

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 1st March 2007
At Lancaster Avenue Community Rooms**

Present: Andy Cattell, Tony Marshall, Les Smith, Eric Jennings, Frank Priest, Margaret Farmer, Steve Walker, Mike Arnold, Harry Swain, Sgt Peter Finch and PC Alan Bentley.

Apologies: Sandra Handford and Paula Duffy.

The minutes of the previous committee meeting on the 18th January 2007 were circulated with the agenda and were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Newsletter:

Issue 39 should be ready by the end of March. Not a lot of articles had been received and so some repeated messages about crime would be made. This was not a bad thing to happen. Information that could be included was:

- ❖ The Community Safety Van coming to Lazy Hill on the 9th June
- ❖ The AGM on the 10th May
- ❖ Input from the Police and Dave Hodgetts the force Communication & Reassurance Officer
- ❖ Walsall People

Some reassurance was sought on the new Walsall People scheme and it was agreed the secretary would contact Kevin Pitt.

Signs:

The secretary reported that signs were being replaced and repaired making the area look more cared for but there was still work to be done. More signs may be required but purchase would be deferred until a report from the signs officer was available.

Treasurer's Report:

As at the 28th February there was an anticipated bank balance of £610.73 after payment for Newsletters, Cable ties and CCTV signs had been made.

New Members/Co-ordinators:

The annual review of co-ordinators is underway and generally the area was quiet. Two replacement co-ordinators are being sought to take over from Frank Highfield (Heygate Way/Jordan Way) and Max Quibell (Highfield Way).

Website:

The Webmaster reported that the site was currently a disaster being difficult to manage and update. This had been caused by the change of Host and as a result three to four months news had been missed. As the Host had given the impression of not caring it was proposed that we start our own Domain. The Webmaster would review this option and report back at the next meeting.

Police Area Report:

February had seen only 25 reported incidents, less than one a day, confirming that crime in Aldridge is low compared to other areas. There was concern expressed about nuisance, vandalism and graffiti in the area.

Surgery dates are set to be 8th May and 19th June.

AOB:

Purchase of Equipment:

This was again discussed and the need to have portable equipment recognised. Current funding does not allow the purchase of computers and we shall have to attract funding capital investment.

Funding Bids:

The following funding applications are available to us:

- ❖ The Lottery - up to £10,000
- ❖ Barclays Bank - £2000 for community projects
- ❖ CO-Op - £1000 - for community projects
- ❖ Brownhills and North Aldridge LNP - £400 for community projects

The chairman agreed to look at the Lottery Bid.

The secretary would look at the Barclays bid and link it to the proposed Junior Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Sue Aspley had the CO-Op bid to review.

The secretary was to request information for the funding available from the LNP.

Projects for 2007:

Reduction in crime project:

This was to continue and it was hoped the Community Safety Van coming to Lazy Hill in June would help. We would continue our support of crime reduction information through information published in the Newsletter and Bulletin.

Youth Project:

A paper was distributed on Junior Neighbourhood Watch for consideration. Members agreed to review the paper and report back to the secretary by the end of March.

St. Thomas Ladies Project:

The secretary showed the Power Point presentation to be given to the ladies at St. Thomas Church. This could be used as a resource for other presentations.

AGM 10th May 2007:

1. Committee positions for re-election in 2007 will be:
 - ❖ Treasurer
 - ❖ Signs Officer
 - ❖ Co-ordinator Liaison Officer
2. A proposal to increase to annual membership fee from £1.00 to £2.00 will be presented.
3. Trading Standards will be asked to come and give a presentation.
4. Tea and coffee will be available.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm
Next Meeting Thursday 3rd May 2007