

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
For
North Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch
Held on 15th May 2008**

The Chairman welcomed members and guests to the meeting and thanked them for coming. 44 members attended along with Sgt Peter Finch, PC Alan Bentley and PCSO Tracy Ash from West Midlands Police.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Janet and John Clews.

Minutes:

The Chairman advised that a copy of last years minutes could be found within the "Welcome Pack" As there were no queries the minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.

The "Welcome Pack" for 2008 included:

1. A welcome message
2. The Agenda for the Meeting
3. Minutes of the last AGM
4. Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Year ended December 2007
5. Treasurer's Report 2007
6. News in Brief
7. Bulletin Report
8. Committee 2007/2008

Treasurers Report:

Income had been received and there was an expenditure incurred during the year leaving a healthy closing balance as at the 31st December 2007. Income included a grant received from Brownhills and Aldridge North LNP for Junior Neighbourhood Watch.

Co-ordinators were asked to help and maintain a list of their members when paying over membership fees as with the increase in fees comes increased accountability.

Election of Officers for 2007/20078:

Under the terms of the Constitution up to 3 serving officers would resign in 2008 and in the absence of any other candidates being nominated would be able to apply for re-election.

The following positions were up for election this year:

Web Master - upon the resignation of Steve Walker

Newsletter Officer - upon the resignation of Sandra Handford

The Chairman asked for nominations and seconders from the floor and the following officers were duly elected to serve on the committee for 2008/2009.

- Web Master - Peter Kelsall
- Newsletter Officer - Mrs Joyce Peel

AOB:

The Value of Neighbourhood Watch:

The Chairman addressed the meeting and emphasized the value of having a Neighbourhood Watch scheme as opposed to an area of similar size to North Aldridge, such as Walmley, that did not have a scheme. Statistics would seem to support Watch areas as being a safer place to live.

2007/2008		
Comparison of Crime between	North Aldridge With a Watch	Walmley Without a Watch
House Burglary	27	100
Theft from Motor Vehicles	54	105
Theft of Motor Vehicles	21	14
Burglary Other	59	52
Total	161	271

North Aldridge tried hard to communicate with its members and residents by using variety of Information Exchange methods:

- Weekly Bulletin
- Newsletter
- Website

The Bulletin showed the incidents taking place in our area and offered crime reduction advice.

The Newsletter was delivered to members by Street Co-ordinators and contained helpful information but lacked reader contributions. Street Co-ordinators, for the benefit of their members, were encouraged to put their name and contact number of the front cover.

The Website was available to anyone using the internet and contained all the newsletters, bulletins and crime reports from our community partnership officer along with a selection of practical resources able to be downloaded. A good feature was the "Urgent News Box". The site was updated on a regular basis.

Junior Neighbourhood Watch introduced in 2007 was following its launch with Leighswood School proving to be a success and great fun with 30 local Primary schools wanting to be involved. It sought to introduce the concepts of neighbourhood watch and neighbourhood policing to children in Years 5/6 and to show children how to be safe in the community as well as what the responsibilities of being a community member are. As with all projects help is needed to maintain momentum and members were asked to consider getting involved.

Presentations:

West Midlands Fire Service:

Peter Allington from WMFS gave a most interesting presentation on "how to be safe in the home" and recommended the benefits of having a free Home Fire Security check carried out.

West Midlands Police:

Sgt Peter Finch addressed the meeting and reiterated the importance of having a good partnership between neighbourhood watch and the neighbourhood police team he offered to answer individual member concerns at the end of the meeting and advised members that crime in North Aldridge was reducing and the area was a very safe place to live.

Finally the Chairman thanked our guests and members for attending the meeting reminding them that Neighbourhood Watch was working in North Aldridge.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.