

Beech Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Meeting, Ref. NW 114
Minutes, 6Th October 2009 at 8.00pm at Beech Village Hall
Actions in Italics

1. Attendees:

- Martin Armstrong, John Tomalin, Ian Dumelow, Sue Richards, Charles Cockburn, Charlotte Wigzel, Richard Butt, Rosemary Fletcher, Dave Robinson, Colin Britchford, PC Nicholas Whitehouse, Sarah Neish, Malcolm Grace.

2. Apologies received:

- Sue Bailey, Tracy Smith, Richard Butt, Chris Brandon-Trye, PC David Nops

3. New Members:

- The meeting recorded their appreciation of the contribution made by Jo, Peter and Christine and it was proposed that a thank you letter be sent to each of them. *Colin*
- The meeting welcomed Ian, Martin and John. The aims of the group were explained concentrating on communication in terms of advice and alerts. Beech is a relatively safe place and a key objective is to secure that environment. Nick emphasised the importance of watches to successful policing.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

- The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
- **Actions:**
 - Although there had been no official response for an up date from the PC on speed awareness devices, it appears that funds and priorities across the district are delaying their installation in Medstaed Road. It was agreed that we should continue lobbying for their installation, however following a discussion it was decided that *John* should forward a proposal for a speed monitoring device that is not expensive and does not need any official approval. This would then be presented to the PC for their consideration.
 - *Richard* has looked into the village web site following concern from a villager that the information was not sufficient. He had agreed a method of keeping it up to date with relevant information with David Woodroofe, however recently this information had disappeared from the web site and *Richard* was investigating. *David* asked that consideration should be given to not placing E-mail addresses on the site due to Spam concerns, telephone numbers should be sufficient.

- **Colin** has advised the PC that we do not consider public liability insurance a necessity.
- **Chris** produced the article on ATM's.
- Smart Water packs were purchased by Richard for a few villagers. Anyone interested in this product should contact **Richard**. Nick advised that this was still considered an excellent deterrent tool by the police and one village had a Smart Water notice on its road boundary. It may be worth bringing this to the attention of the village again. **Colin**
- New street signs were erected.
- The Audited accounts were forwarded to the PC.
- **Richard** had a very successful day in clearing rubbish from Medstead Road and proposes to repeat the exercise.

5. Police Report

- There have been 27 incidents in Beech over the past nine months.
- The most serious incident was an attempted break in to steal cars for the cars on the drive. Crimes of this type have reduced in the past year around the district.
- Concerns over bogus callers, anti social behaviour in the summer and domestic disputes all featured at a low level.
- Road safety on the A339 has improved following the improved notices and attention to biker's activities, although there had been some drinking driving issues and bikers remain problematical.
- Nick advised that we should always ring 999 if the issue was current and potentially dangerous.
- We should always report speeding, noisy bikes, unsociable activities on trial bikes and careless driving to the police if we can take a registration plate. The police are prepared to send warning letters to frequent offenders.
- Pickpockets in Alton are less of a problem following some arrests.
- Outbuildings and their valuable contents are still a favourite crime target and a shed alarm and secure lock is advised.

- The crime prevention officer in Alton is always prepared to advise on property insurance and even visit householders to inspect and recommend improvements.
- *Nick will forward to Colin* some extra copies of the Watch handbook for our new members.

6. Current Issues:

- Following the theft of village hall slabs the trustees have now ensured that valuables are locked up. However it as proposed that *Colin* should write to the Chairman regarding the security the new valuable items in the hall. It is, in effect, an “outbuilding full of goodies” that could attract criminal attention.
- The PC has advised that the terrorism presentation will take place in February. Nick reported that he considered it worthwhile. Plans should be made to advertise the event for a good turnout. *Colin*
- It was agreed that our strategy should remain the same but to employ a greater use of the web site for advice and information, particularly the extra E-Mails coming from the police. This would avoid too much E mail information. *Colin and Richard*.

7. Data Base and Area Allocation Report

- *David asked all co-ordinators* to advise him of any changes to their areas, this is vital to ensure that we have the correct information centrally stored securely. He explained that around 90% of households were signed up to the scheme with around 60% participating on E-Mail.
- Sue advised that she had approached the Valley Nursery Complex to participate in the scheme.

8. Treasurer’s Report

- In Richard’s absence Colin presented the latest accounts standing at £122.22. Expenses of sign covers (£9.00) and postage for a new co-ordinator (£7.20) had been incurred since the previous report. Outstanding claims are for further postage and hire of the hall.
- Although it was agreed we would not ask the PC for any more funds at this time, we will set a minimum fund of £50 to apply for extra cash. *Richard*

9. Article for Beech Newsletter

- *Chris* has agreed to draft articles over the next year on seasonal advice received from the police. *Colin* will advise Chris of issues coming out of this meeting for publication.

10. Village Initiatives

- It was agreed that *David* would produce a new set of up to date calling cards for all co-ordinators. *Colin* will draft an accompanying letter for each member to amend as they saw fit for their patch, for the co-ordinators to re-introduce themselves to their areas and to up date the household details whilst requesting E-Mail participation.

11. Any Other Business

- Nothing raised.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- Tuesday 9th March 2010 at 8:00pm at Beech Village Hall.

Colin Britchford, 7th October 2009

cc. Attendees

Absentees

Patrick Burridge.

Parish Council:

Please would Sheron Gilliard distribute to the Councillors