

**Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in Aldington Village Hall, Roman Road, Aldington at 7.30pm.**

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

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

Also present 8 members of the public.

**966. Apologies for absence:**

Councillors M Boulden and R Spicer.

**967. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**968. Broadband:**

A presentation was given by KCC as to the options available to residents in terms of provision and funding available. Emphasis was put on the deadline of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 being the close of the current voucher scheme.

**969. Neighbourhood Watch:**

Report attached.

**970. Public Participation Session:**

A member of the public spoke on the issue of Solar Farms and that meetings had been held with EDF regarding the East Stour project where some progress had been made. The subject then changed to the major proposed Solar Farm at Stonestreet Green.

**971. Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**972. Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman attended a Kent Police meeting on the subject of violence against women and girls where the opportunity was taken to highlight the lack of patrols to the rural area and the turnover of PCSO's seen.

On the subject of the Solar Farm proposal this came as a surprise to the Council, unfortunately the planning system used by Ashford is Policy led and the current Local Plan was developed before Solar Farms became common. We are in the process of trying to arrange a public meeting with the company concerned being present.

The Borough Council has instigated The Greater Ashford Borough – Environment & Land Mapping Commission. The Commission will undertake an independent land mapping exercise which will inform the Borough Council when shaping its future strategies.

**973. Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1643	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£1,020.00
1644	The Art of Design	Neighbourhood Plan	£3,000.00
1645	Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£100.00
1646, 1647 & 1648	Staff costs		£2,127.45

The Parish Clerk has received notification that Kent County Council has received emergency grant funding from central Government to be used to support efforts towards preventing or containing the spread of Covid-19. Parish Councils are eligible to claim for additional costs incurred in respect of cleaning of play areas and the additional costs incurred to facilitate remote working.

**Resolved:**

1. To receive and authorise payment of the items of expenditure.
2. To authorise the transfer of £6,000.00 from deposit account to current account.
3. To request the Parish Clerk to submit a claim for the Covid-19 grant.
4. To provide a prize to the Aldington Village Hall Xmas fair.

**974. Finance, half year review:**

**Report ABPC/21/16** brings to the Parish Council an update on its financial standing against its budget at the end of the first half of the financial year.

**Resolved:**

1. To receive and note **Report ABPC/21/16**
2. To receive and note the financial position at the end of the first half of the financial year.

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

Work to undertake the second stage of the pond clearance is planned to take place the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**976. Community Garden:**

A quotation for the hard landscaping of the Community Garden has been received in the sum of £6,945.00 which can be financed by way of the allotment allocation of Section 106 monies held by Ashford Borough Council.

**Resolved:**

1. To authorise the Parish Clerk to request the funding from Ashford Borough Council.
2. To authorise the Parish Clerk to place the contract for the hard landscaping.

**977. Play Equipment:**

The replacement roundabout for the play area at Reynolds Playing Field has been ordered and an estimated installation date of the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 has been provided by the company.

**978. Highways Improvement Plan:**

Further information on the progress of the Highways Improvement Plan is awaited from Kent Highways.

**979. Events Committee:**

The Parish Council is asked to establish an Events Committee which will be made up of members of the Parish Council as well as members of the community who are interested in organising events for the community.

The purpose of the committee is to act as an information hub and to promote any events that are taking place in the community.

**Resolved: The Parish Council will establish an events committee comprised of Councillors and members of the community who are interested in organising events.**

**980. Housing Needs Survey:**

As part of the research for the Neighbourhood Plan a Housing Needs Survey is currently taking place, the last being undertaken in 2015, this is being funded by Ashford Borough Council with the survey being delivered and collected by volunteers.

**981. Neighbourhood Plan:**

Following recent notifications about solar farms the Chairman requested the support of the Parish Council in seeking further input from the consultants in order to bring forward the completion date of the plan. The Parish Clerk outlined the expenditure to date and the projected costs against the funding received to date and the remaining funding available from Locality.

**Resolved: to seek additional assistance from the consultants in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.**

**982. Football on Quarry Field:**

No matches have been played recently and the proposed meeting of representatives from the football club and the Vice-Chairman is still to take place.

**983. Trees:**

The essential tree works identified in the Arboriculture Report are scheduled to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

It was agreed that the area of brambles adjacent to the wood be cleared with a view to extending the woodland.

**984. Any items of information:**

Councillor Boulding reported that the Electric Vehicle Charging points at the Village Hall were now available for use.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:40 pm

## **REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2021**

By Peter New 91725 Police Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Team.

Members will recall I attended the October meeting at the invitation of the Council where I gave a verbal introduction to myself and spoke to my report about my work in the District, but especially Aldington and how that may dovetail into the Council plans and strategies for the Community in Crime Prevention and a Safer Community.

I reported I managed 21 Operational NHW Schemes for Aldington

It will be my intention to produce a report to each council meeting which builds into a longer-term plan for crime prevention and a number of safety matters.

Members will recall I mentioned the appointment of PCSO Anne Martin who now covers Aldington, and I have commenced a series of familiarisation visits with her.

I will report on the PCSO position in Ashford District.

I attended the **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN and GIRLS** in Ashford along with your Chair, Councillor Harman.

It is important that words and presentations at that meeting are matched by actions of the police, partner agencies and the community as a whole.  
Issues below to consider.

STREET LIGHTING

LAMPPOSTS

EXTERNAL DOORS ON PREMISES

PLANNING WITH NEW BUILD SITES

PARKING FOR WOMEN AT WORK

It is important that our words are matched by our actions and that we examine everything to ensure women feel safe in the community

Also in the picture annex are items that as a council you can take and use in matters like parking, emergency vehicles access and indeed routine deliveries and actions like refuse collections.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN ALDINGTON

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**

**“PREVENTION IS THE KEY TO THIS WORK”** We can never ever quantify what we have prevented or indeed what we may prevent.

**THE MORE WE ARE THE STRONGER WE ARE and CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN A COMMUNITY THAT CARES. THIS COUNCIL CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES IT’S COMMITMENT TO A SAFER COMMUNITY.**



I will always be in uniform when working and will always carry Police I.D. when in the area.

### **ALDINGTON CRIME TRENDS**

The Main Crime Trends to be aware of and the focus of our crime prevention advice will be as follows:

1. **ALL PREMISES** secure at all times especially **Garages, Sheds, Outbuildings, Barns, Stables and any External Storage. Risk assess what is stored in sheds i.e. expensive fishing equipment and golf clubs.**
2. **VEHICLES** leave nothing whatsoever on show in a parked vehicle. **Vans and Commercial vehicles with tools, equipment and goods left inside at night are vulnerable**
3. **SCAMS by Mobile Phone, Land Line, Computers, Tablets and still occasionally by caller at the door. From 3, 30, 300 or even 3000 miles away.**
4. **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR/ CRIMINAL DAMAGE** Report all incidents no matter how small.
5. **THEFTS OF DELIVERIES** from the doorstep. Try to make safe arrangements for accepting deliveries if you are likely to be out. Delivery vans are now followed by criminals, and this will increase in the run up to Christmas.
6. **DRUG ACTIVITY** The need to try and take action against all drug activity as this drives so much of the lower-level crime that plagues communities as drug users look to find monies to fund the purchase of drugs. The use of drugs can escalate and brings a different type of criminal into the community with links to County Lines.

### **THE TREND CRIMES**

To be able to react to information and intelligence and tailor crime prevention advice to the community. This amplifies the requirement to report all crimes no matter how small. It builds up a picture and pattern which operational intervention, patrols and proactive campaigns and advice can be given to communities:

- Dog Thefts
- Catalytic Converters
- Metal thefts Fire Hydrant, Water Meter and Drain covers.
- Thefts of Heating Oil from tanks
- Thefts of petrol syphoned from parked cars (now easing)
- Thefts of building supplies even from the front of houses following deliveries
- Animal thefts including exotic pets
- Livestock worrying
- E Scooters
- Nuisance Motorbikes
- Rural Crimes
- Fly Tipping The list above is examples of trends but of course many more exist, intelligence and reports from the community are essential.

I am especially proactive with my “**Clouds on the Horizon** “alerts. It doesn’t have to occur in ALDINGTON before we post crime prevention and alerts.


I will try to make all council meetings and I hope on some I will be accompanied by operational colleagues. I look forward to working with you and attending future council meetings.

I have provided an annex with

- A. LIST OF METHODS TO CONTACT THE POLICE
- B. EXAMPLES OF RECENT CRIMES IN THE DISTRICT
- C. POSTERS TO COMBAT RURAL CRIME
- D. POSTERS TO COMBAT FLY TIPPING
- E. EMERGENCY VEHICLES ACCESS.

A

**Contacting Kent Police**

-  Find your answer online. Browse our A to Z question finder [www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice](http://www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice)
-  Email your local policing team. Visit [www.kent.police.uk/yourarea](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk/yourarea)
-  Follow us on Instagram @kent\_police

 **Kent Police** [www.kent.police.uk](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555 111**

100% anonymous. Always.



It is essential that **ALL CRIMES AND ATTEMPTED CRIMES ARE 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. Reports of crime start investigations and reports on trends may shape operational direction, patrols and very importantly crime prevention.

The gathering of intelligence is so vital in the fight against crime and the formation of campaigns and strategies to combat crime through good solid community crime prevention.

**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

**REMEMBER THE POLICE ARE NOT CLAIRVOYANT.....THEY MUST BE CALLED AND TOLD**

**B). INCIDENTS IN THE AREA.**

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Property stole/damaged</b>	<b>Crime reference</b>	<b>Misc.</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	Kingsnorth Village and Bridgefields	Riverside Close area of Kingsnorth	25/10/21 0124 hours	25/10/21 0126 hours	Attempt made to open rear door – no access gained , nothing stolen	46/216010/21	
<b>Theft from motor vehicle</b>	Saxon Shore	Poundhurst Road area of Ruckinge	23/10/21 1300 hours	23/10/21 1606 hours	2 wallets and tobacco stolen	46/216126/21	

The crime in POUNDHURST ROAD is an avoidable crime. Nothing whatsoever must be left in a car on view especially overnight. This crime is carried out by a “Chancer and Opportunist”. No planning just walking past the vehicle saw the items and struck.

EXAMPLE OF EMAIL COMMUNICATION.

Dear Members

I am sorry to report and alert you to an incident in your area, details below.  
This is an avoidable crime but clearly shows that criminals are active in the area and this is a classic “chancer and opportunist crime”.

Dear Members

Please see crime report with an incident in your area  
POUNDHURST ROAD, RUCKINGE. Also note incident in BANK ROAD ALDINGTON

Firstly any information especially CCTV, Camera doorbell footage and even if by total chance DASHCAM footage then please contact the police as below.

Secondly, the hard truth, this is an avoidable crime. It’s really hard on the victim but we must try to avoid a moments lapse as a thief will strike.

This was almost certainly the work of a “chancer and opportunist”

We cannot afford to leave anything whatsoever in a vehicle when parked especially last park up for the night

If you leave anything on show the vehicle and risk of theft is there.

Stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant

Thank you for your support

Peter

Peter New

Kent Police Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Team

Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property Stolen	Misc Info
46/216769/21	Downs West	Westwell Lane, Westwell	Theft from a motor vehicle	23/10/2021 00:01	23/10/2021 12:20	Both trade number plates	VRM; <b>D8324</b>
46/216814/21	Downs West	Kiln Close, Challock	Theft from a motor vehicle	27/10/2021 07:15	27/10/2021 07:30	Tools	Taken from Transit van
46/216818/21	Beaver	Noakes Meadow, Ashford	Attempted Burglary Residential - Dwelling	12/10/2021 00:45	12/10/2021 00:45	x2 males near front door	Disturbed by occupant
46/216933/21	Charing	The Hill, Charing	Theft from a motor vehicle	26/10/2021 22:00	27/10/2021 08:00	Cordless drill	Offside window smashed
46/217038/21	Isle of Oxney	Military Rd, Appledore	Theft from a motor vehicle	25/10/2021 12:10	25/10/2021 14:20	Items incl; wallet, satnav and stationery	Side window smashed
46/217088/21	Saxon Shore	Bank Rd, Aldington	Burglary Residential - Non-Dwelling	24/10/2021 23:00	25/10/2021 01:00	Leaf blower, sander, drill, petrol can, Hayter lawn mower and strimmer	Taken from shed and garage

With the incident in Bank Road, my actions were....

1 Prevent further incidents in the area asap.

2 Appeal for any information, witnesses, especially appeal for any CCTV/CAMERA DOORBELL and at this time of day DASHCAM footage that a passing driver may not have even realised they have witnessed a crime.

3 Immediately use the incident in a crime prevention/education process to prevent further crime.

4 If the victims are not in Aldington NHW then speak with them, offer support and enrol them.

## RURAL CRIME MESSAGES

# 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.**

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## 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?

**WINTER CRIME TREND**, also rising costs of heating make this an important area in our crime prevention.

# KEEP KENT CLEAN

ROGUE TRADERS ARE  
FLY-TIPPING ACROSS KENT.

IF YOUR WASTE IS FLY-TIPPED  
BY A FAKE WASTE DISPOSAL  
SERVICE YOU'LL FACE AN  
UNLIMITED FINE.



Before you hire a waste disposal service ask for the:

- **Waste Carrier Licence**
- **Where they dispose of their waste**
- **A receipt or invoice**

   #KeepKentClean  [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)



# FLY-TIPPING IS THE ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ITEMS



Around 80% of fly-tipped waste comes from people's homes

Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of items.

If your waste is fly tipped, by you or by someone else on your behalf, you could face a £400 fixed penalty notice or an **unlimited fine**.

Leaving items:

- \* beside street bins and recycling banks
- \* on the floor of communal bin areas
- \* outside closed recycling centres and charity shops

are **all fly tipping**.



**A fire engine needs a gap of  
at least 3.1m (10ft) to get through**



**Next time you park please think about  
whether a fire engine can get through.**







DOMESTIC DELIVERIES/REFUSE COLLECTION, think size of vehicles

### **CONCLUSION**

It is important that in an expanding growing area like the ASHFORD DISTRICT, that as many people join Neighbourhood Watch as possible.

At the start of this article, I stressed how vital crime prevention was and every single household and residence joining NHW can help play a part in keeping themselves, neighbours, and the wider community safe and secure.

The police also need to accept that Neighbourhood Watch going forward into the 2020s can assist greatly in an intelligence lead police model.

I personally hope that proactive prevention could release more funds from operational responses to be reallocated to crime prevention.

Any support from you as a council with newsletters and any form of Neighbourhood Watch promotion is greatly appreciated.

Please consider being another piece of the **CRIME PREVENTION JIGSAW !! with Aldington Neighbourhood Watch.**

Contact me on [peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com) to join NHW ALDINGTON

Take care, stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant

### **NEVER FORGET**

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

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

Peter

Peter New ([peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com))

Kent Police Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Team

