Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 18th January 2007
At Lancaster Avenue Community Rooms

Present: Tony Marshall, Mich Moore, Les Smith, Sue Aspley, Eric Jennings, Paula Duffy, Sgt Peter Finch, PC Alan Bentley and Nikki Davies

Apologies: Andy Cattell, Chris Price, Sandra Handford, Steve Walker and Margaret Farmer.

The minutes of the previous committee meeting on the 16th November 2006 were circulated with the agenda and were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:
There were no matters arising.

Newsletter:
No Report

Signs:
Maintenance is in progress especially after the strong winds. 20 CCTV signs, costing £60 + VAT, have been ordered along with a new supply of cable ties costing £27.61. Co-ordinators have been asked to report damaged signs.

Treasurer's Report:
As at the 31st December there is bank balance with a bill for Newsletters to pay. During 2006 fees collected. The Treasurer will arrange for the accountants to be audited. The treasurer also advised that she would not be able to continue in office after May.

The secretary advised that new membership collection forms were prepared and ready for copying prior to distribution via the zone co-ordinators.

New Members/Co-ordinators:
The annual review of co-ordinators is due to be started.

Website:
No Report other than it is due to be updated.

Police Area Report:
Since the start of the year only 5 crimes have been committed in the Neighbourhood Watch area with 1 burglary although some incidents are occurring on the Industrial Estates. Good progress is being made with the setting up of a Business Watch and there are plans for a Pub Watch to be started.

We are asked to continue our efforts to help reduce Burglary Other Buildings and Vehicle Crime by maintaining their profile in our Newsletters and Crime Bulletins.

PCSOs are going to be the main visible uniformed presence on our local streets. They are being well received and are getting themselves known.

Surgery dates are set to be 13th February, 7th March, and 8th May. In order to try and attract a better attendance there may have to be a slight change in that they are incorporated with the local councillor's surgery. Nothing is firm but surgeries need to be attended.

In trying to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch in the area it was suggested we invite the NW Caravan to attend Lazy Hill for a day.

AOB:

Purchase of Equipment:
Not discussed

Funding Bids:
The secretary reported that he had 3 application forms to apply for funding The Big Lottery, The Co-Op and Barclays Bank. It was suggested that a small sub committee be formed to look at the applications and a writing evening was suggested. Sue Aspley offered help and took the application from the Co-Op to look through and report back.

Projects for 2007:
Three projects were suggested fro consideration:

1. Property marking
2. A reduction in crime project
3. A Youth project

Property marking: Although considered to be useful it was felt to be the individual responsibility of residents to take this on board. We had already encouraged residents to obtain the new marking labels available from the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership and could do little more without funding to purchase UV marking kits.

A Reduction in Crime project: We could take this on by arranging to target roads not in Neighbourhood Watch with Leaflets and Booklets. PCSOs could while walking the area deliver this material and we would support by helping to deliver information on Neighbourhood Watch. The secretary will speak to Kevin Pitt and Sgt Finch said he would involve the PCSOs in such a promotion.

Youth involvement: Our current membership is based around working or retired members of the community and it was felt we had to try and involve more youngsters into Neighbourhood Watch. One of our co-ordinators is the chair of Governors at Leighswood School and it was felt worthwhile to see if the Headteacher could help us with such a project. Even going into school and talk to the children about their "Social Responsibilities in the Neighbourhood" was considered to be worthwhile.

New Zones: The 2007 Zone Plan was adopted.

LNPs/CAGs: The secretary advised he had attended two CAG meetings on "Safer and Stronger Communities" and "Health and People". Nothing really useful had come out of the meetings but we had to have a presence, as some funding was available.

Walsall Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association: The first meeting had been held and a committee formed. A further meeting was planned to clarify the aims and objectives of the group along with a constitution.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm
Next Meeting Thursday 1st March 2007