

1st September 2010

Public Question Time

1) Mr. Donaldson asked if any progress had been made with the allotments; Mrs. Stallard replied that a bio-diversity audit had been carried out on Shuttleton Common last week but no results have been received yet.

2) Mr. Bowden reported the following:

- ◆ Cars parking between the Catherine Wheel and Church and in the Broadway reducing the road to one lane wide; he said that inconsiderate parking is an offence.
- ◆ The drainage channel under Station Road, just before the flood plain, still has not been cleaned out.
- ◆ The 30mph signs at the bottom of Pencross Hill are not visible therefore they are not enforceable.
- ◆ No.2 street light in Eastlands has not been working satisfactorily for 2 years; now all the lights in Eastlands and South View are not working.

3) Mr. Calcraft asked if the grass was going to be cut by the gas tanks on the old Station site – clerk to contact Wrencom, the owner of the land.

4) Mr. I. Pike asked what was going to be done about Downmead; there are people in the village living in fear and afraid to open their doors; Mrs. Heath said it was horrendous that someone in Hemyock is too frightened to answer their own door; Mr. Bowden said he had seen a group of lads chasing another boy on a bicycle.

Mr. P. Smith and Mrs. B. Povah said the situation needs to be addressed, they keep a log of everything that is happening at Downmead and Mr. Smith said the staff appear to be at their wits end as well. Mr. Smith said their quality of life is threatened significantly and they feel threatened; the Police are not willing to go to Downmead without back-up. The care-workers have said if you would like to call the Police then do. Mr. Smith said that this evening as they were coming to the meeting when they passed Downmead 2 lads were up on the garage roof and one lad was swinging from an electricity cable. Mr. I. Pike said he had contacted the Police at 11.30 as lads were trying to get into a neighbour's car, he was told to ring 999, the staff apparently also ring 999 when the lads run off. The lads were seen at 3am this morning on the bridge by Hemyock Motors; Mr. Smith said their language is terrible and they fight constantly.

Mr. Rosamond said that the District Council is setting up a Scrutiny Committee meeting and asked parishioners to write everything down.

Mrs. Stallard asked if any parishioners had any other queries, then we would return to the Downmead problem.

5) Mrs. Gubb asked what was happening at The Old School Court; Mrs. Stallard replied that it was on the agenda and would be discussed later.

Downmead

The clerk had written to Keys Child Care following the July Parish Council meeting, the letter had been copied to Somerset Social Services and Neil Parish MP; replies had been received from Somerset Social Services and Neil Parish at the August Parish Council meeting; we have now received a reply from Keys Child Care.

Mr. Smith said the situation has got worse over the last few months; Keys Child Care took over from Sedgemoor College about 3 years ago; the lady who is now the manager has made a significant effort to come to speak to them. Mrs. Povah said that there is much more violence now.

Mrs. Stallard said that the last week or two everyone has been complaining about the situation.

Mr. Brooke asked if Social Services place the boys there; Mr. Smith they could come from anywhere; at the moment the ones that are there come from Manchester.

It was suggested a meeting be called with the Parish Council, Manager from Downmead and neighbours; Mr.Brooke said a large meeting would end in a slanging match, it would be better to start with a small meeting.

Mr.Smith said he did not believe Keys Child Care were complying with their own policy; they have a duty of care to neighbours and they were not carrying out a risk assessment for neighbours.

Mr.Brooke said he understood that the boys cannot be shut in or restrained; Mr.I.Pike questioned if Hemyock was right place for them, 3 of the boys have been seen in a car.

Mrs. Povah said that the Police are trying to set up a meeting with the Parish Council and home owner; Mr.Rosamond said he would come along and Mr.G.Hughs would also probably like to come along as he is chairing the scrutiny committee.

Mr.Brooke said that we had asked Keys Child Care for their policies but they had not sent them – clerk to write again.

Mr. Smith said that after the helicopter incident (reported at the July Parish Council meeting) he was told that a more senior manager was coming to investigate and there was going to be an increase in staff – the situation is now totally out of control; Mrs.Heath said the trouble is now continuous.

It was decided that a meeting be held with Police, Councillors, owners and manager from Downmead, and Mr. Smith, Mrs. Povah and Mrs.Heath.