

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
At Lancaster Avenue Community Rooms**

**Present:** Andy Cattell, Frank Priest, Tony Marshall, Eric Jennings, Les Smith, Margaret Farmer, Mich Moore, Harry Swain, Sue Aspley, Pete Kelsall, Sgt Peter Finch and Barbara from Devon Crescent

**Apologies:** Joyce Peel

The minutes of the previous committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were circulated with the agenda and agreed as a true record.

**Matters Arising:**

No matters arising.

**Newsletter:**

The next edition will be finished and sent to the printers within the next 10 days. It will be slightly larger edition than normal. The Chair advised this would be his last editorial year and Joyce Peel was willing to take on the editorial role. A gradual handover will be arranged.

It was agreed to set distribution dates with a cut off time for articles being two weeks before going to print. Dates agreed were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> March
- 1<sup>st</sup> May
- 14<sup>th</sup> September
- 1<sup>st</sup> December

Committee members were encouraged to submit articles of local interest whereas the editorial team can resource national articles of interest.

**Signs:**

Mich reported that some broken/damaged signs had been replaced and new signs had been erected for the Devon Crescent area. There were 12 NW signs and 11 CCTV signs in stock so it was agreed to purchase a further 30-50 signs.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer reported a healthy balance as at the 23<sup>rd</sup> December with additional memberships to pay in from Devon Crescent for 2009 and Elmdale Drive.. Planned expenditure to-date will be £350 Newsletter, £600 for 2 Lap tops and £200 for JNW at Walsall Wood School.

**New Members/Co-ordinators:**

19 Members had joined from Devon Crescent with others making enquiries. Anti-social behaviour had improved.

**Website:**

All working smoothly and updated weekly.

**Police Area Report:**

Sgt Finch reported that crime was down by 17% despite a recent spike in burglary. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January there had been 7 in the area with 3 in one day. Residents needed to report any suspicious activity and ongoing crime advice was important to get the safety messages across for both property and vehicles. Sgt Finch advised that Walsall MBC had

obtained a street drinking ban across the borough and this would help the Police with anti-social behaviour. New surgery dates were available and would continue to be held on Mondays in Lancaster Avenue approximately every 6 weeks:

- 26<sup>th</sup> January
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- 6<sup>th</sup> April
- 18<sup>th</sup> May
- 29<sup>th</sup> June
- 10<sup>th</sup> August
- 21 September
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- 14<sup>th</sup> December

**AOB:**

**Future Spend and Project for 2009:**

This was likely to be for another two laptop computers, new signs, bulletin frames and possibly North Aldridge key rings.

**Data Protection:**

It was agreed that neighbourhood watch was on the fringe of data protection and mention of it would be made at the AGM in May.

**Safety House visit:**

The secretary would make enquiries in view of the changes taking place at the Safety House.

**Neighbourhood Bike Lights:**

These had been purchased at a cost of £120.

**Bail Hostel:**

Contact had been made with the chair and we needed to consider the next step.

**Aims and Objectives for 2009:**

It was agreed to build a relationship with South Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch and that committee members would attend their meetings over the year and we would put out invitations to their committee.

**AGM:**

There is a need to consider a speaker and changes in the committee. The chair along with two other members will resign. The chair will not offer himself for re-election.

**Meeting closed at 8.50 pm**  
**Next Committee meeting Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009**