

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish council held on Monday 13th March 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: 1 resident and P New (Neighbourhood Watch)

1184. Apologies for absence:

Cllr R Lloyd.

1185. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1186. Public Participation:

There were no public submissions.

1187. Neighbourhood Watch:

Report attached.

1188. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1189. Chairman's Report:

The winter weather has played a major part in the increased number of potholes that we are seeing on local roads and the number being reported is far greater this year than previous years.

The weather has also played a role in the moving of fence panels and trees, there have been a number of complaints made that it is extremely difficult to log issues with Ashford Borough Council by phone. The best and quickest way is by using the ABC app which goes straight to the relevant team.

At the end of March a team of volunteers are going to dig out and returf the area around the war memorial. Aldington Fresh Foods have agreed that their outside tap can be used for watering purposes.

A meeting has been arranged with the Borough Council planning Officer and the agent for the application for a synchronous condenser plant on Church Lane to discuss the lighting and landscaping plans.

Dave Earnshaw who for a number of years has undertaken various odd jobs for the Council has stopped due to health issues. A letter of thanks is to be sent to him.

The Annual Parish Meeting has been booked for 22nd May where it is hoped that Led By The Wild can give a presentation on their work.

1190. Finance:

Schedule of payments

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1793	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£990.00
1794	Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£126.00
1795 & 1796	Staff costs		£2,274.42
1797	Aldington Village Hall	Defib power	£50.00
1798	N Corfield	Allotment rent	£25.00
1799	L Harman	Reimbursement	£107.64

The speed indicator device has developed a fault in that it will not record the data of passing traffic. The suppliers have been contacted and the manufacturers regarding this and various tests carried out. The manufacturer has asked that the electronics be returned to them for potential repair, cost unknown. The suppliers have offered to replace the electronics at a cost of £1,111.00.

Resolved:

- 1. To authorise the payment of the items of expenditure in the schedule.**
- 2. To authorise the transfer of £4,000 from the deposit account to the current account.**
- 3. To authorise the Clerk to make the appropriate arrangements with the supplier to replace the electronics in the Speed Indicator Device.**

1191. Planning Committee:

Applications considered by the committee were for Handen Farm, 8 Badgers Close, Bellfield Farm and an amended application in respect of Otterpool Park

1192. Quarry Field, Quarry Wood and Pond:

Nothing to report.

1193. Neighbourhood Plan:

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is at the present time being Proof read and printed. Councillors are asked to ensure that they have read the document prior to the next Parish Council meeting on 17th April as the Council will be asked to give approval for the Regulation 14 Consultation period to commence.

1194. Events Committee:

The Big Lunch will be taking place on the 7th May between 12 noon and 5pm based on the same format as the Jubilee celebrations albeit with a smaller food provision.

Discussion was held regarding dates for the Summer Fete, it was agreed to set this as the 15th July as this will be before the School Summer holidays.

1195. Any items of information:

The Public Right of Way from Cherry Orchard Lane towards Bonnington is partly blocked due to excavation and the gate has been replaced with a stile. This will be reported to the PROW team at KCC.

1196. Exclusion of the Public:

Resolved: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

1197. Aldington Meadows Refurbishment:

Report ABPC/22/13 details the three quotations received for the installation of an aerial runway at Aldington Meadows.

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note Report ABPC/22/13**
- 2. To award the contract for the installation of an aerial runway at Aldington Meadows to Kompan Ltd.**

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

ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NHW REPORT MARCH 2023

I am pleased to report that steady progress continues with Neighbourhood Watch in the area which I continue to add to and develop. "The more we are the stronger we are".

I have also increased our NHW membership by attending the Community Café Hub at the village hall Which I refer to later in the report.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record the areas we remain at risk from are.

Thefts form

1. Garages, sheds, allotment sheds, barns, stables and any form of external storage.
2. Cars, nothing must be left on show when parked.
3. Vans with tools and equipment stored inside when parked overnight.
4. Parcels form doorsteps, the delivery vans are now followed.
5. Number plate thefts to facilitate driving from a garage forecourt without paying.
6. Number plate thefts to cover other more serious crime.
7. Catalytic converter thefts.

Scams

There is a scam for anything and everything. Do nothing in a rush, check and check again. If in doubt do absolutely nothing.

1. Scams will come by mobile phone, landline phone, Computer/laptop/tablet by letter and face to face on the doorstep.
2. Bogus callers especially impersonating police officers in person or by phone
3. Yes of course help our elderly but please be alert for our young persons too.



No ID?

Assess, Challenge, Alert

Challenge those not wearing ID. Everyone's safety matters

- **ASSESS:** activity, behaviour and context of a person.
- **CHALLENGE:** be firm, friendly and fair.
If you are not comfortable to challenge someone then discreetly alert a colleague or supervisor
- **ALERT:** quickly and discreetly.
If you're not happy about an individual's response then make sure to dial **999** immediately

Sadly so many of the pressures on residents with the cost of living and the energy crisis provide so many 'business opportunities' for criminals to strike at the most vulnerable in the community.

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Update On Courier Fraudsters active in Kent

Further to our our previous alerts on this, we have seen further Courier Fraud type offences in the East of the County but in the last couple of days we have seen a movement to the West of the county in particular in **Sittingbourne** and the surrounding areas. There have also been reports of attempted offences in **Maidstone, Borough Green, Cranbrook, Dartford** and **Sissinghurst**.

The fraudsters are still stating they are are Police Officers and quite often from Police Stations in London. They are giving various stories but often will say that they have arrested/have person(s) in custody and will claim that they were in possession of copies of the victims Bank Cards. It's a **SCAM**.

Remember the Police will never call and ask you to withdraw cash to be collected by a courier. Neither will they ask you to hand over your Bank Cards as part of an investigation.

Remember the ABC of Fraud awareness and **NEVER ASSUME** or **BELIEVE** a call is genuine and always **CONFIRM** by ringing a trusted number (see our leaflet opposite).

If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately which you can do by calling 159 and call us on 101.

Have you been asked to withdraw cash by the police?



This is a scam.

The police or your bank will **never**:

- ask for your bank details or PIN
- ask you to transfer or withdraw and handover sums of money
- send a courier to collect your bank cards, cash or PIN

If you are unsure about a call or visitor you have received:

- Don't give out any personal or financial information.
- Hang up or close your front door to check the caller's identity.
- If they phoned you, wait 10 minutes before you use the phone again (or use a different telephone) in case they stay on the line.
- Contact their company yourself or dial 101 for the police – do not call a number they have provided.
- Report suspicious activity straight away.



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 you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our telephone service **18000**.
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
www.kent.police.uk



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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**




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

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www.kent.police.uk   

.My work with **OPERATION GUARDIAN ANGEL** has been put into operation to ensure that every possible assistance is given to residents who support/look after the elderly, disabled and persons with anything that renders them vulnerable to criminal actions.

Be under no illusions whatsoever criminals will find and locate our vulnerable members of the community and they will look to strike.

If you have a vulnerable family member in the wider Ashford Community, then contact me so I can keep you briefed on matters where they live too. I will try Look after you in Aldington but your relative also where they live too.



Fly Tipping, Anti Social Behaviour & Criminal Damage

This blights all communities causing upset, distress, and frustration. This crime hits working families very hard where damage impacts severely household budgets.

It is essential that each and every incident is reported so the full extent of the problem can be investigated allowing proactive patrols to try to prevent these incidents.

Problems of Fly Tipping continue in nearby Ruckinge despite recent police and council activity. We need each and every incident reported.

I have also attended a further conference on **VIOLENCE against WOMEN & GIRLS** on the 2nd March and also supported a similar event which was a march through the streets into Ashford Town centre on Sunday 5th March. I had the opportunity to speak on BBC News.

I am taking the unusual step of showing you work which I carry out in other areas

You will recall I left the last council meeting early to go to a meeting which was discussing new development roads.

We know in areas of Aldington the roads built in recent years cause concerns about parking and vehicle access. Not just emergency vehicles but routine deliveries and refuse collections.



The picture above shows the concerns of emergency vehicle access and sadly now routine traffic like buses, refuse collections, supermarket delivery vans and even large cars.



I draw to your attention to a new road in Chilmington. You will note my proactive NHW recruitment, and every house is in NHW already in this road, my style of working in any new build area.

May I also draw to your attention to the car on the right, it is parked on the pavement a debate which is running now about will this be illegal soon and enforced, please imagine if it was parked in the road.

I am working now to assist in the building of communities, in bring about community cohesion. I have an excellent relationship with residents, but parking will become a community issue. It will become an issue for you.

I hope road building is for 2050 not 1950, you will recall the very point I made to the team that you had present to the council re Otterpool Park.

I am working tirelessly to try to ease problems for councils not maybe today or next week but in the months, years and decades that follow.

Parking tensions bring neighbour disputes, community tension, work for councils on neighbour disputes, work for individual councillors and clerks on these matters too and finally tension that can result in police attendance. Now that all happens now in

other areas I work in on 1950s/1960s constructed roads in Ashford. I am doing my best to try and prevent those matters in 2030/2050 roads in Ashford District.



Look at the width of this new road on Chilmington.

I feel it is important to finish my article to confirm my 2023 plan

1. When crimes are committed that we immediately try to prevent further crimes in the area
2. Can we learn from the wider district to prevent crimes.
3. Can we assist with the investigations eg witnesses, information and CCTV
4. Can we issue further crime prevention from lessons learnt.
5. Can we continue to build NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH to assist in keeping our residents crime free and free from the fear of being a victim of crime.
6. Can we work on those AVOIDABLE and PREVENTABLE CRIMES

To that end please see a selection of photographs from the Community Hub visit by myself and PCSO Oli Welch on the Wednesday 8th March

Whatever the aims and objectives of these events were when you introduced the events, for my work of being able to informally sit and talk to residents about any concerns and any crime prevention advice I can give is quite simply invaluable.

Never ever forget we cannot quantify what we have prevented and indeed may prevent.

Thank you and well done.



Pictures from the Community Hub including the handing out of NO UNWANTED CALLER NHW STICKERS to keep residents as safe and secure as we possibly can.



PCSO WELCH discussing crime matters with residents.

Thank you all for your continued support for our work together and as important for your personal support for me for without it the work would be very difficult indeed.

Thank you.

Peter

Peter New Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch