

Minutes of the Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023 in Aldington Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllrs; L Harman (Chairman), R Boulding, L Guy, P Hannabuss, H Stebbings, G Taylor, S Wagstaff & J Weaterall

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk

Also present 14 residents and P New (Neighbourhood Watch)

1275. Apologies for absence:

Cllr R Spicer

1276. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1277. Public participation:

A resident raised the issue of the football pitch being turned round as balls land in residents gardens and are retrieved without seeking permission.

Cllrs L Harman and P Hannabuss to meet with the football club to discuss.

1278. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

The council is starting work on a statutory review of its Local Plan, which will set the strategic vision and planned growth for housing and jobs within the borough to 2041.

The Plan will need to identify sufficient land to meet future requirements. Following new government legislation and to reflect the council's ongoing commitment to create sustainable places potential sites for new green spaces, energy generation, Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities, and wetlands for Nutrient Neutrality mitigation and/or nature based initiatives are this time being sought alongside sites for new home and jobs.

Each site submitted will be individually assessed for its suitability, availability and deliverability.

To be considered as part of the process, applicants should complete the application form on the ABC website. The deadline for potential sites to be submitted for consideration is 5pm, Monday 20 November 2023.

Last week the Council announced that it has bought former Kent Wool Growers site. The 1.2ha site offers an unrivalled opportunity to create a vibrant community at the gateway to the town. Work is underway to shape a proposal that is likely to include one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments and four bedroom townhouses, parking bays concealed in undercrofts beneath gardens, a community and cultural hub and communal courtyards. The precise number of homes is yet to be finalised but will be fewer than the 254 residential units previously agreed for the site when developer U+I secured planning consent in 2019 and include social housing.

In other news, still planning related, the Government announced that it intends to legislate in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill to make Natural England's rules on nutrient pollution advisory rather than mandatory and that funding will be available

to help tackle the underlying problem of pollution in England's waterways. This follows lobbying by Cllr.Noel Ovenden on behalf of the 74 affected local councils, who have highlighted the impact on communities prevented from delivering housing that is included in their Local Plans. The measures are subject to parliamentary scrutiny and process and will only take effect following Royal assent of the Bill. It is hoped this might be able to be achieved by the end of the year or early 2024.

Joanne Averly, Chief Planner, has said that in parallel with this announcement government is also announcing a significant environmental package to protect and restore affected habitats. There will be consultation on fertiliser product standards and a new £25million nutrient management innovation fund will be set up.

1279. Solar:

The EDF application on Church Lane is currently being revised by the applicant following concerns around the environmental reports, a revised application is expected soon.

Evolution Power have completed their 2nd consultation and it is expected that the outcomes will be discussed at the Community Liaison Panel Meeting which is scheduled for 21st September.

A proposal has been received from a resident relating to the subject:

Goal: the creation of a group from within the Aldington and Mersham community with the necessary resource to enable the Parish Council and the community to jointly speak with 'one voice' in the management of the process that will follow the submission of EPL001's DCO application.

The objective of the group, according to the 'mandate' provided by the unanimous vote at the 14th November 2022 Parish Council meeting: "to oppose the Stonestreet Green Solar proposal due to its inappropriate location, scale and cumulative impact"

The process to be managed as follows:

- The preparation and evaluation of a strategy that will define our case;
- The identity and recruitment of specialist resources to support our case;
- The research and compilation of subject matter according to the structure and content of the strategy;
- The delivery of subject matter to the Examination and the expectation of being cross examined on its content.
- The creation and delivery to each home of a communications programme that will inform the community and seek their support.

Resolved:

- 1. To bring together all parties that wish to respond to the EP application when it is submitted**
- 2. To engage with other bodies who may have relevant experience i.e. CPRE**
- 3. To facilitate meetings of all of the above**
- 4. To engage specialist support if necessary**

5. To advise the community and campaigners of NSIP process so that residents can participate if they so wish
6. To work with all parties to ensure that communication to the wider community is regular and accurate.

1280. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th July 2023 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1281. Chairman's Report:

The recent Bank Holiday meant that the community were able to enjoy an excellent night at the movies, whilst running costs were high they were fully covered. Later on the agenda we will be looking at a draft business plan, in plain English what we would like to do over the coming months and year.

Welsh Power have been in contact to set up a meeting to discuss with the Parish Council and residents of Church Lane their proposed travel plan for the installation of the battery storage area at the M20 end of the lane.

1282. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Payee	Purpose	Amount
Staff costs		£2,385.79
Bonnington PCC St Rumwolds	Sponsor flower festival	£90.00
Harmer & Sons	Ground maintenance	£192.00
BWP Creative	Website fees	£273.60
KALC	Training course	£60.00
L Harman	Reimbursement	£307.72
A Eardley	Neighbourhood Plan	£1,980.00
Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£990.00
KALC	Training Course	£60.00
KALC	Training course	£252.00
Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£297.50
L Harman	Reimbursement	£371.00
C Wimble	Handyman expenses	£311.78
G Taylor	Reimbursement	£644.46
KALC	Training	£84.00
Zurich insurance		£1,572.19
L Harman	Reimbursement	£60.00
NALC	Training	£52.04
Harmer & Sons	Grounds Maintenance	£990.00
L Harman	Reimbursement	£60.00
Staff costs		£2,412.94
Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£217.50

Resolved:

1. To receive and authorise the payment of the items of expenditure in the schedule.
2. To authorise the transfer of £5,000.00 from deposit account to current account.

1283. Finance, Quarterly Review:

Report ABPC/23/008 brings to the Parish Council an update on its financial standing against its budget at the end of the first quarter of the financial year.

Resolved:

1. To receive and note **Report ABPC/23/008**
2. To receive and note the financial position at the end of the first quarter of the financial year.

Councillor Stebbings left the meeting.

1284. Neighbourhood Watch:

Report attached.

1285. Aldington Hub:

The Aldington Hub was established as a joint venture between the Events Committee of the Parish Council and Aldington WI just over a year ago. The weekly meeting goes from strength to strength with an increasing number of residents dropping in for a cuppa and a chat.

Payment for teas, coffees and a cake is by way of donation as opposed to a fixed charge. Income to the end of July was £2,130.13, which includes a donation from the Percy Earl Trust, against expenditure of £877.50 leaving a balance of £1,252.63 which is ring-fenced within the Parish Council's accounts.

The team are looking to promote the facility and to encourage a diverse age group to attend. There is a possibility in the future that outings can be arranged using some of the funds raised.

1286. Planning Committee:

The planning committee considered one application which was for Oak Farm Barn which was supported with a comment that blinds should be used on roof lights to protect the dark skies.

1287. Neighbourhood Plan:

The team met earlier in the evening to review the comments that had been received from the Regulation 14 Consultation. The draft plan will be revised and submitted to Ashford Borough Council for the Regulation 16 Consultation which will be for a six week period. At this stage the Plan is a Material Consideration in any planning applications that are received.

Subject to any amendments that may be required this will then be submitted to a planning inspector for review.

1288. Events Committee:

A team of volunteers has now been built which helps with the setting up and clearing away after events. Planning is under way for an event to involve the whole village around an advent event. So far the Church have expressed an interest and the school have been contacted.

1289. Business Plan:

Report ABPC/23/009 brings to the Parish Council a draft proposal for its business plan for the period 2023/2027.

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note Report ABPC/23/009**
- 2. To receive and acknowledge the draft business plan**
- 3. To proceed with the rewilding of the areas proposed by Led By the Wild.**
- 4. To receive an updated plan when quotations have been received for the various projects.**
- 5. To place the Business plan as a regular item on the agenda.**

1290. Any Items for information:

Councillor Boulding reported that the Gefion dog show donated the sum of £375 to the village hall.

Councillor Hannabuss requested that an item on the rights to manage open spaces be placed on the October agenda for the parish council.

Inappropriate parking at the top of Goldwell Lane and Roma Road was discussed, a letter is to be sent to the school asking for parents to be mindful of where they park.

Councillor Wagstaff left the meeting

1291. 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 conducted.

1292. Outdoor Gym:

Resolved: to award a contract to Freshair Fitness to replace the items of equipment adjacent to the tennis courts and to remove the outdoor gym items from the area adjacent to the play area.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45pm.

REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL. SEPTEMBER 2023.

Dear Council, I trust you had the chance to take some leave and recharge the batteries during August as we head into the final months of 2023. Sadly, criminals don't stop for a moment.

The plan I produced in January 2023 of how I would work was based on 2 important events which would occur during the year.

Council elections and the Kent Police new policing model for how the force would operate.

I have put reports before council on that policing model and refer to our local BEAT OFFICER later in the report.

It was essential I stayed focused on the routine business whilst the above events happened and then bedded in.

My work has been and will be still focused on these main themes of crime trends.

Thefts from CARS/VEHICLES. Thefts from SHEDS, GARAGES, and OUTBUILDINGS/EXTERNAL STORAGE.

Thefts of INTERNET PARCELS from doorsteps, the vans are now followed so no isolated premises are even safe.

DRUGS/ ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR/CRIMINAL DAMAGE. Also, to monitor any new crime trends that have occurred in the wider district and could arrive in Saxon Shore District.

Matters that also raise concerns among the residents are CATAPULTS and ESCOOTERS.

Finally, the constant battle against SCAMS. At last, this issue is now on the Government's worry list and the national TV and Newspapers joining the debate, warning and helping the education process can only assist.

There are so many examples of Scams however to show you the speed at which these criminals react is shown in this report.



Barely had the announcements finished being made that the WILKO stores chain were in trouble (and we have a store in Ashford) than the "Scammers" began to target the community with scams linked to the store chain.

A combination of scams was into communities within hours especially offering a closing down type bargain.

I have spoken before about so many issues that become a 'business opportunity' for these criminals. This linked to the pressures residents are under with the cost of living and the need to look for bargain shop offers can create a 'perfect storm for criminals to action.

Sadly, the misery of rising mortgage interest rates offered another opportunity for scammers as residents struggled with this worry in their households.

Kent Fraud Alert System



Wilko fake websites

Lookout for fake websites impersonating Wilko. The company has stopped selling goods online & is also no longer offering home delivery or click and collect services, so if you see anything like this, it is a SCAM. One fake site had a sofa for sale at £25 and an adult's electric bike also for sale at £25.

How to avoid copycat websites.

- Make sure that the website address (URL) is correct and matches the site you intended to visit. Copycat websites often have similar URLs to the legitimate sites, but with small differences such as spelling errors or a different domain extension.
- Check for the padlock icon in the address bar which indicates the connection is secure. However, don't rely on the padlock icon alone.
- Legitimate websites usually have contact information such as a phone number, email address, or physical address. But some copycat websites might have contact details, so don't rely on them alone either.
- Be wary of websites that have poor grammar, spelling errors or low-quality images.
- Check for reviews of the website. These can give you an idea of other people's experiences with the site and whether it is trustworthy.
- Don't rush. Take your time to research the website and make sure it is legitimate before making any transactions or providing personal information.

(Source trading Standards)

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by ringing 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers. 

Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice: 
@KentPoliceECU



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   

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Mortgage Scams

Criminals are using mortgage offers “as low as 2.39%” to lure people into phishing scams. They request that you click on a link that takes you to a realistic looking website that is under the control of the criminals, who are looking to steal your personal and financial data.

Remember if it looks too good to be true then it probably is. Always forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk Your reports have resulted in the removal of 235,000 malicious websites as of May 2023.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice: 
[@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU)

SCAM WARNING

Mortgage scams

Action Fraud has received 538 reports in two weeks relating to fake emails purporting to be from mortgage lenders. The emails claim to offer limited-time deals to low rate mortgages. The links in the emails lead to malicious websites designed to steal personal and financial information.

If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. **Don't** use the numbers or address in the message - use the details from their official website. Your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.

Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - report@phishing.gov.uk



**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   

These criminals especially alongside **ROGUE TRADERS** and **BOGUS CALLERS** pose a constant threat to residents especially our vulnerable and elderly in the community.

You will recall I set up **OPERATION GUARDIAN ANGEL** to assist our vulnerable members of the community linking in with relatives and younger family members as we try to support independent living for those vulnerable and elderly in our communities.



Now to introduce our Beat officer.



SAXON SHORE BEAT OFFICER JAMES MURRELL including Aldington & Bonnington.

I am delighted to introduce via this meeting and announce **JAMES MURRELL** is our Beat Officer who joins us as part of the new policing model for policing in Kent going forwards.

P.C. JAMES MURRELL is our officer and James is a first class, very experienced officer and I have worked on public engagement meetings with him in other parts of the Ashford District, as well as Violence Against Women and Girls campaign meetings and engagements.

The new policing model will develop over time and as Ashford are not yet at full establishment, they will welcome new members to the policing team at Ashford over the coming months.

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**

I work closely with Sergeants Batten and Cameron the latter especially in the Violence Against Women and Girls work.

Each ward across the district will now have a nominated Beat Officer and their primary role is to work within their local communities.

The two areas I wish to concentrate on from the above model are the **BEAT OFFICER TEAM** and the **NEIGHBOURHOOD TASK FORCE**.

I know both Sergeant Richard Batten and Sergeant Kim Cameron and I have worked with both.

James is in the Beat Team, and they can call upon the Neighbourhood Task Team when required.

I think it very important to clarify the word Beat Officer. Sadly, resources do not allow P.C. Murrell to just police and patrol the Aldington and surrounding areas and to give a full picture of the area he will cover I have set out the parts of the Ashford District which fall into his Beat Officer role.

Firstly, the areas James covers, don't forget some of those areas are growing as I write.

Rural North PC James Murrell

Areas and links:

[Downs North](#)

[Downs West](#)

[Saxon Shore](#)

[Charing](#)

[Bircholt](#)

[Wye with Hinxhill](#)

[Mersham Sevington South &](#)

[Finberry](#)

[Kingsnorth Village](#)

[Upper Weald](#)

Secondly the Villages and Parish Councils he covers so that should give council a feel for the size of the tasks in hand for James and why he will need the total support of The Council, every councillor, myself with Neighbourhood Watch but most importantly each and every resident and family in the area.

AREAS

VILLAGES AND COUNCILS

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

I am sure James will be introducing himself across the District at every opportunity plus attending Council meeting whenever possible. I will be sharing dates, times and events but at the time of writing this report his appointment is only hours old.

James knows he will get my total and full support with my Neighbourhood Watch network and from me personally across his areas.

It is absolutely essential we continue to grow our Neighbourhood Watch.

Going forwards the importance any Council's newsletter's/communications cannot be overstated in the overall strategy of crime prevention in the community.

A publication delivered to each resident's home reaches all. As new technology is brought to bear to communicate with residents, I hope that any communication process that reaches everyone importantly to those that at best in 2023 only have a landline telephone and could so easily be left behind with our communications can be brought to bear in the crime prevention battle.

Again the Community Hub Coffee mornings have become such an important part of our overall strategy as well.

“Crime cannot flourish in communities that care”. Working together we can demonstrate we care about the whole community and the residents who reside there.

Thank you for all your support as always.

Peter

Peter New

Kent Police Volunteer & Community neighbourhood Watch.

