

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2022 in Aldington Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

Also present: 2 members of the public and P New (Neighbourhood Watch)

1098. Apologies for absence:

Cllr R Spicer

1099. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1100. Public Participation:

A resident raised concerns about the footpath on Roman Road between the entrance to Mount Pleasant and the footpath to Earlsfield being uneven.

This will be reported to Kent Highways.

Concern was expressed regarding the quality of the resurfacing works recently undertaken on Roman Road.

Post meeting note: Highways have marked several areas for remedial works.

1101. Neighbourhood Watch:

Report attached.

1102. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th June 2022 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1103. Chairman's Report:

Councillor Harman reported that the Borough Council's new planning system was suffering from various issues and had not gone live as expected, the company supplying the software were investigating the issues.

The Borough Council Planning Department is shortly to introduce a protocol for its officers when dealing with Neighbourhood Plans to define the roles and responsibilities to remove contention.

With regards to the EFD application various matters are being raised with the applicants and a joint approach with Mersham, Smeeth, Bilsington and KCC will be made.

The Save Aldington group has disbanded but the core members have met with the Village Alliance regarding them possibly taking over.

The next meeting of the Evolution Power Community Liaison Panel is scheduled for the 9th August and a request has been made for Public Rights of Way, Highways and visual impact assessment to be placed on the agenda.

1104. Finance:

Schedule of payments

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1727	Luminance Pro	MUGA lighting	£594.00
1728	Ashford Borough Council	Community Garden	£8,252.00
1729	SLCC	Subscription	£139.28
1730	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£1,050.00
1731	Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£140.00
1732	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£48.00
1733, 1734 & 1735	Staff costs		£2,083.37
1736	Aldington Village Hall		£3,342.00

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and authorise the payment of the items of expenditure in the schedule of payments.**
- 2. To authorise the transfer of £16,000.00 from deposit account to current account.**

1105. Planning Committee:

The following planning applications have been considered by the committee:

22/00462/AS Beaconhurst, Knoll Hill, to uphold the earlier decision to object

22/00924/AS & 22/00925/AS Street Farm, Church Lane, No objection

22/00795/AS Wheatfields pumping station, a site visit to be undertaken before submitting comments.

1106. Quarry Field, Quarry Wood and Pond:

A resident has raised concerns regarding dogs being able to exercise on the playing field and suggesting that if dogs are to be allowed to run free they should either be muzzled or kept in a separate fenced off area.

There are regulations that cover these matters namely, the Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc.) Regulations 2006 and the Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006.

Whilst the Parish Council is a recognised authority permitted to make Dog Control Orders regulation 3 of the Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006 sets out the procedure which must strictly be adhered to otherwise the Order will be invalidated. In considering a Dog Control Order the Parish Council must be able to show that this is a necessary and proportionate response to problems caused by the activities of dogs and those in charge of them.

Consideration must also be given as to how easy a Dog Control Order would be to enforce, since failure to properly enforce could undermine the effect of an order. Only authorised officers of Parish Councils have the power to require the name and address of a person they wish to issue with a fixed penalty notice. Any person who may be authorised to issue fixed penalty notices other than a Police Community Support Officer must first satisfy certain conditions linked to training.

Any proposal must be published in the local press and allow 28 days for representations to be made and considered before the Order can be made.

Resolved: due to the impracticalities of enforcement to take no further action regarding Dog Control Orders at this time. A review of the signage on the playing field and at Aldington Meadows is to be undertaken.

It has become apparent that due to the current weather conditions the Parrot Weed on the pond is growing at an aggressive rate which will lead to further issues if not dealt with.

Resolved: to request the contractor to attend and mechanically remove the weed.

There have been lengthy discussions between the various parties on the rights of use regarding football training and matches. These are ongoing as is the requirement to finalise the pitch layout for the forthcoming season.

1107. Neighbourhood Plan:

The Neighbourhood planning team have met twice in the last month to develop the required draft policies as well as determining the photographs required to support those policies. A decarbonisation toolkit produced by Manchester will be looked at to see if there is any relevance to Aldington and Bonnington.

With regard to the Community Led Housing scheme exploration on the subject is continuing as these will not form part of the housing allocation in the Local Plan.

1108. Events Committee:

A number of stalls have been booked for the fete on the 27th August, the outdoor games will require 2 volunteers to oversee each. A provider has been found for fairground rides and arrangements are being put into place for this. Notices advertising the event have been posted and two banners will be put up.

Volunteers are required on the day to ensure the event runs smoothly.

1109. Allotments:

The S106 funds are currently awaited.

1110. Any items of information:

Cllr Boulden reported that the new catch pit on Giggers Green Road next to the tree had narrowed the road and a number of vehicles had clipped the kerb to avoid oncoming traffic. The Clerk to take up with Kent Highways.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:05pm

ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2022

Please accept my apologies for my late arrival due to a previous appointment.

As I wrote last month I will sound like a broken record, but the warnings will be constantly the same, we ignore them at our peril.

Keeping property secure. Vehicle security. Garages, sheds, barns, stables, village halls, clubhouses/pavilions, outbuildings, and any form of external storage must be secure as possible. This is where 'chancers and opportunists will strike.

Trend Crimes

Theft of fuel from parked vehicles and vehicles on farms. Heating oil thefts. Sadly, as we know the "Walnut Tree Public House was hit for cooking oils thefts and as you are aware following recent BBC news this trend is well and truly Kent wide now.

The above theft has been replicated in "The Farriers Arms" in MERSHAM alongside other thefts in Ashford District albeit there have been arrests made. See below.

Cooking oil theft suspects arrested in Ashford

Two suspects have been arrested by officers investigating reports of cooking oil theft near Ashford.

Cooking oil was stolen from a business in the Kennington area on two occasions in June 2022 and the offences were later reported to the town's Local Policing Team.

Following enquiries, a van believed to be linked to the offences was stopped by officers in Fougères Way on Tuesday 5 July.

Two men, who are both in their 20s and from north London, were arrested on suspicion of theft and have since been released on bail pending further enquiries.

Ashford District Commander Chief Inspector Nick Sparkes said: 'We advise any businesses who store cooking oil to make sure they have adequate security arrangements and any containers are not on show to potential thieves.

'Companies should review their alarm systems and CCTV cameras, as these will not only deter thieves but also make it easier for us to recover stolen goods and identify offenders in the event of any theft.

'We also advise that areas where cooking oil is stored are well-lit and items such as wheelie bins are stored away, to prevent them being used to access buildings or scale fences.'

I believe this was the tip of the iceberg and may I draw to your attention the area the thieves come from.

I am engaged in communities and wherever I can speaking to premises where there is a risk of these types of incidents.

SHED THEFTS

Again I must urge the community to be vigilant.

Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property Stolen	Misc. Info
46/128863/2	Charing	Wootton Lane area of Charing	Burglary	03/07/22 1800 hours	04/07/22 0730 hours	Unknown if any property stolen at this stage	High value damage caused to gain entry
46/129177/2	Saxon Shore	Bromley Green Road area of Ruckinge	Burglary	05/07/22 0100 hours	05/07/22 0143 hours	Property stolen : Silver Giant Glory pedal cycle Black Giant Pedal cycle Silver Trance pedal cycle Child's red and black Oset e-bike	Garage block entered
46/129183/2	Saxon Shore	Bromley Green Road area of Ruckinge	Burglary	05/07/22 0100 hours	05/07/22 0143 hours	Blue Husaberg motorcycle stolen – index : CR29434	Garage entered

The above shows examples in nearby RUCKINGE

THEFTS FROM VEHICLES/VANS

Now the other worrying trend I wish to put before council is thefts from cars, but a nasty escalation is my concern.

There is ample CCTV of criminals walking up one side of a street in the District and then down the other side trying every car door. Every so often “BINGO” one opens as it was left insecure. The thief sits inside picks up what they can and quietly leaves and moves along to the next vehicle.

WE MUST LEAVE VEHICLES SECURE WITH NOTHING WHATSOEVER LEFT INSIDE ON SHOW.

The other absolutely critical point is if a resident looks out of their bedroom window at 0230hrs in the morning and sees a person walking up and down trying car doors please ring 999 immediately, this is a “CRIME IN PROGRESS”

Why will residents not ring 999 but write on facebook the next morning? Please council help me win this battle.

The worrying recent trend is more what I refer to as a “London type car crime”

A vehicle enters a road with two criminals in it. The driver does not leave the vehicle, the vehicle is not especially quiet.

The passenger carries a hammer and steps from the vehicle and anything on show then the window is hit and the items are gone. The car roars off maybe on false plates.



Siobhan Ferguson

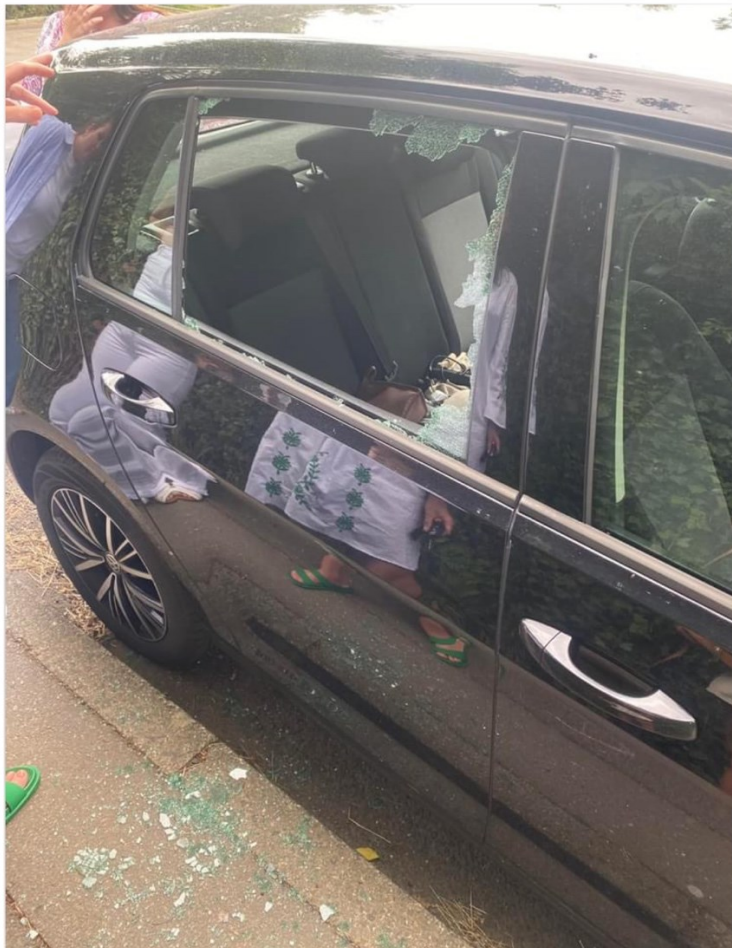
21 h · 🌐

My car was broken into this afternoon between 2pm & 4pm outside Farriers Arms pub in Mersham, Kent.

Louis Vuitton black & grey holdall taken, apple watch, mark hill curlers & clothes.

If anyone hears of anything being sold please let me know.

Please share x



An example of the crime I refer to above in nearby MERSHAM this was broad daylight, with people about.

I think we also must acknowledge that some crimes will be more apparent as difficult financial times develop.

A recent concern of the sudden rising spike in **Car Number Plate thefts**. On the face of it a more inconvenient crime than wallet busting, however if the plates are used on vehicles for other crimes, then it is a different matter.

The opportunity to fill up a full tank and roar off without paying is greatly enhanced by false number plates.

Help prevent vehicle crime

Thieves steal number plates to use in other crimes



Make sure you are not the next victim.

Fitting tamper proof screws can help prevent your number plate being stolen.



**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   

ALWAYS REPORT NUMBER PLATE THEFTS TO THE POLICE

Fly tipping remains a very severe problem in nearby RUCKINGE but thankfully that plague has missed Aldington to date I hope. Please always report

The final consistent message must be to report all crimes and attempted/failed crimes so we can build a picture to help shape our crime prevention, proactive patrols and operational responses.

I will be building a strong working relationship with our PCSO BRAD HOBBS and hope to introduce him to you sooner rather than later. The area he covers is enormous and our close working relationship together and with you the Parish Council is essential for the security and safety of Aldington residents.

May I close as always by thanking you most sincerely for all your support for the NHW Community work and for me personally.

I really appreciate it, thank you.

Stay safe and well

Peter

Peter New

91725 Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch Team