



# Neighbourhood Watch Network Annual General Meeting Event

**held at 14.00 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
by on-line Zoom Meeting**

## Minutes

1	<p><b>Introduction from the Chair – Ian Bretman</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 14.00 and introduced himself as the Chair of Trustees. Ian was pleased so many Association Leads and members were in attendance and that it was important part of the governance of Neighbourhood Watch that members hold the Board to account.</p> <p>To ensure the event was not just focused internally there will be two presentations from outside agencies, firstly from Dr Carver Anderson from the ‘Bringing Hope’ Charity in Birmingham and secondly from Georgia Sanders from Vision for Volunteering. Ian thanked the two speakers for their time and looked forward to their insight and perspectives.</p> <p>Ian mentioned that there would be a slightly different voting process than previous years but that would be covered at that point.</p>
2	<p><b>5-Year Strategy Update – John Hayward-Cripps</b></p> <p>John Hayward-Cripps delivered a presentation focused on the 5-Year Strategy stating that during the next year the existing strategy would be reviewed and a new strategy developed. Involving the Association Leads and members in that process would be a key part of this work.</p> <p>Over the past year income had increased and become more varied including a successful grant application for a London based youth development worker. There had been an increase in local and national campaigns on both crime and wellbeing and support to volunteers had been increased. John went through the three strands of the strategy and specific achievements in each area.</p> <p>Finally the developments of Cyberhood Watch, the Community Safety Charter, Are You OK? Campaign were mentioned as well as the potential major project with BT.</p>
3	<p><b>Presentation from Revd Dr Carver Anderson – Executive Director, Bringing Hope Charity and Co-chair of the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership - Faith Alliance</b></p> <p>Carver Anderson presented aspects of his work including the importance of understanding the past, assessing the present in order to positively influence the future of a community or individual. From this stemmed the importance of being a ‘Good Neighbour’ using a ‘Life Cycle Perspective’.</p> <p>Carver stressed the importance of looking in the mirror and self-assessment along with an understanding of trauma, poverty, anger etc in order to be a good neighbour. He also posed the general question about what activity was required from us all as neighbours to create a flourishing community?</p>

4	<p><b>Presentation from Georgia Sanders – Networks and Engagement Officer, Vision for Volunteering</b></p> <p>Georgia Sanders began by asking who of the audience had heard of Vision for Volunteering which was very few so her presentation gave a broad introduction into the organisation. Vision for Volunteering is a 10-year project to create a better future for volunteering and volunteers. It is a collaborative, grass-roots project and not a ridged structure or set of rules.</p> <p>The project is very keen to hear from local groups and volunteers on what works for them and to hear innovative solutions, ways of working, and any barriers. The project is focusing on five key areas: Awareness &amp; Appreciation, Power, Equality &amp; Inclusion, Collaboration, and Experimentation.</p> <p>Georgia posed a question to the group about what they would do to experiment with new ways of volunteering and what barriers they may be that are stopping them from this? Contact details of the project and how to be involved were shared with the AGM.</p>
5	<p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman thanked the speakers and there were some questions and comments from attendees including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of sharing and explaining the visions of organisations</li> <li>• Innovation and attending Vision for Volunteering events</li> <li>• How to address challenging situations using compassion</li> <li>• Overcoming barriers to some organisations also with compassion</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Formal NWN AGM</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman introduced the formal section of the Annual General Meeting and confirmed that all the regulatory requirements had been met which was confirmed by John Hayward-Cripps. Ian asked attendees if there were any other matters to be discussed, as none had been provided in advance of the meeting – there were none. Ian also explained that the voting process would be on a zoom voting/poll and this would be explained when the meeting came to that section.</p>
6.1	<p><b>Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b></p> <p>These were approved without any questions or amendments.</p>
6.2	<p><b>Any matters arising from the minutes</b></p> <p>There were none.</p>
6.3	<p><b>Overview from the Chair, and to receive the Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2023</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman explained that the Report of the Trustees was in two parts: a narrative on the work of the organisation and tie financial report. He would address the first point and Kardaya Roprai the second.</p> <p>Ian reported that the year had been a year of solid achievements; extending the organisation’s reach, supporting Associations &amp; volunteers, raising our profile &amp; changing our profile, increasing resources and diversifying income.</p>

	<p>Ian gave tribute to volunteers across the organisation and to the Central Support Team stating that external organisations and government were always surprised that so much work was achieved with only a very small paid staff team. This is obviously due to the huge volunteer base and gave the organisation a very good value proposition to potential funders including local and national government and the NHS</p>
6.4	<p><b>To receive the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023</b></p> <p>Kardaya Rooprai stated the Financial Statement had been independently examined with no issues highlighted and were available on the Ourwatch website. Kardaya mentioned that during the year we had reduced our reserves levels and gained more trading income.</p> <p>The Finance and Audit Committee monitored the finances closely through the year and the details of the accounts were all contained in the notes of the Financial Statements. Kardaya reported that the year had been a stable year but that it was expected that there would be more projects in the next year with increased income and expenditure.</p> <p>There were no questions relating to the Report of the Trustees.</p>
	<p><b>Voting in the AGM</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman introduced the voting process at this years AGM.</p> <p>John Hayward-Cripps explained that all the non-voting attendees would be placed into a separate on-line group and the voting members would all receive an electronic voting form with all the votes on it. Voting members could then complete their voting and after 5 minutes the votes would close and the results would be announced.</p> <p>Once the non-voting members were excluded from the process Ian Bretman introduced the individual votes as below and the voting members voted. The results are detailed below.</p>
6.5	<p><b>Vote not to appoint a Trustee as Company Secretary</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman explained that the Neighbourhood Watch Network’s Constitution required that a Trustee is voted in as the Secretary. However the organisation had a senior level Finance Manager, good governance skills within the Board and very helpful advice, support and information from Sayers Vincent who undertake the Independent Examination of the organisation.</p> <p>In 2020 the Board discussed the governance of the organisation including a proposal not to fill the role of Secretary which was consulted on and approved at the AGM. Unfortunately it wasn't specifically recorded in the minutes of the 2020 AGM.</p> <p>The Board was therefore requesting permission not to appoint one of the trustees as Secretary again at this AGM so it could be properly recorded. The motion was carried by 33 votes to 1</p>
6.6	<p><b>Retirement of longest serving Trustees then re-election to the Board</b></p> <p>In accordance with Neighbourhood Watch Network’s constitution, the one third of Trustees must retire at the AGM each year. In line with this, – Sue Pillar-Lea (Vice Chair) and Kardaya Rooprai (Treasurer) retired and were re-elected for another term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sue Pillar-Lea (30 votes for 1 against)</li> <li>• Kardaya Rooprai (31 votes for none against)</li> </ul>

6.7	<p><b>Appointment of the Vice Chair of Trustees</b></p> <p>Following Sue Pillar-Lea’s re-election to the Board, she offered to serve again as Vice Chair and was voted in with 29 votes for none against.</p>
6.8	<p><b>Appointment of the Treasurer</b></p> <p>Kardaya Rooprai offered to serve again as Treasurer and was voted in with 29 votes for none against.</p>
6.9	<p><b>Appointment of the Chair</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman offered to serve again as Chair and was voted in with 31 votes for none against.</p>
6.10	<p><b>Appointment of Independent Examination of Accounts for 2024-2025 - Kardaya Rooprai.</b></p> <p>Kardaya Rooprai reported that Neighbourhood Watch Network’s annual accounts had been independently examined by Sayers Vincent for the 3rd year and while we are under the threshold for a full audit, an independent examination continues to provide better value for money and a higher level of expertise than a full audit. Support included upcoming legislation and leads were encouraged to take part in webinars etc provided by Sayers Vincent. As the Board is very happy with Sayers Vincent, Kardaya stated that we re-appoint Sayers Vincent for the 2024-2025 Independent Examination.</p>
7.	<p><b>General Question and Answer session for the Board and Central Support Team (CST)</b></p> <p>There were no questions for the Board or CST.</p>
8.	<p><b>Close</b></p> <p>Ian Bretman closed the AGM meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for all the work local Associations and Coordinators have been doing through the year.</p> <p>Ian asked that attendees feedback any thoughts on the organisation of the AGM. He looked forward to the Association Leads quarterly meetings next year, and that the Board will be looking at further recruitment in the new year.</p> <p>Ian wished all attendees a Merry Christmas and ended the meeting at 15.42</p>

### **AGM Attendees:**

Andrew Whyte – Trustee, Ian Bretman – Chair of Trustees, Kardaya Rooprai – Treasurer, Rebecca Bryant – Trustee, Sue Pillar-Lea – Vice-Chair of Trustees

Amanda Knight, Andrew Taylor, Andy Crisp, Anna James, Annabel Cottrell, Belinda Donovan, Bob Combes, Carole Atkinson, Chris Pyemont, Colin Cartwright, Craig Dawes, David Braziel, Derek Bateman, Derek Pratt, Forid Miah, Frank Simmonds, Geraint Lang, Graham Boyle, Grant Murrell, Heather Thompson, Jan Forbes, Joe Murray, John Lennard, Julie Dowton, Keith Batchelor, Les Rowlands, Lynn Farrar, Lynne Fairclough,

Margaret Parker, Marie Lane, Martin Stillwell, Maureen Yates, Michael Winter, Mike Dyson, Pat Halliday, Paul Sunners, Paul Voden, Ray Boyle, Rob Greenwood, Robin Sutton, Roger Baines, Roy Marks, Selvin Reid, Tony Spall

Georgia Sanders – Vision for volunteering, Dr Carver Anderson – Bringing Hope Charity

Amy Mawby – Staff, Cheryl Spruce – Staff, Jennifer Powell – Staff, John Hayward-Cripps – CEO, Kathleen Cunningham – Staff, Kevin Sproston – Staff, Ruby Smart – Staff, Sandra Bauer – Staff