

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 14th March 2022 in Aldington Village Hall, Roman Road, Aldington at 7.45pm,

Present: Councillors; L Harman (Chairman), M Boulden, R Boulding, A Bowman, W Parkinson, R Spicer and S Wagstaff.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

Also present: Peter New (Neighbourhood Watch) and 3 members of the public.

1021. Apologies for absence:

Councillor R Lloyd.

1022. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest

1023. Neighbourhood Watch:

Report attached.

1024. Public Participation Session:

There were no public submissions.

1025. Minutes:

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

1026. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that the appeal relating to the Calleywell Lane planning application was held remotely, however there were issues regarding access to the meeting where members of the public were denied entry. The outcome of the hearing is currently awaited.

1027. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1687	Sutcliffe Play Ltd	Roundabout installation	£13,253.26
1688	C P R E	Subscription	£36.00
1689	ACRK	Subscription	£90.00
1690	Aldington Village Hall	Electrical works	£647.57
1691	The Art of Design	Newsletter	£220.00
1692	Aldington Village Hall	Room Hire	£40.00
1693	JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog Waste bags	£442.20
1694	N Corfield	Allotment rent	£25.00
1695	Aldington Village Hall	Defibrillator allowance	£50.00
1696	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£960.00
1697	James Boot	Neighbourhood Plan	£258.90
1687, 1699 & 1700	Staff costs		£2,367.30
1701	A Eardley	Neighbourhood Plan	£2,619.60

1702	Kent & Biological Centre	Medway Records	Neighbourhood Plan	£360.00
------	--------------------------	----------------	--------------------	---------

Resolved:

1. To receive and authorise the payment of the items of expenditure.
2. To authorise the transfer of £8,000.00 from deposit account to current account.

1028. Quarry Field, Quarry Wood and Pond:

It is planned to extend Quarry Wood out into the dip which is currently overgrown with brambles. The area will be cleared and prepared for planting in the late autumn. It was agreed that the Council should obtain one specimen native tree which will be the Queen's Jubilee tree together with suitable plaque.

1029. Community Garden:

The raised beds are taking shape and it is hoped that the volunteers will soon be able to return to the area to commence planting.

1030. Play equipment:

Quotations are being sought for the area at Aldington Meadows to enable a scheme to be drawn up and costed prior to seeking appropriate funding.

1031. Highways Improvement Plan:

Kent Highways have advised that their bid for 2022/23 Local Transport Plan funding for the Aldington disability access improvements (which includes the Calleywell junction with Roman Road, the section of footway near to the post office and other identified locations for dropped kerbs/ tactile paving) has been successful. Now the funding source has been identified the scheme will progress with design and planning. It is unlikely that the scheme will be on site before late summer. Updates will be provided once they are received from Kent Highways.

1032. Highways Drainage:

Kent Highways advise that they have cleansed all the drains in New Road Hill and the addition of kerbstones at the entrance of Pattison Farm Close has resolved the issue.

With regard to Giggers Green Road further CCTV work is to be undertaken and reshaping of the carriageway is required. The Drainage Officer is scheduled to revisit the site and make the necessary orders for the works to be undertaken.

1033. Neighbourhood Plan:

The recent workshop, How Green is Our Plan, was very well attended with lots of useful feedback. The results of the Housing Needs Survey have been received

which has indicated a housing need for 17 small dwellings over the next ten years, enquiries are being made into a Community Led Housing Scheme.

One of the areas covered in the workshop was that of footpaths, it has been suggested that a series of suggested walks are planned with information being posted on to the website, in leaflets and information boards. This will be taken forward over the coming weeks.

1034. Events Committee:

The events committee recently met and the outline programme for the summer has been added to the Parish Council website. The Easter event posters have been displayed, thanks to Cllr Spicer for the artwork, the Easter egg hunt entry is by way of donation to the Firefighters Charity. There will also be a tombola organised by the WI, who the Parish Council thank for their support, with proceeds to go towards the children's play area project.

1035. Allotments:

Renewals are currently progressing with two outstanding at present. There are some plots at the Meadows that have become vacant and due to the length of time they have not been maintained have become overgrown.

It was agreed that the Parish Council's Contractor should be asked to come in and tidy and rotovate the vacant plots. Feedback from those renewing is that the idea of providing sheds and water barrels is a welcome addition. Suitable quotes to be obtained.

1036. Assets of Community Value:

Further to minute 1017 of 14th February 2022 submission forms have been completed and submitted to Ashford Borough Council for consideration.

1037. Football on Quarry Field:

Cllr Boulding met with the Chairman of the football club whom promised to provide proposals in time for this meeting, but they had not been received.

1038. Bonnington Village Green:

Correspondence has been received by the Parish Council concerning the Village Green which includes a request under the Freedom of Information Act for 30 years of information. This will clearly impact on the hours and work of the Parish Clerk.

1039. Any items of information:

The current situation in the Ukraine was considered. Councillor Parkinson advised that he is in regular contact with the Fire Service in Kyiv where Aldington's previous Volvo fire engine is currently in active service. Cllrs Harman and Parkinson are looking at ways to see if any help can be directed this way.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 14th MARCH 2022

By Peter New 91725 Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch Team.

Work continues recruiting and building a strong Aldington NHW Base.

I am continuing to get the message into the Community that.....

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Which is free to join can

- **Reduce crime and the opportunities for crime**
- **Help and reassure those who live in fear of crime**
- **Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities**
- **Help improve the local environment**

Those values above I believe are also close to your council's goals and values.

I try to leave my report to the last minute to capture any last-minute crimes.

Storm Eunice arrived, and before she had reached her peak, Criminals had already anticipated how to strike in the community. Bogus callers looking to cash in on storm damage where one dislodged roof tile quoted as a £20 fix suddenly becomes £2000 to our vulnerable members of the community.

Criminals will seek out pensioners, our disabled and vulnerable and my crime prevention swung into full scale action.

Attached are some of the posters which I can use to spread the message but word of mouth from the community can be a vital support, none more so than yourselves as councillors.

The speed at which criminals adapt is alarming and already I am preparing alerts to combat "SCAMS" and BOGUS COLLECTIONS for the UKRANIAN situation.

We must use every communication tool to hand to win this battle remembering all the time that many of our potential victims have only land line communications.

I constantly lobby police forums about that issue and the Police longer term strategy for communications in both directions.

I also have had concerns that legitimate charity organisations have had collectors on doorsteps far too late in these dark evenings where my advice to pensioners is to not even consider opening the door.

Door Stop Callers

We Doorstep criminals call on unsuspecting householders offering deals you can't refuse! But, you should. If you accept their work, the chances are you'll pay much more than you'd bargained for with poor, unnecessary and sometimes dangerous work.

Common phrases used by rogue traders and bogus callers which are not true include:



We've been working on your neighbour's property...

I've worked on your property in the past, do you need further work?

I was driving past when I noticed loose tiles on your roof...

We have recently been released from prison and we're on probation...

To get one-step ahead of the criminals, sign up to local scam alerts at www.kent.gov.uk/consumeralerts



Storm Damage and Rogue Traders

Please be aware of the risk of rogue traders taking advantage of the recent storm and the damage it has caused. Do not be afraid to refuse uninvited callers offering on the spot repairs or maintenance as you run the risk of poor workmanship, extortionate charges or both. If you have need of any repairs, you should contact your insurance company in the first place. If you do need to arrange a repair to me made please speak to family and friends to obtain details of recommended and trusted traders before getting a number of quotes to make a comparison.

If you do have any suspicions around callers then please contact Trading Standards or in an emergency please call the police on 999.

During and immediately after a series of warnings and alerts were put out into the community warning of ROGUE TRADERS/BOGUS CALLERS looking to prey on our vulnerable community members.

Sadly criminals will use Storm Eunice as yet another "Business Opportunity"

At times during this period I was in constant touch with the Ashford Police Commander Nick Sparkes to ensure our crime prevention matched the changing circumstances.



Peter New



Admin 20 Feb · 📧

Dear Readers

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

Once again the Ashford Police Commander, Chief Inspector Sparkes, has asked me to stress to the community that as the danger of the storms pass and we all start to clear up and repair structural damage that ROGUE TRADERS/BOGUS CALLER WORKMAN are a risk to residents.

Please firstly proceed with caution for work to be carried out.

Do not agree to work from unsolicited callers to your door

Above all if you have elderly/aged/vulnerable relatives who may not be in touch with crime prevention advice like this please help and advise them.

Thank you

Peyer

Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch Team



ALERT



DOORSTEP CRIMINALS

Protect yourself and others against rogue traders

Most people who call at your home are genuine. But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to sell you services or items you do not want or need or carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.

If you're concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand, and never pay in full until you're completely satisfied with the work.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

Pressurised selling on your doorstep is a crime and you can report it:

- kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards or call 0808 223 1133
- For advice: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/
- Follow @kent_ECU or email kfas@ecis.police.uk



**Kent
Police**

Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

www.kent.police.uk   

Beware of suspicious callers

Most people who call at your home are genuine.

But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to:

- Trick their way into your home to steal valuables or money
- Sell you services or items you do not want or need
- Carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.



If concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can also:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Never leave your door unattended
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you.



**Kent
Police**

Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

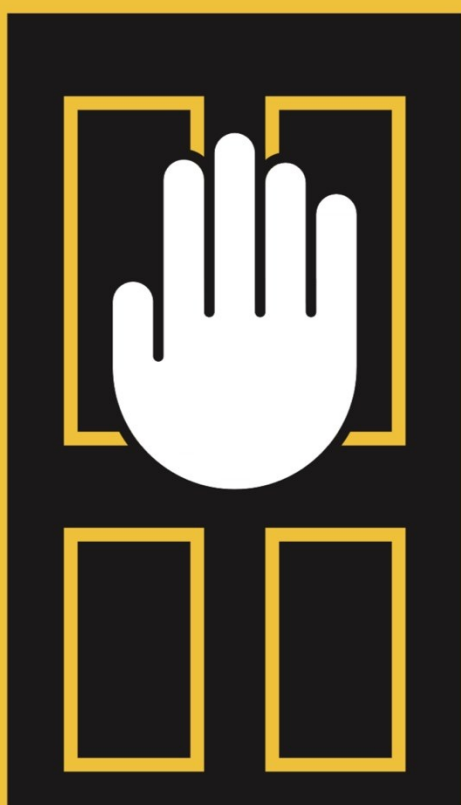
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

www.kent.police.uk   

There have been cases across the wider District of Bogus callers and Rogue Traders. Never agree to any unsolicited work on your doorstep. **ADVICE TO RESIDENTS when in doubt do not even open your door.**

You don't have to open the door to unexpected visitors



You can also:

- lock the rest of your home before opening the front door
- use a keychain and spy hole and check their ID
- stay with them when they are in your home
- ask them to come back later if you are worried

Find out more www.kent.police.uk/burglary

OTHER TREND AREAS

We must ensure that the community is aware that VEHICLES, VANS with tools especially, GARAGES, SHEDS, BARNs, STABLES, OUT BUILDINGS, and any form of EXTERNAL STORAGE are a target.

If our crime prevention is solid, we can stop PREVENTABLE and AVOIDABLE CRIME.

We must be that up front and honest with the community.... they are the areas!!


Alongside that HEATING OIL STORAGE TANKS and matters like DOG THEFTS must feature in our thinking. Sadly, dog thefts occurred recently in the village of CHILHAM.

Below are some of the posters to combat these crimes.

Protect your property

Given the opportunity, thieves will target **sheds** and **garages** for items such as high-value power tools and bikes.

Take measures to protect your valuables and reduce this risk of theft.



- Keep garages or sheds locked when not in use
- Consider fitting security alarms and external lights where possible
- Security mark valuable items and keep receipts somewhere safe
- Lock away tools or equipment that could be stolen or used to break in to your property
- Dispose of packaging carefully – wrapping and boxes can advertise rich pickings for criminals

Protect your heating oil tank

Most people who use heating oil at home or at work take steps to help keep fuel tanks secure.



Do you:

- keep your yard or drive gates closed and lock and maintain boundary fences and hedges?
- keep your tank within view from your home or office but where it may be difficult for thieves to spot?
- plant thorny shrubs around your tank to make it hard for thieves to reach without catching their skin or clothing?
- lock away tools so they can't be used to access your tank?

Have you:

- considered installing CCTV, security lighting or a level alarm which will sound if the level of your fuel drops suddenly?

Again these are the types of campaigns I will run to try to combat these crimes.

Another area of great concern to me is the issue of **CATAPULTS**.

These are often used causing criminal damage and are at the root of so much of the Anti Social behaviour.

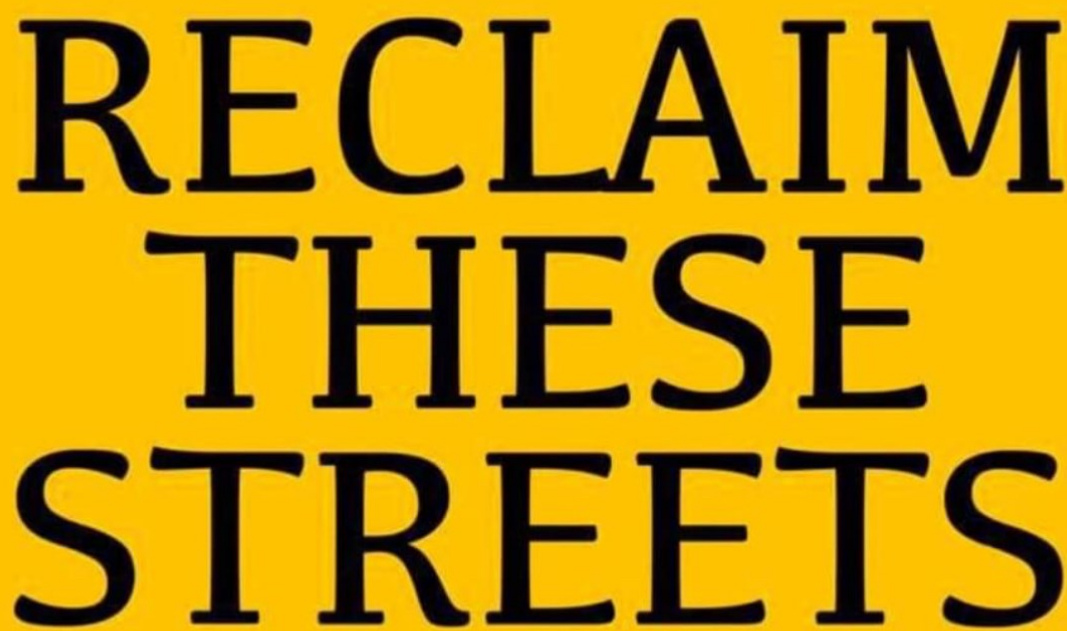
I have a meeting with the Police Commander this week and hope to make a positive move on this matter which I will report on at future meetings.

DOG THEFTS

Whilst to date we have had no thefts in Aldington I continue to monitor Kent and sadly nearby in Chilham dog thefts have recently occurred.

A matter which I have been at the forefront of is the issue of VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS to which I have attended 2 conferences with the police.

I took part in the **RECLAIM THE STREETS MARCH IN ASHFORD** on Sunday 6th March



**RECLAIM
THESE
STREETS**

SUNDAY, 6 MARCH 2022 AT 17:30

Ashford: Reclaim these streets

Ashford



Tackling Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The term VAWG covers a range of crimes, the common theme is that they disproportionately affect women and girls. Although we use the term 'violence against women and girls', our approach refers to all victims of any of these offences.

Crimes and behaviour covered by the term Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) include:

- rape and other sexual offences
- domestic abuse
- stalking
- 'honour'-based abuse (including female genital mutilation forced marriage, and 'honour' killings)
- as well as many others, including offences committed online

We are committed to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls and have a strong approach to actively pursue violent perpetrators. We want women and girls who live, work and socialise in our communities to feel safe. To achieve this we will be focussing on five key areas:

1. [holding offenders to account](#)
2. [support victims](#)
3. [keeping you safe](#)
4. [our culture](#)
5. [strengthening the system](#)

Leave this site

Those of you who know me well will know I have written to the Assistant Chief Constable who leads on this for the Kent Force to challenge the above strategy to have PREVENTION first as the first heading.

Holding Offenders to account should follow our every effort to **PREVENT** in the first place with policies, strategies, training and education to try to stop the issues in the first instance.

Now that maybe the fire officer in me coming to the fore however I have told the police in writing that I will be a tireless worker on this issue but a formidable challenger to get the issue of **PREVENTION** first.

REPORTING REMAINS ESSENTIAL and another matter where we must win the hearts and minds of our communities

ALL CRIMES, ATTEMPTED CRIMES/FAILED CRIMES, ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR and CRIMINAL DAMAGE MUST BE REPORTED.



So many crimes are not reported. So many times, social media platforms like FACEBOOK have reports and comments about crimes but the police have not been informed.

THE POLICE

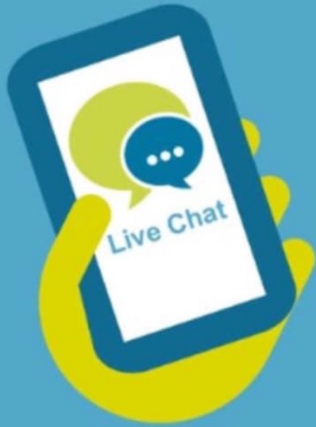
Do not hesitate to call the police on **999** if a crime is in progress or about to be committed. **Call 101** to report non urgent crime or to give the police information and intelligence. Use **CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111** to give information to the police via this network. Sometimes criminals are known in communities, but people are nervous and frightened about naming them to the police. Crimestoppers allows you to give information and even names of persons completely anonymously and confidentially.

IT IS ESSENTIAL IN RURAL AREAS THERE IS NO HESITATION TO MAKING A 999 CALL WITH TRAVEL RESPONSE TIMES.

Contacting Kent Police

-  Find your answer online. Browse our A to Z question finder www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice
-  Email your local policing team. Visit www.kent.police.uk/yourarea
-  For non-urgent issues, call **101**
-  In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**
-  If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**
-  Find us on Facebook
-  Follow us on Twitter **@kent_police** or find your local account at www.kent.police.uk/yourarea
-  Follow us on Instagram **@kent_police**

 **Kent Police** www.kent.police.uk



Need to report a crime?

Do it online



A quicker way for you to report crime and incidents



Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately

Go to www.kent.police.uk/report

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.



My communications into the community will ideally then be as follows

Facebook I write on over 100 Facebook groups including those covering your community council area.

Email to registered NHW Members for very targeted specific alerts near to them.

Council Newsletters

Your Parish Council Web page. This has now a NHW section. I will be writing an introduction and then each month have themed articles to address crime prevention

I am looking forward to continuing to work with you and supporting you and the community in 2022 and onwards. To help keep your community safe and to help you as a council deliver your visions and goals.

These types of reports have served their purpose as you are all now aware of the types of campaigns I can run especially on matters that you may be aware of first.

I have worked closely with your Chair of the Council over a period of over 3 years and since attending your council meetings I now feel all councillors will have an idea of how I work.

“CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN COMMUNITIES THAT CARE and THE MORE WE ARE THE STRONGER WE ARE “

Thank you all very much, I really do appreciate all your support, and I am extremely grateful.

Peter

Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch Team

