



**Torrige District Neighbourhood Watch**  
**Minutes of Forum Meeting held at**  
**West Croft Junior School, Bideford**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>. October 2017 at 7.15 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Tom Carrick (Chair), David Braziel (Vice Chair), Mike Jackson (Secretary), Roger Copp (Milton Damerel), Luke Brennan (Bideford), Jane Wilson (Woolsery), Robin Edmonds (Woolsery), John McGovern (PCSO).

**1. Welcome:**

Tom welcomed everybody to the meeting and asked if there were any apologies.

**Apologies:**

Doug Langley (Treasurer), Christine Summerfield (Bradworthy), Barry Jenkins (Winkleigh) and John Bowers (Winkleigh).

**2. Minutes of the Forum meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup>. July 2017:**

These had been previously issued and with no amendments being required it was proposed by Luke Brennan and seconded by Mike Jackson that they were accepted as a true record. With all in agreement the minutes were then signed, as a true record, by Tom.

**3. Matters Arising and Brought Forward from the Previous Meeting:**

**3e)** With neither John or Barry present it was not known what progress had been made. Mike advised that the circular "Community Speed Watch Area" signs were provided through Elaine Hartley at Crown Hill Police Station. Elaine oversees the Speed Watch project and requests for these signs needed to be submitted by the parish council concerned. Robin queried why the parish council should need to be involved if an area had already been approved by the police to be a Speed Watch area. The answer to this was not known but it was surmised that DCC Highways would possibly want some input and control over the number and type of signs in any particular area.

**f & g).** Both these items were raised several months ago for David to make enquiries at the next DaCCWA meeting. There has not yet been a full DaCCWA meeting to raise these matters at and we will carry them forward to our next Forum meeting.

**4. Chair's Remarks:**

Tom mentioned that crime was now on the increase across the whole of Torrige, in particular theft and damage. Cyber crime also seems to be increasing, although this may be due to more people now reporting this type of crime. Worryingly, attacks on people are also on the increase. In recent weeks we have had break-ins at recycling centres in Bideford and Anvil Corner, Holsworthy, with old vehicle batteries stolen, presumably for the metal content and we presume that it is the same people responsible. Sgt. Sally Ferris has now returned to Bideford as a sergeant in the Response Section and the new Beat Team Manager is Sgt. Neil Walkey. There have not been any problems to our sharing the Committee Room with the police. With the AGM coming up in the not too distant future, Tom thanked everyone for their support and despite one or two 'ups and downs' along the way, he felt that we were making good progress.

## **5. REPORTS**

### **Treasurer:**

The bank balance at the time of the July meeting was £1775.52 with the only items paid out since that time being the various expenses for Tom, David and Mike which were agreed at that meeting, together with £20 to Appledore FC for use of their room for our latest open meeting. This leaves us with a balance of £1683.75.

Mike submitted an expenses claim amounting to £30.25 which was made up of £25.50 for room hire for our Winkleigh meeting, £2.75 for 1 ream of white A4 paper and £2.00 for 70 C5 envelopes. Tom also submitted an expenses claim amounting to £8.00 covering various Newsletters and correspondence. Both claims were authorised for payment.

### **DaCCWA:**

There has still not been a full DaCCWA meeting although David has attended two meetings. One with a representative from 'National' who was getting an update on the general state of NHW in our area and the second meeting was with Dr. Karen Mellodew from the Office of the PCC. This was a follow up to the Appledore meeting when there was a discussion about how NHW interacted with the Police in various matters. Karen is preparing a report on this subject which should be available in the near future. David also mentioned that Community Speed Watch (CSW) will also be coming under the DaCCWA umbrella, but he didn't have any further detail on this. They are also trying to persuade the former treasurer, Phil Wise, to come back as he did a good job. He resigned due to a conflict with 'Citizens in Policing' in the South Devon area. David also mentioned that he has been tasked with running a training course for 3 or 4 COs from Cornwall, so that they can become ALERT administrators for their areas.

### **Record Keeper for Bideford:**

No changes since the last meeting.

### **Record Keeper for Holsworthy:**

There have been no changes to either ACs or COs since our last meeting, nor have I had any response to any of the wanted posters or parish magazine articles asking for volunteers.

### **Record Keeper for Torrington:**

In John's absence, David reported that a CO had been lost in Weare Giffard due to his death and it was not known if there was a replacement to take over yet.

### **PCSO:**

John told us that there had been a massive increase in calls to the Police. As well as general enquiries people now have more ways of reporting crime which may have contributed to this trend. This is not just in Torridge but across the whole of England and Wales. The Bideford Beat Team Managers are now PCs Linda Bealey, Mark Simmons and Matt Farley. The existing PCSOs remain in post. Because John is involved in various initiatives, Liz Rendell will be taking on the PSV Citizens in Policing role overseeing the management of Community Speed Watch in the Bideford area. John also advised us that Julie Parsons who is our Hartland AC will be leaving the area in the near future so will be standing down from her NHW role. Also, two members of the Divergence & Support Team will be leaving but are to be replaced by Hayley Ryan at Torrington and Raquel Rowe in Holsworthy. The Bideford DST team have been nominated for a Howard League Penal Reform award. Donna's role in the PCMO pilot scheme is coming to an end but the scheme is to be rolled out across the force area. It is not known if Donna will be staying on in this job.

**Publications:**

Donna is trying to get a supply of the police fridge magnets, samples of which Sandra gave out at the Winkleigh meeting.

**Secretary:**

Northam Town Council are having their website updated and it will include a short article about NHW in Torrington, our logo and a link across to our own website. I don't have a "go live" date for this new site, but if it looks alright then it might be worthwhile for us to ask other town and village websites to include a similar article to give us a presence. Tom agreed that this would be a good idea.

**6. Review of Constitution:**

Paper copies had been issued to all Members following the last Forum meeting and two amendments were now considered to be necessary.

Line 37: To be added to the end of the last sentence "and recorded in the Minutes at the earliest opportunity".

Line 50: To be added to the end of the last sentence "and in agreement with the Forum".

Mike to send out an updated version to all Forum members

**7. Grants Application 2017:**

Mike said that he had submitted grant applications to Bideford Bridge Trust, Bideford Town Council, Torrington Town Council and Northam Town Council, totalling £350 if they all come good. The application to Holsworthy Town Council is not due until next April. David mentioned that he is expecting to receive a £200 cheque from DaCCWA, in respect of the Nationwide BS grant, in the very near future.

**8. Review of Open Meetings in General and Bradworthy in November:**

It was felt that in view of the continuing poor turnouts from our members at the recent meetings, we should consider not holding them on a regular basis. A final decision can be made at the January Forum meeting. As Bradworthy is already booked we will continue with this meeting. Mike said that he had not been able to make contact with Margaret Coles, the Bradworthy AC, and Christine was going to try to speak to her in respect of a speaker/topic. Mike will organise the refreshments.

**9. AGM – Venue and Election of Members & Officers:**

As this will be an election year for members and officers then our usual practise is to have only one speaker. It was decided that we should ask the PCC, Alison Hernandez, whether she would be prepared to attend. John said that he would make enquiries via a contact in the PCC's office. Also, in view of the low turn-out at the Appledore meeting it was considered moving the AGM back into Bideford. The West Croft School main hall would be available for us to use on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. February, but not the Thursday. Robin pointed out that the A39 will be closed, day and night, for maintenance work covering many weeks, from 19<sup>th</sup>. February all the way from Bucks Cross to Abbottsham roundabout. This will obviously effect anybody coming from the direction of the Hartland and Welcome areas. Mike to enquire if the School has any free dates prior to 19<sup>th</sup>. and report back by email as this needs to be resolved. When a date and venue has been agreed, Mike to email John re contacting Alison Hernandez.

As all members and officers need to be re-elected, Tom said that he is prepared to continue as Chair but will step aside if anyone else wishes to take over. Mike indicated that he also will be prepared to continue for a further term unless anybody else wishes to take over, but that he intends to leave the Forum at the end of this new period. Barry Jenkins and Doug Langley have also indicated an intention to continue although not present. John Bowers, David Butler and Christine have not yet decided. All other members present completed a nomination form and Mike is to arrange for notice of the AGM and nomination forms to go out to the ACs in the early New Year. Robin advised that if

we were unable to recruit our own members for a specific job then it might be worthwhile looking at the DCC website because they have a register of people who are available to take on voluntary roles and it details the skillsets which they have available. Tom reminded us that a requirement of being a Forum member is that they you are a co-ordinator although it might be something we could investigate. Robin is to let Mike have the 'link' address.

**10. Any Other Business:** Robin brought to our attention that DCC contractors had recently taken down one of the Woolsery NHW street signs and left it on the ground. It was fixed to a lighting pole, not a Western Power electricity pole. No notifications have been received from DCC about changes to the siting of our signs so Robin will contact DCC to find out the reason for this action

With no further items, Tom closed the meeting at 8.45 pm and wished everybody a safe journey home.

**12. Dates of our Next Meetings:**

- Bradworthy Open meeting – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>. November at Bradworthy Memorial Hall.
- Forum Meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>. January at West Croft School, Bideford.