



## Torridge District Neighbourhood Watch

**Minutes of Forum Meeting held at  
West Croft Junior School, Bideford  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.15 p.m.**

### **Members Present:**

Tom Carrick (Chair), David Braziel (Vice Chair), Helena Schiller (Treasurer), Mike Jackson (Secretary), Angela Lovering (Bideford), David Butler (Monkleigh), John Bowers (Winkleigh), Roger Copp (Milton Damerel), Robert Line (Westward Ho!), PCSO John McGovern, Luke Brennan (Bideford), Christine Summerfield (Bradworthy)

### **1. Welcome & Apologies.**

Tom welcomed everybody to the meeting and the following apologies were given:

Phillip Smith (East-the-Water), Clive Mitchell (East-the-Water), Robin Edmonds (Woolsery), Derek Thorn (Appledore), Jane Wilson (Woolsery), Adrian Blight (Alwington).

Both Derek Thorn and Phillip Smith had indicated that they would not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming AGM although they both intended to attend. Tom said that he would write to them in acknowledgement of their long and valued service on the Forum.

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015.** These had been previously circulated and two amendments were needed:

i) Under item 7, 'High School' needs to be changed to 'Bideford College'

ii) Also under item 7, PCSO Paul Uden is misspelt and should only have one letter 'd'.

After amending the Master Copy, and with all members in agreement that it was now a true reflection of the meeting, Tom signed the Minutes.

**3. Matters Arising.** Angela asked for a progress report on the "Safe" booklet and the new "Welcome Pack" booklet which DaCCWA are working on. David Braziel said that these were covered in his report. She also asked for an update about the letter which Tom had written to the Chief Constable (item 4). Tom explained that he had not received a direct reply from the Chief Constable and his letter had been passed down the line to be 'dealt' with by Inspector Phil Gray at Bideford. Tom and David had had a meeting with Inspector Gray and the outcome is that PVPs will not be asked to take on any additional jobs without prior consultation with Tom/Forum. It was suggested that the original comment which sparked our query, was intended more for the Police Specials who are also volunteers and are currently being looked at to take on additional policing duties.

**4. Chair's Report** (Tom Carrick). Police input for the weekly Crime Reports had dropped off recently which Tom put down to the many changes which the Police are currently experiencing with their job roles. With the constant changes taking place he sometimes doesn't recognise any of the officers in Bideford PS whereas at one time he used to know who everybody was. He also felt that there was now a changed atmosphere in the Bideford PS which he put down to the officers being more concerned these days about their job security. Tom also expressed his thanks to the Forum for their support over the past two years which have seen a number of changes, including the introduction of our own website.

**5. Reports.**

**Treasurer** (Helena Schiller). Helena produced an 'Income & Expenditure' statement to 13 January 2016 which is summarised below:

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Income</b>	
Office expenses	28.27	Grant from Torr Commons Allots	25.00
New microphone & case	151.15	Grant from Devon CC	150.00
Hire – West. Ho! BCH	45.00		
Autumn Newsletters	117.00		
Secretary expenses	20.00		
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>361.42</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>175.00</b>

**Closing Balance at Bank on 13/01/2016 = £2,139.47**

Helena asked that anybody with expenses outstanding have them approved by the meeting and she will let them have cheques.

**DaCCWA** (David Braziel). David reported that the new 'Welcome Pack' and 'Safe' booklet are being finalised and should be available in the very near future. It is also hoped that DaCCWA will be in a position to be able to finance the production of these two publications. Major changes are taking place at national level which will affect us all in due course. David has received various emails detailing the many changes which he is to forward to everyone as there is too much to read out and absorb at the Meeting. Of importance to all co-ordinators is that they must be registered on the national website to be covered by the NHW insurance policy and be eligible to display street signage. There will also be a re-designed logo later in the year which he displayed and which is only marginally different from what we are currently using. David is also to be the administrator for the 'Alert' messaging system which will be superseding the CMS messaging system. These changes will be detailed in the Crime Reports and on our website, and in due course we will probably need to do a mail shot to individual co-ordinators who don't respond in taking on the changes.

**Torrington Records** (John Bowers). No changes to report.

**Bideford Records** (Angela Lovering). Bideford is still in need of an Area Co-ordinator for the Buckland Brewer area. We have also recently lost three co-ordinators at Woolsery. An existing CO is absorbing one of the Watches and Robin has somebody in mind for another.

**Holsworthy Records** (Mike Jackson). There are no major changes to report apart from the fact that there have been considerable police staff changes which has meant a great deal of work to update the database. Colin Burton who has recently taken on the AC role at Clawton has managed to get in touch with Sue Whapham who moved away from the area and he has obtained a list of her Watch Members to try to re-recruit them. We are still without ACs for Cookbury, Pyworthy Village, Part of Holsworthy Town and are still looking for a replacement for Sutcombe where Toni Sluggett is looking to step down.

**Grants** (Mike Jackson). Nothing to report apart from the grant being received from Councillor Julian which Helena has already reported on. When our next programme of meetings has been finalised I have promised to invite Cllr Julian to attend the open meetings if he is free.

**Publishing** (Mike Jackson).

1. On the web site we now have two full years' worth of Forum Minutes and Meeting Notes available to access. Do you want me to continue adding to the lists or is two years' sufficient detail to have readily available? It was agreed that two years would be sufficient.
2. Tel Card. I had this idea because many of my Watch members do not have computers and with all the scams that we are now faced with I frequently have to give out these phone numbers. I thought that a smallish card would be handy to keep near the phone and an A5 size will slip easily into the yellow Member Packs. I haven't included email addresses on the card because people with internet access seem to be quite good at finding out information for themselves. All agreed that this was a good idea and with printing costs at 250 = £41.00, 500 = £57.00 and 1000 = £93.00, it was agreed that we should go for a print run of 1000.

**Secretary** (Mike Jackson). Nothing to report which isn't mentioned elsewhere.

**Report from Newsletter Editor** (Angela Lovering). The Autumn Newsletter was issued in November. If anyone has suggestions for inclusion in the Spring Newsletter, please let me know:  
**angela.jl@btinternet.com**

I have expenses of £12.60 (inc. £12.38 for two colour ink cartridges) and I recently purchased a toner for the photocopier at £95.72 which is being paid for direct from our NHW Account. These expenses were unanimously agreed.

**PCSO** (John McGovern). John gave a brief overview of what they had achieved over the last year, in particular the re-launch of the Boat Watch and Farm Watch schemes. These had proved to be particularly successful and they signed up many new members. In response to a query about databases for these schemes it would appear that Bideford and Holsworthy are approaching the task differently. John didn't see any necessity for a locally held database as this is maintained at Exeter HQ whereas Holsworthy have set up their own database for the Holsworthy area Farm Watch members. It would be useful to have some more Farm Watch leaflets and DVDs, which are supplied by DaCCWA, but David advised that they are currently out of stock. John also advised that he is currently on attachment to Exeter where he will be based until July. In the meantime, he has asked Liz Rendle to stand in for him at our Meetings and be our point of contact.

**6. Review of the Westward Ho! NHW Meeting.** It was generally thought to be a good venue although the small car park was queried. It was pointed out that there was a large Torridge car park very close by which was free after 6.00 pm and parking should not be an issue. Bob Line our

local AC was disappointed at the poor turnout but this was a reflection on the very poor weather conditions on the evening. The refreshments worked well and the guest speakers of PC Sally Ferris and PCSO John McGovern were well received.

**7. AGM.** Superintendent Andrew Munday has agreed to be our guest speaker. Refreshments will again be organised by Angela, assisted by Luke and the event will be advertised as 6.45 pm for 7.15 pm start to allow for the catering.

**8. DBS (formerly CRB) Checking.** With the Junior Section currently on hold no progress has been made but as Luke is still part of our Forum it is something which still needs to be resolved. Mike thought that when a PCSO was present whilst on duty, then he/she would not need to be vetted but they would need to be vetted if off duty. David is to make some enquires in this matter.

**9. Junior Section Update.** Tom advised that the Junior Section is currently on hold due to most of the potential junior members withdrawing just before Christmas. This was a disappointing turn of events but groundwork has been done and hopefully this can be revisited at some time in the future.

**10. Any Other Business.**

i) The 'Keyholder Registration' scheme was mentioned in conversation and not all Members were aware of the scheme. This is a service run by the Police using a secure database so that keyholder details can be recorded and enables a responsible person to be called if a problem occurs at the property. The Police have a leaflet on the scheme and there are details on our own website and also the Devon & Cornwall Police website.

ii) Tom produced a draft list of meeting dates for the next twelve months for consideration. This was accepted apart from moving a couple of the Forum Meeting dates from the third to the second Tuesday of the month, where they clashed with known Parish Council Meetings. The definitive list will be issued to everyone as soon as the dates have been booked with the respective venues.

iii) David mentioned that the 'cylinder' light was showing on the photocopier, which indicates that it will soon be ready for replacement. Angela is to investigate.

**11. Dates of next meetings:**

**AGM - Tuesday 16 February 2016 at Westward Ho!**

**FORUM – Tuesday 8 March 2016 at West Croft School, Bideford**

All meetings start at 7-15 pm and aim to close by 9.00 pm.

With no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.