Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12th July 2007
At Lancaster Avenue Community Rooms

Present: Andy Cattell, Tony Marshall, Les Smith, Margaret Farmer, Steve Walker, Mich Moore, Sue Aspley, Harry Swain, Eric Jennings and Sgt Peter Finch.

Apologies: Chris Price.

The minutes of the previous committee meeting on the 3rd May 2007 were circulated with the agenda and were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:
There were no matters arising.

Newsletter:
Issue 40 was 90% complete and would have a general theme of being "neighbourly". Previous debate to change the format for fear the magazine was becoming stale was not revisited and is something we need to explore further through committee meetings and our membership.

Signs:
There was still work to be carried out with signs on the Druids Estate and other signs were in need of replacement. 9 signs were in stock and the committee authorised the signs officer to enquire about the cost to purchase up an additional 50 signs. It was expected that less would be deemed necessary.

Treasurer's Report:
As at 12th July we had a balance. Subscriptions had been received with around £600 outstanding. The treasurer handed out zone updates and zone co-ordinators were asked to chase outstanding membership fees. The new Bank Mandate was ready to deliver to the bank in Aldridge.

New Members/Co-ordinators:
The sad and sudden death of Maurice Cockayne was reported and in time a replacement co-ordinator for Malvern Drive would be needed. Ray Brisbourne had taken over from Ray Allen as co-ordinator for Rutland Crescent and additional members had been recruited. Lisa Mellor-Hunt had taken over as co-ordinator for the bottom end of Leighswood Avenue from Jane and Liam Fagan. However she was also moving house and a replacement would shortly be required. Chris and Steve Grainger have taken into their patch in Wood End Way the houses previously managed by Tony and Val Besley.

Website:
The new site of www.northaldridgenw.com was up and running and the web master would now start to re populate it with information. The secretary will provide details of the Bulletin and Newsletter for 2007 to date.

Police Area Report:
Sgt Finch reported that speeding was being enforced along Walsall Wood Road and there might be a chance of "flashing" notices being erected as they proved to be effective in maintaining the limits.

Rutland Crescent was still the subject of youth nuisance and it was hoped that residents were maintaining sufficient records of incidents to assist the Police upon review.

Otherwise incidents were not out of proportion to other areas and we were deemed to still be a safe area. Recent incidents included the attacks on elderly single ladies whilst out shopping and theft from Peugeot 206 vehicles.

AOB:

Funding Bids:
The bid to the LNP for Brownhills and Aldridge North has been confirmed and a Grant Letter will be issued in readiness for the receipt of £400 for the Junior Neighbourhood Watch Project.

Bids to Barclays Bank and the National lottery were still in hand.

Projects for 2007:

Reduction in crime project:
The visit of Community Safety Van on the 9th June was seen to be a good success with committee members and officers from our Neighbourhood Team talking to over 50 residents during the morning. As well as leaflets free alarms and timers were handed out. There would be opportunities to repeat the exercise.

Youth Project:
Junior Neighbourhood Watch was in full swing and proving to be a success with 20 children from Leighswood. The final session was due to take place on Monday 16th July. Certificates will be handed out at school assembly on Tuesday 17th. We would try and get more press coverage. A draft set of income and expenditure accounts was presented to the meeting highlighting the resources used and their cost. The secretary requested that in view of the agreed grant could expenses be agreed to date amounting to £154.32 split:

1. £69.69 from NANW for the AGM work and weekly Bulletins
2. £84.63 from JNW to cover expenses to date.

The committee agreed these could be met.

Co-ordinators Meeting 20th September 2007:

This topic was briefly discussed and those present agreed that all the committee should play an active part in its organisation. The Chair and Secretary will agree a theme and format so invitations can be sent out. It was hoped to invite the children involved with JNW project and their parents to the meeting.

Guests considered include the Mayor, Richard Shepherd MP and local councillors. Refreshments will be served as last year.

Rosies Helping Hands Charity:
A donation of £25 was agreed.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm
Next Meeting Thursday 6th September 2007