanked Darryl for attending.

## **7. Superintendent Laura Hunt, Partnerships and Operational support**

Laura outlined that localism is the way forward for Policing. We now have a much larger organisational arrangement with North and South Commands, overseen by Superintendents Neil Billany in the North and Adam Gallop in the South. Other Superintendents cover areas such as CAMSTRA mapping, ISCD, Custody & Criminal justice, Op support, Partnerships & Prevention, PVP, Contact/demand hub and OIC. Chief Superintendent Jon Hutchinson oversees local policing and Chief Superintendents Mark Greenhalgh and Becky Tipping oversee crime.

CS Jon Hutchinson is conducting a local policing overview that requires a combination of prevention, deterrence and enforcement. Laura detailed current performance highlights & lowlights and stated that we are 11<sup>th</sup> on the possible highest outcome at this time.

Demand for the police service remains high with increased calls for service meaning longer call handling wait times and slower response times. The number of crimes in August was the highest in a single month since November 2006 and the outlook does not look good.

Laura's pledges are much of the same, building on good practice, learning from experiences, continuing to be good citizens and continuing to fulfil our civic and moral duty.

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## **8. Sergeant Mark Rabel, Fraud & Cybercrime**

Mark has been policing in Cambs for the last 20 years and now works in the Partnerships & Prevention unit on Fraud and Cybercrime. There are two streams to his role – Operation Signature focusing on the victims of scams, and community engagement focusing on prevention. Mark outlined that fraud safeguarding is a one size fits all approach. The pandemic has created a storm of cybercrime, and we are all ambassadors, having a common goal of protecting the vulnerable. Fraudsters adapt their models faster than we can keep up. Remember ABC – assume nothing, believe nothing and check everything! Fraud is theft by lying and is covered by the Fraud Act 2006. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility but don't be daunted by the process. Cybercrime is any crime involving technology and usually the internet. It is covered by the Computer Misuse Act 1990. There is a £190B cost to the UK economy with 40% of all reported crime categorised as Fraud. 67% of fraud is cybercrime. Cambs Police estimate £1.5-4M is lost every month! Everyone has a lie which they will believe. Mark finished his presentation by playing a video from a DEF CON conference which outlined how easily hackers can steal your identity.

## **9. Annabelle Goodenough, South East Regional Manager for Crimestoppers**

Annabelle outlined the background of Crimestoppers and its key USP of operating an anonymous reporting service. They have developed close working relationships with the Home Office, National Crime Agency, Police, PCCs and other charities. They are keen to develop mutually beneficial relationships as they can share a wealth of statistics as well as crime prevention material. They currently have 350 volunteers nationwide. Cambridgeshire Crimestoppers is starting from zero and the new Chair, Colin Dobbins, is trying to build up a team of people. There is a synergy of working together with NW as we have a similar structure to what they want. Crimestoppers has the knowledge of crime and local issues that need attention but don't have anyone on the ground. Ideally, they would want to work together with NW on campaigns. It would be a mutually beneficial arrangement and wouldn't be onerous with monthly reports and quarterly meetings with volunteers.

Robin invited the meeting attendees to feedback their ideas on the proposal to him directly.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 13.03 and thanked all who attended for their help and support.**