

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 9th July 2009
At Lancaster Avenue Community Rooms**

Present: Frank Priest, Tony Marshall, Sue Aspley, Les Smith, Margaret Farmer, Joyce Peel, Peter Kelsall, Eric Jennings, Mich Moore, Sgt Peter Finch and guest Christine Harvey from Surrey Walk.

Apologies: No apologies

The minutes of the previous committee meeting on the 5th May and the AGM on the 14th May 2009 were circulated with the agenda and agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- ✓ The secretary confirmed the accounts had been signed.
- ✓ Payment for the Domain name and Hosting for two years had been paid.
- ✓ A virus programme had been purchased.
- ✓ The visit to the Safety House was planned for the 24th September.

Newsletter:

The new editor advised that after much hard work the next edition of the Newsletter was due to go to print. It had been a difficult exercise and a steep learning curve. A brief survey of residents local to the editor had asked for more local news to be included pertinent to our area so this pointed to the way the Newsletter would go in the foreseeable future. It was decided to produce three Newsletters in future in February, June and October. Each edition would have some regular features for example:

February	Membership due, AGM Notice
June	Notice of co-ordinators meeting, lighter evenings, holiday safety tips
October	Darker nights increase risk of burglary

The editor advised she will not be available to publish the February edition and this will need to be picked up by other committee members.

The chair asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded for a "Good job done" by the new editor.

Signs:

Signs are up to date.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer advised we had a healthy balance despite only around 50% of membership being paid over. Cheques were being issued to meet payments for the domain name and virus programme as well as for Junior Neighbourhood Watch at Leighwood.

New Members/Co-ordinators:

A new co-ordinator has been found for the area in Heygate Way/Jordan Way and the co-ordinator liaison officer advised he would contact all street co-ordinators to advise them of the forth coming meeting in September.

Website:

The site was up to date and operational. It was agreed the webmaster would offer training to interested members as soon as possible.

Police Area Report:

Domestic burglary around the borough was on the increase but had not yet reached Aldridge. Between 1st May and 9th July only 43 incidents had taken place although there had been a spike around the shops at Lazy Hill for which an offender had been identified and arrested. The message coming from the new Chief Constable was a clear one of raising public confidence built upon engagement and feedback from the community.

Police Surgery:

Attendance was still low and although the surgery in Lancaster Avenue would be retained there was a need to try different ways of engagement with the community. Possible alternatives for

consideration are: St. Thomas Church, the Friendship Group and Guys and Gals sessions at Lancaster Ave Community Centre.

AOB:

AGM:

The general feeling was the AGM went well and the police dogs stole centre stage.

Funding Bid:

The secretary asked members for support in making a bid to work in partnership with South Aldridge from the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Fund.

Dog Sponsorship:

An invitation to attend the police dog kennels was accepted and arrangements will be advised in due course.

Chair:

In the absence of a chair it was agreed in future to rotate the position at meetings.

Co-ordinators Annual Meeting:

Refreshments will be served and a request for a speaker from Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCO) will be made. The secretary will ask if a DVD on burglary or bogus callers is available to be played.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm
Next Meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 12th November 2009