

**Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in Aldington Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors; L Harman (Chairman), R Lloyd and W Parkinson

**In attendance:** Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk

Also present: PCSO A Brooks and 2 members of the public.

**Absent:** Councillor A Bowman

**1040. Apologies for absence:**

Councillors: M Boulden, R Boulding, R Spicer and S Wagstaff.

**1041. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**1042. Neighbourhood Watch:**

See attached Report. PCSO Brooks spoke to advise of the revised schedule being proposed for PCSO attendance at Parish Council meetings which, subject to approval, will be on the basis of a PCSO attending a meeting of the Parish Council every three months.

**1043. Public Participation session:**

A resident raised the issue of the football nets being permanently out and why hasn't the football pitch been rotated.

The Chairman responded that a response is currently awaited from the football club.

**1044. Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**1045. Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman reported that there were two trees that had come down in the recent storm on the old tennis court at Aldington Meadows and that the Council's contractor had been asked to clear them.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council have had their Core Strategy approved and the Clerk was asked to register with them for planning applications covering Otterpool, Lympne and Sellindge,

Evolution Power are establishing a Community Liaison Panel in connection with their application for a solar farm at Stonestreet Green and have invited two Parish Councillors to sit on the panel. This is to be taken forward a decision on who will take part will be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

Ashford Borough Council have had their strategy around wetlands approved to mitigate the effects on Stodmarsh.

**1046. Finance:**

Schedule of Payments

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
001703	Groundwork UK	Repay unspent NDP grant	£3,679.20
001704	Aldington Village Hall	Room Hire	£40.00
001705	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£960.00
001706, 001707 & 001708	Staff costs		£2,387.69
001709	Information Commissioner	Data protection fee	£40.00
001710	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£36.00

**Resolved:**

1. To note and authorise the payment of items in the schedule of payments.
2. To authorise the transfer of £7,000.00 from deposit account to current account.

**1047. Quarry Field, Quarry Wood and Pond:**

The area adjacent to the wood will be cleared of brambles to allow tree planting later in the year as regulations prevent this being done due to nesting birds.

The Clerk was asked to organise a plaque for the specimen tree that is to be planted.

**1048. Community Garden:**

The contractors have finished the hard landscaping of the site and the volunteers have returned to hand weed prior to planting. The raised beds are ready for use and the two benches previously on the site have been fully restored.

**1049. Play equipment:**

An initial quotation has been received for a base, tarmac surface and fencing in the sum of £99,995.29, the majority of the cost is for the base.

An enquiry has been made about the possible installation of a zip wire at Aldington Meadows, however it has been highlighted that as the site is not level a zip wire cannot be installed as it would fail to meet Health and Safety requirements as the speed generated going down the wire would be excessive.

Further research into the costs and other options is being undertaken as is the availability of grants.

**1050. Neighbourhood Plan:**

It is anticipated that the next workshop event on Local Needs Housing will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May we are currently awaiting confirmation from the consultants.

**1051. Events Committee:**

The committee recently met and finalised details for the Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt. An outline plan for the Jubilee events has been compiled.

**1052. Allotments:**

The annual renewals process has been completed and there are currently vacancies on the Aldington Meadows site. **Arrangements** have been put in place for the vacant plots to be rotovated.

A quotation has been received for the supply of 8 sheds which it is proposed to site on the plots at Aldington Meadows this is in the sum of £5,264.00. allotments holders at the Meadows were asked when the renewal notices were sent out about the possible provision of sheds and water barrels, this was well received.

The Parish Council is asked to give approval for the Parish Clerk to submit an application to Ashford Borough Council for the release of S106 monies held for allotments to enable the project to move forward.

**Resolved: to authorise the Parish Clerk to submit an application to the Borough Council for the release of s106 monies to take the project forward.**

**1053. Football on Quarry Field:**

The football club proposals are still awaited.

**1054. Kent County Council Strategic Statement:**

KCC is currently engaging partners on the development of their new Council Strategy 2022 – 2026, Framing Kent's Future. It sets out draft objectives and commitments, and shapes how KCC will work as a Council and with partners to improve life for Kent residents, businesses and communities.

The attached provides a summary of the draft strategy, which KCC are welcoming thoughts and comments on. It would be particularly useful to hear views on the following:

- Are the proposed 'commitments' right?
- Are the examples of activity that sit within each commitment what you would expect to see?
- Is anything missing?
- Is there a local council perspective missing that needs to be reflected?

**Resolved: to submit a comment regarding the lack of a strategy for rural roads in particular in terms of appropriate speed limits and surface condition as well as the impact that SatNAV has when diverting users away from major roads at busy times.**

**1055. National Association of Local Councils:**

The National Association of Local Council (NALC) has a committee specifically dedicated to smaller Parish Council – these are defined as those councils with an

electorate under 6,000. The members who serve on the committee all come from small local councils themselves.

NALC would like to hear from councils on the issues they would like them to address that are specific to small councils and to invite councils to tell them what services NALC could consider offering to meet their needs. For instance, are there any specific issues to be fed into NALC's online events, committee meetings or national network sessions which would be useful and/or is there a particular issue NALC should be lobbying government about which they are not currently?

The committee has been considering the following subjects:

- Practice regarding planning consultations
- Carbon literacy
- Identifying future membership needs for advice/guidance and providing feedback/input on NALC services
- Practical issues arising from small councils having limited capacity
- Sharing good practice, supporting NALC campaigns/big themes and helping develop the evidence base including through surveys
- Improving good governance
- Increasing take-up of the Local Council Award Scheme and CiLCA

**Resolved: to submit a request that consideration be given to the reduction of the national speed limit on rural lanes and the impact that SatNav has on traffic flows on these.**

**1056. Memorial Bench:**

The Parish Council is asked to consider and authorise the purchase of a memorial bench to be sited on Roman Road next to the noticeboard adjacent to Calleywell Lane to commemorate Peter Kemp.

**Resolved: To authorise the purchase and siting of a memorial bench on Roman Road.**

**1057. Any items for information:**

Members asked that consideration be given to moving the Parish Council meetings back to the Eco Centre as users of the main hall make it difficult to hear what is being said. Contact will be made with the Eco Centre and an item will be placed on the next Parish Council agenda to discuss.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

## REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2022

By Peter New 91725 Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch Team.  
Please accept my apologies for tonight due to a prior engagement.

### Introduction

This report will now be the type of report that members will receive going forwards. Although I have been working with other councils for much longer, I feel Aldington Parish Council have, in the time I have been attending, seen the types of material and information that I can put out into the community. I do not feel there is a need now to continue demonstrate the types of campaigns that you can call on or I can issue going forwards.

I intend to issue a shorter sharper focused report and I hope with your approval to utilise your website to help promulgate our crime and safety message for Aldington.

### The Report

Dear Members

Please see crime report with an incident in the area of **SMARDEN**. I am using this crime report to demonstrate the types of crime occurring across the District. It need not happen in Aldington for us to learn our crime prevention needs.

These are the exact type of crimes we face now.

**Thefts from vehicles,sheds,garages,stables,barns, outbuildings,pavilions,clubhouses and any form of external storage.**

### **Shown below, VEHICLES & GARAGES**

Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property Stolen	Misc Info
46/57469/22	Godinton	Cobbswood Ind Est, Ashford	Theft from a motor vehicle	28/03/2022 00:00		Not yet known	Side of lorry cu rear doors ope
46/57493/22	Weald North	Pluckley Rd, Smarden	Burglary Residential - Dwelling	26/03/2022 12:00	28/03/2022 08:00	Wacker plate and cycles	x3 garages

That is the exact crime and risk that all areas are vulnerable to and with good prevention advice the risk can be reduced.

MANY CRIMES ARE **PREVENTABLE** and **AVOIDABLE**. Our warnings, alerts and learning from other areas will allow us to issue good guidance and prevention advice into the community.

Alongside the trend crimes for the District, we face three other major areas of concern

1. **SCAMS** We know there is a scam for any subject we can think of. We must ensure our vulnerable members of the community are protected, especially with advice and guidance to relatives and family members. Storm Eunice and now appeals for Ukraine have required care and vigilance.

2. **FLY TIPPING**, We must ensure all matters are reported and that people understand the outcomes and consequences of using unlicensed rogue traders to remove waste.
3. **BOGUS CALLERS & ROGUE TRADERS** Again storm Eunice showed how swiftly rogue traders can adapt to a “business opportunity” that strikes communities. Ukraine has now sadly taken over, please use proper channels and organisations.

**OTHER MATTERS**

I am sure you are aware that across the district, hopefully yet to strike in your parish, there is the problem of Catapults.

I am running a government petition to seek a change in the law.

**From:** "Petitions: UK Government and Parliament" <[no-reply@petition.parliament.uk](mailto:no-reply@petition.parliament.uk)>  
**Date:** 21 March 2022 at 09:13:16 GMT  
**To:** [peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com)  
**Subject:** We published your petition “Change the law so that possession of a catapult in public becomes an offence”

<p>Dear Peter New,</p> <p>We published the petition you created – “Change the law so that possession of a catapult in public becomes an offence”</p> <p>Click this link to see your petition and start sharing it:  <a href="https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/611526">https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/611526</a></p> <p>Thanks,  The Petitions team  UK Government and Parliament</p>	

Finally going forward, I believe I know the direction of travel you wish to take. As we stand the communications into the community will be

Facebook group for ALDINGTON

Email to NHW members in the area.

Any newsletter space afforded to me by you in Parish publications.

On your Web site I would like to use the heading which you have created

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Then 3 drop down boxes

1 Introduction What is NHW

2 Introduction to myself as coordinator

3 Monthly articles on the page.



**Speak up to  
stop rural crime.**

Criminal gangs exploit our local wildlife,  
environment and communities.

Your voice can  
make a difference.

Speak up to our charity.  
100% anonymous. Always.

[crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

**CrimeStoppers.**  
0800 555 111  
100% anonymous. Always.

Keeping rural communities safer together.  
Speak up. Stop Crime.

**Thank you all very much, I really do appreciate all your support.  
Peter**

**Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)  
Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch Team**



**EMERGENCY ADDITION TO THE REPORT**

I hope by the time you are reading this report I will have already discussed this with the Chair and the Clerk. I am led to believe that all Councils have received this mail. I had no knowledge of it prior to despatch. It was not discussed with me at all.

I think the Chair and myself saw moves like this coming and why we agreed I would attend meetings when possible.

I think in Aldington we have an excellent NHW set up and a good relationship

Ashford Police have been unlucky with several resignations from the Force coupled with several long term sickness issues/injuries. They are short staffed!

Having said that It must be 6 or more months since a PCSO attended Aldington and there have been numerous changes in my short 4 years as a volunteer.

Sadly for a period of time the issue of PCSOs in Ashford have been like rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic. Constant area changes and real no continuity save for a few areas. We all know resources are thin and residents want police officers out there attacking crime.

I feel going forwards nothing will change between myself and you the council.

However I am sure you will be making a response but I sense across the District, councils will be disappointed that this move does not reflect the words in the Kent Force Plan.

I am certain that our partnership of NHW and you the council will keep Aldington as safe and secure as possible.

**THE EMAIL From:** Katherine Richards 46059656 <[Katherine.Richards@kent.police.uk](mailto:Katherine.Richards@kent.police.uk)>

**Sent:** 05 April 2022 12:04

**Subject:** Ref: Parish Council Meetings

Good morning,

Ashford CSU is changing our approach to Parish Council meetings. We will aim to send a PCSO every 3 months unless you let us know by e-mail that you don't need attendance that frequently. Some Councils have said 1 or 2 a year and others have opted out with the proviso that if issues arise they can ask for attendance at specific meetings.

In order that we don't waste Officer's time unnecessarily please can you each respond to the following questions:-

1 – How often do you need a PCSO to attend your Parish Council meetings? (Maximum once every 3 months).

2 – Are your meeting dates and venues correct on your website?

3 – Could you notify [csu.ashford@kent.police.uk](mailto:csu.ashford@kent.police.uk) of any changes to meeting dates/times/venues going forward?

Kind regards

Kate

**PCSO 59656 Kate Richards (Community Safety Unit| Ashford Police Station | East Division)**

**THANK YOU, I felt the need to add this urgent matter and brief you**

**Peter**