

Minutes of the Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th July 2023 in Aldington Village Hall at 7:30pm.

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

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

Also present: 1 resident and Peter New (Neighbourhood Watch)

1258. Apologies for absence:

Councillors; P Hannabus, R Spicer and G Taylor.

1259. Parish Council vacancy:

One application had been received for the vacant seat representing Aldington Ward. Jessica Weatherall introduced herself to those present.

Resolved to Co-opt Jessica Weatherall as representing Aldington Ward, declaration of acceptance of office and Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Forms completed.

1260. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1261. Public Participation Session:

The hedge between the playing field and Goldwell Bungalows is overgrown and blocking the path.

This will be cut back by the new handyman.

1262. Neighbourhood Watch:

Report attached.

1263. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

- So, June was a month of settling into my new Cabinet role and we hit our first milestone and had our first Cabinet Meeting. It was attended by most of the Labour and a significant number of the Conservative opposition. The discussions were robust, as many questions were asked. Whilst it felt challenging, the questions actually led to a far more open and inclusive discussion of issues facing Ashford Borough Council, which is a good thing. I am certain that newly elected Members of the opposition groups left the Cabinet meeting much better informed than any opposition group has done in the past.
- The Council completed the acquisition of Trafalgar House on 30 May. Trafalgar House is a building at the junction of the Lower High Street and Elwick Road. It comprises 30 x 1-bed flats and 3 x studio flats. It was a 'permitted development rights' development and is managed currently by a tenant – Paramount Independent Property Services (PIPS), who have a full repairs lease and will manage the building until December 2026. Currently there are around eight Temporary Accommodation placements in Trafalgar from Ashford Borough Council with others from other Local Authorities. The Council had to move quickly as Temporary Accommodation is in high demand and many London Boroughs are currently looking for opportunities in the south east as it is a far more cost-effective option. This can lead to people, often with complex

vulnerabilities, who are largely unsupported. Given the location of the building, it was important that the Council stepped in to manage the units and assist those placed in them more effectively.

- From a Ward perspective, there are no new issues. I of course attended the recent Stone Street Green Solar consultation and the Council will join the Parish Council in putting in a response.

1264. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1265. Chairman's Report:

- Firstly, I'd like to extend the congratulations of us all to Cllr. Hannabus and Victoria on their marriage on Saturday 8th July. It was an honour to be invited to the ceremony and celebration. A wonderful event it was too.
- It was sad to hear of the imminent departure of our Walnut Tree Landlady. We thank Karen very much for her long service to the village I would like to suggest that PC makes contact with Shepherd Neame, given the Community Asset status of the Pub. I very much hope that a new proprietor is forthcoming.
- Whilst we love our pub, the Ransley event held at there on Sat 8th July elicited a letter of complaint from an adjoining neighbour to the clerk. At the end of this Report I request the Clerk to update us with his likely response and request that he replies on behalf of the PC.
- Last week we hosted CPRE Kent in this Hall to talk about their Lift it Up Campaign to focus government attention on the potential for rooftop solar to make a significant contribution to our national renewable energy targets. The event was attended by about 40 people. Thank you to those Councillors that supported the event. This is a national campaign that we can get behind and that is very relevant to our own concerns about the use of large swathes of agricultural land for solar generation.
- The Village Fete is obviously taking up a lot of our time at present. I'd like to thank Christi Stebbings for stepping forward to help with the organisation and administration, which is a huge task that has to be done behind the scenes to make events happen.

1266. Stonestreet Green Solar:

Discussion took place regarding the recent consultation undertaken by Evolution Power and the quality of their updates to the proposal being printed in the same format as the proposal causing confusion when side by side.

The information events were not long enough and precluded anyone who works outside of the Parish attending.

The comments previously submitted are still relevant and will be resubmitted.

1267. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1828	Kompan Ltd	Zipwire at Meadows	£16,975.76
1829	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£990.00
1830	Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£112.50
1831 & 1832	Staff costs		£2,318.10
1833	Precious moments parties & events	Village fete	£549.00
1834	SLCC	Annual subscription	£188.16
1835 & 1836	Transfer to Unity Bank		£30,000.00
1837 & 1838	L Harman	Reimbursement village fete	£148.40

Resolved:

1. To receive and authorise the payment of the items of expenditure in the schedule.
2. To authorise the transfer of £51,000.00 from deposit account to current account.
3. To authorise the transfer of £30,000 to the unity Trust Bank Account.

1268. Planning Committee:

Councillor Wagstaff outlined the two planning applications considered by the committee and the decisions reached.

1269. Quarry Field, Quarry Wood and Pond:

A review of the area is to be undertaken to increase the biodiversity and reduce the level of reeds/weeds in the pond.

1270. Neighbourhood Plan:

The regulation 14 consultation has now closed and the feedback will now be analysed, some of which has been negative.

1271. Aldington Meadows Recreation Area:

The Zipwire has now been installed and has passed its safety inspection.

1272. Events Committee:

The Village fete is being held on Saturday 15th July. It has been difficult to book stalls and entertainment this year as it is a popular weekend. It was agreed that next year the fete would revert to the August Bank Holiday weekend.

1273. Business Plan:

Following discussion an outline of topics was agreed for inclusion in the business plan which will be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

1274. Items for information:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm

REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2023.

I will make a short verbal update on crime matters but my main report is to ensure the council are fully aware of the new Kent Police model for how Kent Police will be policing the County of Kent and all respective communities from July 2023.

My duty to you I feel is give councillors a good insight to how Kent Police (at Ashford) intend to police area going forwards and allow you to formulate questions and or concerns.

I feel it is essential that we manage public expectations in these early months.


Crimes

I have put out warnings and appeals following a series of thefts from sheds in BILSINGTON and ALDINGTON.

Roman Road had several victims, and I am awaiting the full number of reports.

Sadly, the area where we are constantly vulnerable is as follows.

VEHICLES, SHEDS, GARAGES, BARNES, STABLES, and any form of external storage.

 East Kent Neighbourhood Watch Messaging Team Report							
Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property stolen	Misc.
46/118425/23	Saxon Shore	Ashford Road area of Mersham	Burglary	30/06/23 1800 hours	01/07/23 0900 hours	Items stolen: Yellow Suzuki LT50 Quadbike Blue Yamaha Y250 Quadbike Chainsaw Hedge-Trimmer Digger-equipment Makita Tools Drills	Damage caused
46/118523/23	Singleton West	Swaffer Way area of Singleton, Ashford	Theft of motor vehicle	25/06/23 1400 hours	27/06/23 1827 hours	Blue Yamaha 125 Motorcycle stolen, index: FL61ZFX	
46/118852/23	Saxon Shore	Roman Road area of Aldington	Burglary	04/07/23 0200 hours	04/07/23 1230 hours	Garage entered - chainsaw and Hedge-Trimmer stolen	

SAXON SHORE and other areas have been allocated Natalie Faiers. I have worked with Natalie before, and I will make every effort to support her going forwards. A glance at the size of the areas shows the task in hand for the officer.

I have already introduced Natalie to some of the key players in Aldington including the Chair of the council at the excellent Community Hub Coffee and Cake Wednesday morning.



Within the Ashford District there is the following model, and below is the mail I received on the matter.

I have put together below.

- 1. Email sent to me from CSU naming the 3 key components.**
- 2. Areas covered by PC FAIERS.**
- 3. Crime Commissioner report on new police model.**

EMAIL SENT TO ME BY CSU INSPECTOR SIMON JOHNSON

Dear Peter,

Today is the launch of the new neighbourhood Policing model in Kent. This email is only intended to update you on the beat officer ward allocation and in due course we will be in contact to discuss how the new beat officers can work with you going forward.

The new policing model will develop over time and as we are not yet at full establishment we will welcome new members to the policing team at Ashford over the coming months. As the ward allocation changes we will keep you updated.

We are still encouraging all contact to be directed into the csu.ashford@kent.police.uk email box which will ensure we can continue to respond in the most effective way during this period of transition.

The key contacts for each strand of the policing model are:

- Beat Officer team (ward based engagement and problem solving) – Sergeant Richard Batten
- Neighbourhood Task Force (district problem solving and partnership work) – Sergeant Kim Cameron
- Child Centred Policing Team – Sergeant Katie Reed

Each ward across the district will now have a nominated beat officer and their primary role is to work within their local communities. The current list of beat officers and their ward(s) are detailed below for your information:

PC 15981
Natalie Faiers

Rural North

- ZC21 Downs North
- ZC44 Saxon Shore
- ZC23 Charing
- ZC61 Bircholt
- ZC46 Wye with Hinxhill
- ZC22 Down West
- ZC66 Mersham Sevington South with Finberry
- ZC65 Kingsnorth Village
- ZC71 Upper Weald

<u>Natalie Faiers - Rural NORTH</u>	<u>Villages / Parish councils</u>
Downs north	Chilham
	Crundale
	Godmersham
	Molash
Saxon shore	Aldington
	Bilsington
	Ruckinge
	Bonnington
Charing	Charing
Bircholt	Braebourne
	Smeeth
	Hastingleigh
	Brook
Wye with Hinxhill	Wye
Downs West	Challock
	Boughton Aluph and Eastwell
	Westwell
Mersham & Sevington south with finberry	Mersham
Kingsnorth village and Bridgefield	Kingsnorth
Upper weald	Pluckley
	Little chart
	Charing Heath
	Hothfield

Matthew Scott
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

Office telephone: 01622 677055
Email: contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk

www.kent-pcc.gov.uk

The Office of the Kent
Police and Crime
Commissioner
Sutton Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 9BZ



To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel
Subject: Neighbourhood Policing Review
Date: 27 June 2023

Introduction:

1. The defining features of neighbourhood policing can be traced back to the Peelian principles. The clear emphasis on prevention, the recognition that the police are part of the community and that their power depends on public approval, are as important today as they were at the inception of the police service.
2. That is why the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable's Joint Vision states '*...We will retain neighbourhood policing as the bedrock of policing in Kent...*'
3. It is also why, in the [Making Kent Safer Plan](#), under the priority 'Be visible and responsive to the needs of communities' set for the Chief Constable, the PCC states:
'Neighbourhood policing is fundamental, providing opportunities for greater community engagement and delivering a local approach to policing that is visible, accessible and responsive to the needs and priorities of local communities.'
4. Further to previous verbal updates by the PCC, this paper provides an overview of the process surrounding Kent Police's Neighbourhood Policing Review, and position statement on the new model which came into effect on 7 June 2023.
5. The PCC is grateful to Kent Police for its assistance with this paper.

The rationale for change:

6. The Force must achieve a permanent revenue saving of £16-17 million over the next three years. It is unable to realise these savings via police officer pay due to the constraints of the Government Police Uplift Programme (PUP) and associated funding rules.
7. Over the last few years, the Force has developed and invested in the Neighbourhood Policing (NHP) model, including Integrated Offender Management, Schools Officers, Town Centre PCs, District Taskforces, Crime Prevention PCSOs and the Problem-Solving Taskforce. There have also been significant legislative changes nationally such as violence against women and girls, updated College of Policing core NHP guidelines and the Government's 'Beating crime plan'.
8. The significant changes to the policing landscape and the core NHP guidelines require all forces to have an appropriate model which provides visible and efficient NHP, in line with local priorities.
9. Therefore, the Chief Officer Team felt the time was right to remodel NHP in Kent to create an optimal model for the future and to contribute to Force savings.

Objectives:

10. The objectives of the Review were as follows:
 - I. To develop a NHP model that maintains or enhances the service provided to the public, in particular the service provided to victims and witnesses.
 - II. Contact, visibility and vulnerability must remain core to the NHP offer.
 - III. To develop a NHP model with fewer PCSO and staff posts, without compromising service delivery.
 - IV. To develop a model with geographical personal ownership of Ward(s) by police officers.
 - V. Develop a model with a tactical capability to respond effectively to high demand areas, requiring a longer-term problem-solving approach.

- VI. To develop a NHP model that contributes to Force savings whilst maintaining or enhancing the existing neighbourhood service provision.

Governance and oversight:

11. The programme of change has been governed by the Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) in his role as Senior Responsible Officer.
12. The Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) for Local Policing is the lead officer, and programme management is delivered through the Force Change Team.
13. Throughout the development of the model, the following mechanisms have been used to track progress, provide scrutiny, and ensure the programme was meeting the strategic ambitions:
- Chief Officer Management Board
 - Strategic Change and Resourcing Board
 - Chief Constable / PCC weekly briefing
 - Neighbourhood Implementation Board
 - Tactical Delivery Group
 - Senior Design Steering Group
14. The governance structure has ensured that all internal stakeholders, such as operational policing leadership teams, Finance, Force Change Team, police officer and police staff associations, and Corporate Communications, were able to deliver the requirements of the model in an organised fashion.

Consultation and engagement:

15. The level of consultation and engagement during the Review has been extensive, and includes:
- 334 police officers and staff engaged with, to assist in the review of 18 roles and job descriptions
 - Extensive engagement with all 13 Community Safety Units
 - 32 police officer and police staff managers in regular two-way dialogue with the programme team
 - Engagement with all local Independent Advisory Group (IAG) Chairs, as well as the Chair of the county IAG (the model was presented to the IAG at their county engagement event)
 - Staff at seven Community Safety Partnership meetings
 - 12 Senior Leadership Team (SLT) drop-in sessions for local District and Divisional staff
 - 476 attendees at on-line engagement events with the ACC
 - Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)
 - Joint Kent Chiefs (two formal presentations provided)
 - Violence Reduction Unit
 - KCC Prevent Team
 - Nine other police forces consulted regarding best practice

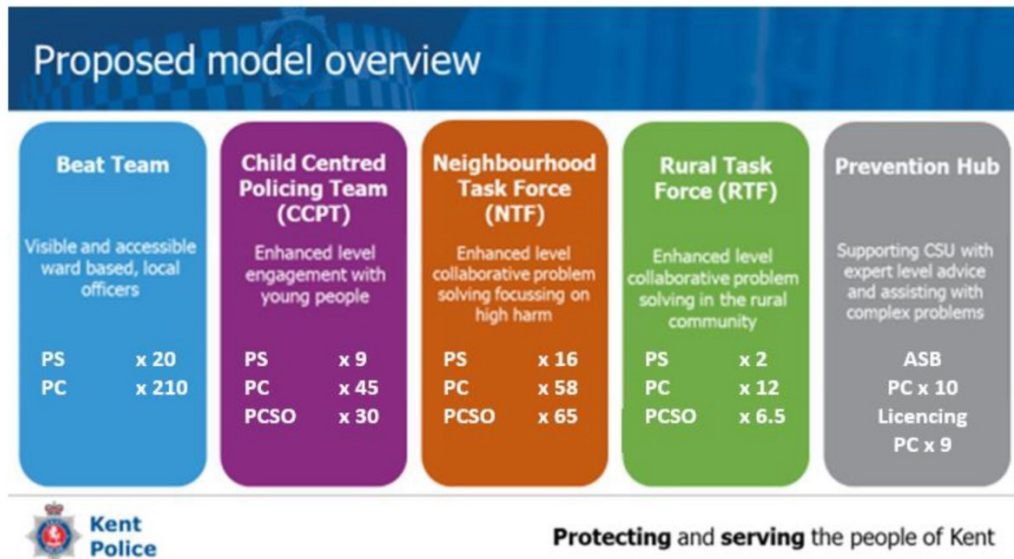
Impact on staff and support provided:

16. Every PCSO affected by the Business Case has been offered 1-2-1 engagement, with many taking the opportunity to meet with HR, operational leads, finance, Unison etc. Officers in the NHP model were likewise offered this opportunity, and in total over 500 1-2-1s have been conducted.
17. Staff associations have been involved in the Review throughout; engagement has included corporate boards, early review of communications, informal updates with two-way discussion and formal Business Case consultation.
18. From the beginning of the Review, communications from the Chief Officer Team to those affected and the wider organisation have been open and transparent. Whilst the reduction in police staff posts has been a difficult message, this has provided staff with advanced notice of the potential changes and the Force has been able to offer support as a result. There has been frequent signposting to Welfare Services, creation of a NHP Review Support Hub on SharePoint and a streamlined pathway developed for those wishing to join as police officers.

19. The Business Case was one of the largest and most impactful on staff for many years, as such, the launch on 23 November 2023 took place with all affected staff, their managers and SLT invited to an in person briefing event. The event was led by the DCC and attended by various teams able to offer help such as Welfare Services, Finance, HR, Unison and the Force Change Team.
20. Projected redundancy and pension figures were calculated for police staff ready for Business Case launch to reduce potential waiting times from external organisations and allow everyone as much time as possible to consider their options.
21. There were 336 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff posts affected by the Business Case with proposals reducing the police staff establishment within the NHP model by 232.5 FTE. This equated to 177 people or 166.15 FTE strength. As there are 103.5 posts within the new NHP model (101.5 PCSOs and two police staff), the Business Case required a reduction of 62.65 FTE.
22. There were also 259 police officers affected by the Business Case, however the proposal increased officer posts from 263 to 391 resulting in an uplift of 128.
23. 51% of PCSOs, 80% of police constables (PCs) and 91% of police sergeants (PS) secured their first preference in the desktop selection and posting processes.

The new model:

24. An overview of the new NHP model, including the number of officer and police staff posts, is shown below:



25. Under the model, every Ward will have a named police officer, and with early intervention and effective engagement at its heart, will see meaningful and targeted activity while building on the Community Safety Units' ability to disrupt those who bring misery to local communities. While not featured in the overview above, all Community Safety Units, made up of Beat Teams, Child Centred Policing Teams and Neighbourhood Task Forces, are very much part of the NHP model.
26. It should also be noted that under the model the specialist Rural Task Force sees an uplift of 1 PS and 6.5 PCSOs.
27. The Force formally moved to the new model on 7 June 2023, but it is acknowledged that to resource to full establishment without impacting on other core functions will take time. As a result, the Force has adopted an interim model with a focus on optimising the number of new Beat Officers.
28. Based on the current timeline, the Force anticipates the model will be up to establishment by September 2024.

29. Following police officer postings there have been challenges with balancing the resourcing requirement for Beat Officers. The Force's commitment to resource Beat Officer posts to a minimum of 50% has required 30 internal voluntary moves and postings through HR. It is anticipated that these officers will be released back to their permanent roles by March 2024 in line with the phased plan that utilises the PUP to fully resource the model.

Benefits/impact of the new model:

30. The model seeks to deliver a number of benefits, all of which will be reviewed at a regular basis:

- Significant reduction in the number of PCSO posts resulting in a substantial financial saving.
- Higher proportion of NHP resources owned and delivered at District level. This will improve flexibility allowing Districts to respond quickly to local problems, increase ownership and improve joint working with partners who operate at the District level. This will result in more timely and effective problem solving and targeted activity to reduce crime and hold offenders to account.
- Streamline 14 separate roles to 4 with an increased focus on local ownership. This will improve resilience (absence or vacancies will have a reduced impact on service delivery) and will ensure the public have a 'one stop shop' for issues and a consistent service, leading to increased public satisfaction.
- Dedicated NHP roles supported by an abstraction policy. This will guarantee resources are 'ring fenced' to community engagement, problem solving and targeted crime prevention activity, which will ensure visibility, improve public confidence, and reduce crime and harm.
- There will be opportunities for specialisation and lateral progression within NHP, with the Beat Officer PC role offering an entry route. This will encourage retention of staff and officers, align with and streamline the professionalising NHP workstream, and address the HMICFRS PEEL recommendation.
- Re-balancing of supervisory ratios. This will result in increased support to staff and officers to maintain welfare, and improved oversight will raise the quality of service to the public.
- Prevention Hubs will be delivered at a Divisional level to support officers with specialist advice and support. This will ensure a more efficient delivery of specialist capability allowing for more Beat Officer resources and create the ability to pool resources to deal with complex problems and sources of high harm.

31. It is acknowledged that the stability and consistency of resources in the model will be of significant benefit to developing local knowledge and relationships with the public and communities. A strategic resourcing ambition for the model has been developed, with the ambition to attract PCs and PCSOs who want to work in NHP for the long term by building an NHP career path including continual professional development.

Review process:

32. The model will continue to be subject of monthly scrutiny via the ACC-led NHP Board.

33. A formal Post-Implementation Review will commence at a time directed by the DCC, but it is anticipated that this will be around December 2023 (6-months after implementation of the model). A further review will also be required after September 2024, once the model is fully resourced. This review will be conducted by the Force Change Team.

Holding to account:

34. Throughout the Review, the PCC has held the Chief Constable to account through his quarterly Performance and Delivery Board.

35. Open to Panel Members and the public on a non-participating basis and also live streamed, the meeting is chaired by the PCC and papers are submitted by the Force in advance and published [here](#). The Chief Constable is required to attend the meeting in order to present and discuss the papers and answer questions about delivery of the [Making Kent Safer](#) Plan and policing generally in the county.

36. Whilst the Force has provided updates via the papers, the PCC has also asked questions and taken a particular interest in the welfare of those officers and staff affected. The PCC will continue to receive updates as the implementation progresses and the Force moves to a fully resourced model over the coming months.

37. The PCC will also continue to hold the Chief Constable to account via their regular weekly briefings and receive bespoke briefing notes and updates from the Force as required.

38. The PCC would like to express his thanks to those officers and staff impacted by the Review who have continued to provide a first class service to local communities through such a difficult period. In addition, he would like to acknowledge the Force's work around engagement and development of the model, as well as the HR processes and welfare support offered to those affected.

39. The PCC is reassured that the new NHP model will provide as good, if not a better policing service to the communities of Kent and Medway and will monitor its implementation and impact carefully.

Recommendation:

40. The Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel is asked to note this report and agree to a further update at their April 2024 meeting.



In very simple plain English P.C. Natalie Faiers has an enormous area to cover and will require all of our support. This police model will take time to bed in, and Ashford Police are not at full establishment at the time of writing my report. We may need to manage public expectations during these early months and maybe even the remainder of 2023. Our work together on Crime and Safety of our residents has never been needed more. The work together we have carried out with Neighbourhood Watch in Aldington and indeed Saxon Shore will stand us in very good shape, but we cannot standstill we need to push on and develop still further.

As always. I conclude by thanking you all for your continued support with my work and for me personally and I know Natalie can count on the same.

Regards

Peter

Peter New.

91725. Kent Police Volunteer & Community neighbourhood Watch