

**Draft Notes** Minutes of meeting held on 23rd March 2009 at Sutton St Edmund Village Hall commencing at 8.00pm. **To be read and signed at 2010 meeting**

Chaired By: Cllr Morris – Chairman of Parish Council

Invited speakers: Inspector Timmins of Lincolnshire Police

Also present: Cllr Seymour SHDC, The Parish Clerk and 10 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced Inspector Timmins.

Due to Inspector Timmins schedule item 5 on the Agenda was brought forward.

5. Inspector Timmins introduced himself and explained he had been at Spalding for 7 months, has 50 police officers and covers everything from Donnington to Sutton Bridge and south of this.

He went on to explain the Police forces pledges and aims for community policing, the main points being visibility in the community, inter county co-operation and as much presence as possible at the busiest times and in the busiest areas.

He explained that PCSOs now have increased powers to enforce parking penalties but that this is to be used with discretion.

Due to Sutton St Edmunds location it is a prime candidate for cross boarder crime, but due to the placement of number plate reading cameras to flag up known vehicles and the good communication between Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire police the crime level in this area has decreased on past years.

Inspector Timmins welcomed any input the public wish to give him about his police officers and uses this as a form of quality control.

Questions followed:

Are 50 police officers enough for this area?

This would be the norm per head in a rural area, the number is hoped to increase over the next year and if and when necessary extra officers can be made available.

Speeding is a problem in our area. What can be done to help?

When problems are recurring and reported a focus can be made on a specific area for a few weeks, this can have a longer effect. The police are well aware of this problem and working alongside the LRS partnership are endeavouring to decrease fatalities within the county.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Timmins for his talk and sparing us his time.

2. The Clerks notes of the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were read and proposed to be a true record of the meeting, it was resolved to sign the notes as minutes.

3. The Chairman gave a short address:

In the last 12 months the most important work has been the repairs to sections of Broadgate. We owe thanks to Cllr Webb for helping to secure funding of £85,000 however there does not seem to be a lot of work for so much money.

## Sutton St Edmund Annual Parish Meeting 2009

Thank you to our District councillor, Cllr Seymour for attending all of our meetings and for helping to solve problems as and when needed.

Thanks to our clerk for her hard work over the past year and to all our Councillors. Last but by no means least thank you to Mrs McKinnon, our litter picker for doing such a good job.

The shelter at the playing field has now been painted and new trees have been planted around the field.

4.The clerk gave a short financial statement:

Finances for the year 2008/09 have kept within budget and the council once again had a successful annual Audit.

Money spent on repairs and maintenance to the shelter at the playing field was kindly donated by the Poors charities.

The Council purchased a new notice board for the centre of the village.

There is a reduction in income due to bank interest rates being slashed as a result of the recession.

The recession also plays a part in this year's precept (which is the part of the Council Tax set by the parish Council for its upkeep) with some careful planning and budgeting the Council have been able keep the precept at the same level as last year, giving parishioners a 0% increase for the Parish Councils portion of next years Council Tax.

6.There followed an open forum:

There were no questions.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.35pm

Confirmed and approved

Signed:

Date