

Minutes of the Aldington and Bonnington Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 in Aldington Village Hall at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors; L Harman (Chair), R Boulding, L Guy, P Hannabuss, H Stebbings, S Wagstaff and J Weatherall

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk

Also present: 4 Residents and P New (Neighbourhood Watch)

1427. Apologies for absence:

Councillor G Taylor.

1428. To elect the Chairman of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council for the municipal year 2024/2025, and to receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Resolved: there being no further nominations to elect Councillor L Harman as Chair for the municipal year 2024/2025, Declaration of Acceptance of Office completed.

1429. To elect the Vice-Chairman of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council for the municipal year 2024/2025, and to receive the Vice-Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Resolved: there being no further nominations to elect Councillor S Wagstaff as Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2024/2025, Declaration of Acceptance of Office completed.

1430. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1431. Public Participation:

The representative from Welsh Power reported that the site fencing had now been erected and CCTV installed, at the present time they can only use a temporary entrance as Kent Highways are delaying the requisite road closure to move a power line from the proposed entrance. Earthworks have commenced, the rate of deliveries at the early stages of work are unknown as only a partial survey was undertaken on the access road which could result in extra deliveries being needed.

A resident raised the issue of the trees that overhang Knoll Hill and their condition. This will be taken forward with the land owner.

1432. Neighbourhood Watch:

Report attached.

1433. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

The change over on the refuse contract is still causing a few issues but improvements have been seen. Hallam Landscapes have submitted an outline application to build 170 new homes at Ruckinge which will if approved have an

impact on the whole of Saxonsore in terms of the roads. The Parish Council Planning Committee is asked to look at this and submit its comments.

1434. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th April 2024 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1435. Chairman's Report:

As the Annual Parish Meeting was only held two weeks ago there is nothing further to report.

1436. Appointment of Members to the Planning Committee:

The Parish Council is asked to nominate at least 4 members to sit on the Planning Committee.

Resolved to appoint Councillors S Wagstaff, L Guy, P Hannabuss and H Stebbings to the Planning Committee.

1437. Appointment of Members to Outside bodies:

The Parish Council is asked to nominate 2 members to attend meetings of the Ashford Local Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils.

Resolved to appoint Councillors L Harman and P Hannabuss to attend meetings.

1438. Review of Standing Orders:

There have been no amendments to the model Standing Orders in the last twelve months, therefore the current Standing Orders are up to date.

1439. Review of Financial Regulations:

This item was deferred as the National Association of Local Council have issued a new model Financial Regulation which is more detailed.

1440. Meeting Dates:

The Parish Council traditionally meets on the second Monday of the month with the exception of August.

The following dates were proposed for the 2024/25 municipal year:

10th June 2024

8th July 2024

9th September 2024

14th October 2024

11th November 2024

9th December 2024

13th January 2025

10th February 2025

10th March 2025

14th April 2025

Resolved: to adopt the dates proposed.

1441. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Payee	Purpose	Amount
R Spicer	Website domain renewal	£31.18
L Harman	Reimbursement plants	£576.82
L Harman	Reimbursement	£263.92
Ashford Borough Council	Re Fordred monies	£250.00
L Harman	Reimbursement plants	£135.93
KALC	Annual subscription	£651.06
Ashford Borough Council	Newsletter printing	£290.74
Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£990.00
Staff costs		£2,629.44
G Taylor	Reimbursement	£38.00
Handyman expenses		£93.47
H Hoad	Internal Audit	£190.00
Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£126.00

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and authorise the payment of the items of expenditure**
- 2. To authorise two transfers of £1,000 from deposit account to current account to cover payments effected before the meeting.**
- 3. To authorise the transfer of £5,000 from deposit account to current account.**

1442. General Risk assessment:

Report ABPC/24/001 brings to the Parish Council a copy of the risk assessment carried out as part of the end of year audit exercise.

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note Report ABPC/24/001**
- 2. To receive and acknowledge the General Risk Assessment.**

1443. Asset Register:

Report ABPC/24/002 brings to the Parish Council a copy of the asset register compiled from the Parish Council's records.

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note Report ABPC/24/002**
- 2. To receive and acknowledge the asset register.**

1444. Internal Auditor's Report:

Report ABPC/24/003 encloses the report of the Independent Internal Auditor who has been asked to complete the Annual Internal Audit Report section of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the Parish Council's External Auditor, Mazars LLP.

Resolved:

1. To receive and note **Report ABPC/24/003**
2. To receive and endorse the report of the Independent Internal Auditor

1445. Annual Governance Statement:

Report ABPC/24/004 details the Statement on Internal Control to support the Annual Governance Statement required as part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Resolved:

1. To receive and note **Report ABPC/24/004**
2. To approve and endorse the **Statement on Internal Control** for the year ended 31st March 2024
3. To authorise the Chairman of the Parish Council to sign the **Statement of Internal Control** for the year ended 31st March 2024
4. To respond 'yes' in boxes 1 to 9 of the **Annual Governance Statement** at **Section 1** of the Annual Return subject to the adoption of **Report ABPC/24/004** which relates specifically to **Box 6**
5. To authorise the Chairman of the Parish Council to sign the **Annual Governance Statement**.

1446. Accounting Statements:

Report ABPC/24/005 attaches the Accounting Statement for 2023/24, part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

Resolved:

1. To receive and note **Report ABPC/2024/005**
2. To approve and endorse the **Accounting Statement** at **Section 2** of the **Annual Governance and Accountability Return** for the year ended 31st March 2024
3. To authorise the Chairman of the Parish Council to sign the **Accounts** contained within the **Annual Return** for 2023/24

1447. Code of Conduct:

Report ABPC/24/006 has been compiled as a result of a letter received from the Monitoring Officer at Ashford Borough Council on the subject of Code of Conduct Complaints.

Resolved: To receive and note Report ABPC/24/006

1448. Quarry Field, Quarry Wood and Pond:

Nothing to report.

1449. Neighbourhood Plan:

The plan is currently with the Planning Inspector, a decision is awaited.

1450. Aldington Meadows:

Work on levelling the old tennis court is currently underway.

1451. Events Committee:

The beacon lighting will take place on 6th June to mark the D Day commemorations. The next event scheduled is the summer fete on 10th August.

1452. Land at Quarry Wood:

Mention was made at the Parish Council meeting in April about some unauthorised placement of rubbish on land between Quarry Wood and Wheatfields. The area of land was subject to a planning application, however it was identified that there was no connection to the land in Quarry Wood as the area adjacent to the highway was still registered at Land Registry in the name of Home Farm Self-Build Housing Association Limited.

Previous research on this and the possibility of the transfer of title was undertaken by Wellers Law Group LLP who identified that the association had been deregistered with the Financial Conduct Authority on 7th July 1994. It was also reported that the Crown would wish to be satisfied that on the dissolution the land passed to the Crown. To fulfil this requirement a copy of the constitution of the organisation needs to be provided. Unfortunately the registrar of mutual organisations does not have a copy of the constitution, the only alternative would be a search in the National Archives which would be costly and time consuming and does not guarantee that the document will be found.

1453. War Memorial:

At the April meeting of the Parish Council a request had been made with regards to the provision of a stainless-steel frame to hold the wreaths in place. Members requested that research be undertaken to ascertain if there was a protocol regarding the placement and retention of wreaths on memorials.

The War Memorials Trust provide guidance on the subject. Whilst there are no rules which state when wreaths should be removed from a memorial it is something that needs to be decided by the custodian of the memorial following consultation with the local community. The Trust recommends that a policy is put in place detailing when wreaths are to be removed in order that everyone is aware.

If wreaths are left in place for a long time they can begin to deteriorate which can give the appearance that the memorial is not being maintained. Furthermore, wreaths which are left directly on the stone for prolonged periods can cause staining on the stone from either the wreath or any metal within them, which can be difficult to remove.

The Parish Council is asked to consider how long an appropriate period time would be before wreaths are removed.

Resolved: to defer decision as views of residents need to be taken into account.

1454. Any items for information:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:00pm.

DRAFT

REPORT TO ALDINGTON & BONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2024.

I firstly wanted to start my report for congratulating the council for an excellent Annual meeting of Electors held recently. I thought the format and style of the meeting assisted in excellent presentations and discussions and I think it important that we take time to celebrate all that is happening and being done and achieved in the area.

There is no need for me to labour all the basic crime risk that Aldington & Bonnington and the larger Saxon Shore area as we have covered them extensively.

I cannot stress enough however the need for residents to report everything especially failed attempts at crime. We are only as good as what we know, and my crime prevention can only be at it's best if we know what has happened and what we face. Reporting and moaning on Facebook is not reporting albeit we try our best to scoop up information and intelligence.

I thought the discussion about PSPOs for dogs was balanced and proportionate to the risks and appeared to be maybe an isolated couple of cases. Public awareness and education plus open community discussions are the way forward.

I read of PSPO all over Kent both temporary and fixed, but enforcement is the key. I will support the council view of public awareness and education over concerns about dogs. Importantly I view bad owners rather than blame the dogs. I will assist you all I can.

On Wednesday Hubs we do not have issues with the dogs that come

I honestly feel that when asking the question about why "do some dog owners drive to Aldington with their dogs"? may well be answered if we glance out of the window to see a beautiful village setting with a village pub for lunch. I truly do not believe that people drive from miles away because there is a PSPO near where they live.

To act correctly when they are here is the key. Locals must lead by example and the isolated owner then is spoken too.

As promised, I wrote to Councillor Clair Bell and provided her with a brief and this report that follows sets out key points, so you do not have to rummage around the report is to hand and the clerk files away a copy.

We also have our Chair of council available to touch base with the Ashford Borough Council Dog Warden for any additional guidance or experiences and or guidance they can share.

Animal crime

Wildlife and animal crime can be a complex area to understand.

To find out what wildlife crime is, go to [our wildlife crime page](#).

Crimes involving animals that aren't wildlife crimes, include:

- livestock worrying
- livestock theft
- hunting
- animal cruelty
- dogs being out of control in public places
- banned dogs

Livestock worrying

Livestock worrying is a criminal offence and comes under the [Dogs \(Protection of Livestock\) Act 1953](#) [↗](#).

'Worrying' is where a dog attacks or chases livestock causing injury or suffering.

This isn't just a threat to a farmer or land owner's livelihood, it's also a dangerous situation for the animals involved, and could lead to more risk if the animals get onto the road.

A farmer is allowed to kill the dog if it's worrying their livestock.

Always keep your dog under control around other animals and if you see a dog on the loose worrying animals, [report it online](#).

Livestock theft

Grazing animals can be an easy target especially in remote rural locations.

- check on your animal(s) regularly
- report any suspicious vehicles
- improve security around the area where the animal(s) graze
- ear tags, horn brands, freeze marking, hoof branding, tattoos and microchips can all help identify your animal(s) if they're stolen
- in the case of cattle (cattle, bison or buffalo) you will need to report the loss or theft of an animal to the [British Cattle Movement Service](#) [↗](#) within seven days
- some areas have Farm Watch or Rural Watch schemes, which you could consider joining

Hunting

Hunting includes the chasing, capturing or killing of animals and birds.

Not all hunting is a crime, but there are many different laws to protect the different species of animals and birds. These laws cover things like:

- where you can hunt
- when you can hunt
- if you can use dogs or not
- the types of weapons and traps that can be used

Many animals are also protected by law, meaning it's illegal to hunt them at any time unless you have special exemptions.

If you're planning to go hunting, it's important to know what is legal and not.

Find out more:


[Illegal hunting](#)

[Types of illegal hunting](#)

Animal cruelty

Animal cruelty is when someone doesn't care for or deliberately hurts an animal.

It can include anything from physical violence, to deliberate mental distress or neglect, for example not feeding or cleaning an animal.

If you see, or suspect, that a person may be treating an animal badly, whether this is physical violence, neglect or any other form of cruelty, you should report this to the [RSPCA](#) .

We work with the RSPCA to investigate cases of animal cruelty.

If your partner, ex-partner or a family member has harmed or threatened to harm your pet, this can be a form of domestic abuse. Find out more about [animal cruelty and domestic abuse](#).

Dogs out of control in public places

It's an offence to let a dog be dangerously out of control whether that's in public or private.

A dog is considered to be out of control if it:

- injures someone
- makes someone worried that it might injure them

A court could also decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if:

- it attacks someone's animal
- the owner of an animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal

Please note, a farmer is allowed to kill your dog if it's worrying their livestock.

If you see a dog loose, please [report this online](#).

If the dog seems to be out of control, let us know by [calling 101](#).

Banned dogs

In the UK, it's against the law to own certain types of dog. These are the:

- Pit Bull Terrier
- Japanese Tosa
- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro
- XL Bully

It's also against the law to:

- sell a banned dog
- abandon a banned dog
- give away a banned dog
- breed from a banned dog

Whether your dog is a banned type depends on what it looks like, rather than its breed or name.

What are you looking for?

SEARCH

Urgent Telephone 4pm - 8.30am : [01233 331111](tel:01233 331111)

Report a stray dog



Contact the dog warden

[Home](#) / [Environmental Concerns](#) / [Dogs](#)

Dogs

[Dog Warden Fees](#)[Dog welfare](#)

Stray Dogs

The dog warden collects contained stray dogs within the borough. These dogs are then taken to the council's nominated kennel. Dogs will be made available for rehoming if they are not claimed within seven full days from the time they arrive at the kennels.

If you have found a dog and have it contained call us on 01233 331111 or complete the online [report a stray dog form](#).

For any dog related enquiries please [complete our online enquiry form](#).

Lost Dogs

If you have lost a dog contact us on 01233 331111 so that we can check our stray dog records.

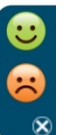
You can also [register your lost or stolen dog with Dog Lost](#) or [report a lost or found dog online](#).

If your dog is found in the borough and taken to our nominated kennels, it will only be released to you if we are satisfied that you are the owner. You will also have to [pay the required fees](#).

Dog Fouling

Dog owners are expected to carry a sufficient amount of plastic bags to pick up dog waste. Failure to pick up your dog waste can result in a fine or even prosecution.

You can dispose of dog waste in any street litter bin, or you can take the waste home for disposal in your household refuse bin. Please be aware that we are removing dog bins across the borough – these will be replaced with a street litter bin if there are no other bins close by and there is adequate space.

[Report Dog Fouling](#)[Report Overflowing Dog Bin](#)[Pay Dog Fouling Fixed Penalty Notice](#)

Dangerous Dogs

It's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere whether it's a public or private place. If you see an XL Bully without a muzzle or lead in public after 31 December 2023, please report this to the police. For guidance on XL Bully breed type, please refer to [the guidance provided by DEFRA](#).

Police deal with:

- Dangerous dogs (Dangerous Dogs Act 1991);
- Dogs attacks on humans in cases where skin is broken and the dog attacked the human directly;
- Dogs straying onto the motorway;
- Reports of illegal breeds (XL Bully, American Pit Bull Terrier, Tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasileiro).

Dog Warden deals with:

- Out of control dogs in a public area
- Where a human is bitten accidentally whilst trying to separate dogs.

You can [report any of the issues above to the police, using their online form](#).

Dog on dog attacks are a civil matter. However, in certain circumstances we will intervene to ensure the offending dog owner is reminded of their responsibility. We will make sure the dog is not out of control. Once the report is received, action is taken depending on the circumstances.

[Report a dog on animal attack using our online form](#).

[Report a dog on human attack using our online form](#).

Protecting livestock – know the law

'Worrying' livestock is a crime under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.

If you are on agricultural land and a dog you own or are in charge of **attacks** or **chases** livestock in a way that may cause **injury, suffering** or **loss**, you could be **prosecuted, fined** and **ordered to pay compensation**.

Under the Animals Act 1971, a person acting to **protect livestock** may be able to **kill** or **injure a dog**, without incurring any criminal or civil liability, if he or she believes it is worrying livestock.



Please keep your dog on a lead.

If you see a dog worrying livestock, please call the police on **999**.



**Kent
Police**

**Protecting and serving
the people of Kent**

Just returning to general crime prevention I will make comment on a matter I dealt with. As the season changes, at last, we just adjust our prevention advice and in a matter of days we have gone from the heating at full blast to stay warm to every door and window open and at last rising temperatures.

Whilst burglaries are extremely low we do not want to present any “gifts” to a passing chancer and opportunist.

I will report on the matter of Beat Officers in the Ashford District.

I will mention the outcome of the Crime Commissioner election.

I will brief council on my dialogue with lead officers in the Violence against Women and Girls work.

We head now into the second part of 2024. I do not see the risk assessment of crimes changing for the area. Crime prevention must be to the fore and again the Community Tea and Coffee morning Hub plays a very key role in the overall crime prevention plan for the village and surrounding areas.

Thank you as always for your support.

Peter

**Peter New
Community Neighbourhood Watch.**

