

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 9th January 2023 in Aldington Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors; L Harman (Chairman), R Boulding, L Guy, R Spicer, H Stebbings, G Taylor and S Wagstaff.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk

Also present: 2 residents

1157. Apologies for absence:

Cllr R Lloyd.

1158. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1159. Public participation:

A question was raised about the present location of the Reynolds gate. This is currently being rebuilt.

1160. Neighbourhood Watch:

Report attached.

1161. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th December 2022 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1162. Chairman's Report:

- Welcome and happy 2023! Hope you all had a great Christmas
- Welcome also to our two new Councillors.
- 2023 is a very significant year as all Parish and Borough Councillors in Ashford will run for election, as we do every 4 years, in May - giving residents and opportunity to choose who represents them on their local councils. Our new councillors will have 3 months to get a flavour of what being on the Parish Council entails!
- Despite the Christmas break, the Clerk being away and festivities on going, there was only a short sabbatical for us as councillors; Christmas events ran almost right up to the festive weekend, the last Full ABC Council meeting at ABC was on Thursday 22nd December and contact regarding planning issues recommenced on Bank Holiday Monday 2nd January.
- Park Field in Bonnington continues to cause concern to its neighbours, with works commencing ahead of approval of all planning conditions being met. After an avalanche of resident correspondence, the Planning Dept are investigating – which shows the power of engagement.
- National Grid have written to Church Lane residents regarding the end of works for the Sellindge Substation upgrade. Residents have suggested that the organisation might consider holding a public event. This sounds like a very good idea, as there is works also in Station Road, which I assume are National Grid, as no information has been forthcoming. I have engaged with National Grid, alongside Church Lane residents, to comment upon the excessive lighting specifically. I support the idea of an information event for residents.

- Evolution Power’s Statutory Consultation completed with a discussion in Ashford Borough Council’s Planning Committee on 7th December with the ABC filing a Holding Objection. The Chair of EP’s Community Liaison Panel contacted members just prior to Christmas to state that the next meeting will be on 7th February. We should hear more about their proposed next steps then.
- The King’s Coronation on Monday May 8th will be the first major community event of the year. I leave it to the Chair of the Events Committee to comment of preparations for that. Given the timing of the Coronation, the organisation of the event will fall to this administration rather than the next one.
- I have had various resident correspondence since the last meeting. One was from Walnut Ridge, where I have been asked whether we would support the installation of goal posts on the green area that we have designated a Green Space in the Neighbourhood Plan. There should certainly be landscaping and furnishing of this space, which has lots of potential for the families living in Walnut Ridge.
- To close, a reminder that the last meeting of this administration will be April 17th. Last opportunity for major decisions will be the March meeting. We have ensured that the next administration are left in a sound financial position both currently and for the year. There are many challenges ahead for this Parish.

1163. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Chq no	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1776	R Boulding	Reimbursement	£23.00
1777	Aldington Village Hall	Room Hire	£135.00
1778	ASH Timberworks	Allotment sheds	£6,314.00
1779	A Eardley	Neighbourhood plan	£4,800.00
1780	Aldington Village Hall	Room Hire	£130.31
1781	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£990.00
1782, 1783 & 1784	Staff costs		£2,432.57

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and authorise the payment of the items of expenditure in the schedule.**
- 2. To authorise the transfer of £9,000.00 from the deposit account to the current account.**

1164. Planning Committee:

The planning committee have not met this month as there have been no applications submitted for consideration.

1165. Quarry Wood, Quarry Field and Pond:

The clearance of the parrot weed is still awaited, the Clerk will follow up on this.

1166. Neighbourhood Plan:

The plan has been submitted to Ashford Borough Council for screening to ascertain if it requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or Habitats Regulations Assessment. This is currently out for consultation with a closing date of 27th January, Ashford Borough Council will report back in early February.

1167. Events Committee:

A meeting of the events committee will be convened shortly to draw up plans for the Coronation.

The carol concert was not organised by the Events committee, it was organised by an individual as a fund raising event for the benefit of an organisation determined by him. This was not a community event as reported to residents of Church Lane by National Grid.

1168. Any items for information:

Concern was expressed regarding the roads in the Parish, this will be followed up with Kent Highways together with the outstanding items on the Highways Improvement Plan.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:15pm.

REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 9th JANUARY 2023.

By 91725 Peter New Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch

Dear Council

I do not for one moment anticipate that 2023 will in anyway slow down on crime challenges from what we faced in 2022, in fact I expect an increase.

Most of my report tonight is my personal 10-point action plan to tackle crime in 2023. That is my planned statement about how I will work. This report is a scene setter for 2023.

The police are undergoing a review, communities, especially rural areas, are unsettled by the loss of PCSOs and criminals will come harder than ever across a range of crimes and scams to strike into communities.

We cannot and will not wait for those police announcements our work will commence and we will listen to the police presentation of their 2023 plans and ongoing years when they are ready.

NHW working together, looking at crime trends and crimes in the wider district we can keep Aldington & Bonnington and surrounding areas as crime free as possible and the residents free from being a victim of crime.

Equally as important to keep residents especially the vulnerable and elderly free from the fear of being a victim of crime also.

Never ever has there been a mandate to be organised and responsive to crime activity, but every step of the way have the most proactive crime prevention plans and strategies we can.

It will allow us to set out to other partners and the police "this is all we are doing in the locality and the community. I think Aldington residents are very clear about how close we are working together and the support you give me.

In 2023

I will bring/or send a report to each council meeting

I will attend as many meetings as I possibly can

I will continue to build Aldington & Bonnington and surrounding areas NHW Membership

I will continue to engage with our residents

I will continue to use the Facebook facility with the Community

I will use the Aldington Parish Council Website

I will contribute to Council Newsletters and any space granted.

I know your agendas are full, I know your time is precious but 5 or so minutes at every meeting is a golden investment in the safety and security of the Parish

Thank you for all your support.

Peter

Peter New

91725 Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PLAN for 2023



This year my own personal 10 point approach which will be:

1. To target **PREVENTABLE** and **AVOIDABLE** crimes
2. To carry out proactive **CRIME PREVENTION**
3. If crimes occur:
 - A) Try to prevent further crimes in the direct area.
 - B) Support and assist operational colleagues to make appeals/collect evidence, especially any form of CCTV
 - C) Promulgate lessons from those investigations
 - D) Go again into the community with crime prevention from lessons learnt.
4. To look and act quickly where crime trends occur in the wider Kent areas.
5. To target **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR/CRIMINAL DAMAGE/RURAL CRIME and FLY TIPPING**
6. To target **DRUG ACTIVITIES** that drive so much other crime.
7. To try to stay ahead of the **SCAMS/BOGUS CALLERS EVENTS**
8. To continue to build a strong **NHW MEMBERSHIP** across the District
- 9 To work closely with local Councils/other NHW areas
10. **ENSURE ALL CRIMES** are reported and crime numbers obtained so that the progress can be followed up on and the police can be held to account on lack of perceived response/shortfall in performance and then raise concerns in the correct manner to try to improve.

1. **PREVENTABLE** and **AVOIDABLE** CRIMES

Exactly what they say they are. If we are careful and we keep our properties and vehicles as secure as we can. If we can ensure we leave absolutely nothing on show in a vehicle we can reduce the risk of being a victim of crime.

Importantly, if the police do not reduce demand on their resources by the prevention of avoidable and preventable crimes they will continue to be overloaded and unable to meet public expectations.

2. CRIME PREVENTION

Again, working with Neighbourhood Watch to put as much crime prevention out into the community via all methods available. Especially council newsletters and magazines delivered door to door that will reach the members of the community who are not online.

Ensuring our vulnerable and especially the elderly, are not missed with the police drive to report and communicate everything online.

3. IF CRIMES OCCUR

As soon as possible send out alerts and crime reports to try to prevent further crimes in the area.

To assist operational colleagues in ensuring any evidence is not lost to the investigating officers. This is especially the case with the public posting on media outlets like Facebook ensuring vital CCTV evidence is not lost.

Of all the many faults of the police, they are not clairvoyant they must be informed. Promulgate any lessons learnt from a crime investigations and reports as soon as possible.

Then to go into the community again with new crime prevention from the outcomes of crimes.

4. CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON

It does not have to happen in a local community if we can learn from incidents further afield in the County and issue crime prevention warnings.

5. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

6. CRIMINAL DAMAGE

These crimes are often very closely linked, and cause upset and distress in communities.

Many residents suffer in silence, the need to report every and each incident must be part of the 2023 NHW Plan.

7. SCAMS and BOGUS CALLER CRIMES

There is a SCAM for anything and everything and always a risk of BOGUS CALLERS

These crimes will look to target our most vulnerable in the community, many of which will not be on the internet or mobile phones and thereby miss many of the alerts that are poured out into the community.

These crimes can come from 3, 30, 300 or 3000 miles away.

They can come from landline phones, mobile phones, computers, tablets, laptops, letters and even face to face on the doorsteps.

These criminals rely on us acting quickly and in haste, AND in a hurry with no time to think.

We must take our time and check. If in doubt, **do nothing!**

It worries me that some old age pensioners when scammed are so embarrassed that they do not tell even their family. Some never ever recover their confidence!!

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBERSHIP

I will look to increase and build my NHW Membership.

Crime alerts will be posted on as many Facebook Groups throughout Kent and Local Communities.

Targeted emails will be sent to NHW members in areas where there have been crimes or crime prevention is to be issued.

If we can get every property into NHW, we can help prevent crime.

Our work together must be:

TO KEEP RESIDENTS CRIME FREE and KEEP RESIDENTS FREE FROM THE FEAR OF BEING A VICTIM OF CRIME.

9. WORKING WITH COUNCILS

In 2022 I enjoyed support from Parish Councils and Community Councils, and I look to build on that and develop still further those partnerships

10. REPORTING OF ALL CRIMES

Not ranting and swearing on Facebook posts, not waiting to attend a council meeting months later and reporting.

2 ways to report:

- Picking up the phone and calling the police 101 (if the crime is occurring 999)
- Reporting online, or via 'live chat' on line.

Posting on Facebook is not reporting, nor is telling a NHW representative. Yes, we may offer help and guidance on how to proceed but the police must receive the reports.

e.g. If you look out your bedroom window at two o'clock in the morning and see someone trying all car doors and car boots **CALL 999, crime in progress!!**

Do not make decisions "the police are too busy" or "the police won't come". Make the call and Force Control will make the decisions and prioritise responses.

Remember by chance a passing patrol may just be at the end of your road.

I am fully aware that rural areas feel that little bit extra exposed, so even more reason to make that call straight away.

I cannot understand that all my years in the fire service people never ever hesitated to call the fire brigade but there seems a reluctance to make the call to the Police.

We must never ever forget that many residents only have a landline to report so that means **101** for **non-urgent** and **999** for **urgent/crimes in progress**.

To the elderly and the vulnerable in the community forget 101 and make a 999 call immediately. Force Control are there to help.

Once a crime is reported and a crime number issued:
We have an idea of the range and extent of the crimes
We may have a trend building
We have a crime number to add further information to
We have a crime number to follow up progress on

The real important issue is you will have a number where if you feel you did not get the correct response from the police and or outcomes you have a crime number to go back to them with and seek an explanation.

Again, not ranting and searing on Facebook but a polite and reasonable request made as per the published procedure for complaints.

To challenge ourselves, and that's all of us, to try and improve and be better.

Quite simply to try and be better because we will need to be better in 2023.

RISK ASSESSMENT

These are 'risk areas', this is where 'you could' be vulnerable to crime:

- Property secure at all times
- Garages, sheds, barns, stables, outbuildings, and any form of External storage
- Isolated village halls and sports clubhouses and changing rooms
- Vehicles if you leave items on show when parked
- Vans/Lorries carrying tools/equipment and supplies especially parked overnight.
- Internet shopping parcels stolen from doorsteps; vans now followed
- Theft of number plates for other crimes
- Thefts of number plates for drive off fuel thefts
- Theft of domestic heating oil from external storage tanks

- Catalytic Converter thefts

Care when selling and purchasing items where a buyer says they will come to your house with cash.... they sometimes grab and have a car with a second persons with the engine running.

- Dog thefts/Horse thefts and thefts from horse establishments.
- Theft of fuel from vehicles.
- Theft on farms and of farm machinery
- Thefts on building sites/developments of construction items and then from properties finished and ready for occupation, items like the white goods etc.

The above list gives headings of crimes which occur on a regular basis.

My thoughts are to warn and prepare not scare and frighten.

Please consider joining Neighbourhood Watch if you are not a member. It is free. Just read and stay safe.

Contact me:

peternew1@aol.com

Remember "CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN COMMUNITIES THAT CARE AND WHO ARE ALERT AND VIGILANT"

**Thank you for your support
Peter**

**Peter New
91725 Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch**



I will always carry my Police I.D. when working on Neighbourhood Watch.

