

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Eco Centre, Goldwell Lane, Aldington.

Present: Councillors; C Fowler (Chairman), A Baldwin, M Boulden, R Boulding, L Harman, P Kemp, W Parkinson, T Ransley and R Spicer.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

Also present: 21 members of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman requested that item 19 on the agenda, Recreation Land, be brought forward to follow the minutes.

**581. Presentation of awards to allotment holders:**

The Chairman presented certificates to the winners and runners up for the best allotment for the sites at Forge Hill and Aldington Meadows.

**582. To receive and accept apologies for absence:**

There were no apologies for absence.

**583. To receive any declarations of interest from Members:**

Councillor L Harman in her role as Borough Councillor sits on the Planning Committee, therefore does not vote on any applications placed before the Parish Council

**584. Public Participation Session:**

Members of the Wanstall family were present and passed on their thanks to the Parish for agreeing to the siting of a memorial bench on the green.

A resident spoke about a misunderstanding that they had with planning at their property as at the time of purchase there were two mobile homes on the site. However, when they applied for a lawful development certificate it was refused as there was no evidence of residency. A planning consultant has been employed and a new application will be submitted for the home within the curtilage of the property.

A resident spoke about the outstanding issue of the external lighting at Quarry House and requested the Parish Council's assistance in taking this forward. **It was agreed that the Council would send a letter of support to the Borough Council to assist.**

**585. Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were submitted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**586. Recreation Land, Roman Road:**

**Report ABPC/19/12** is brought to the Parish Council following comments made during the public participation session at the May Parish Council meeting about football matches.

The Chairman invited the Manager of Aldington Football Club to make a presentation to the Parish Council.

The team currently play in the Sunday division one and the reserve team in division 3. On Saturday's the Brabourne and Smeeth under 14's use the pitch.

The club's plans for the 2020/21 season are to establish a youth team. In addition the club are looking to purchase a set of mobile goals for use on the second pitch at the lower end of the ground which will cost in the region of £3,000 as well as a line marking machine and a ride on mower to be used when a cut is needed between the regular grounds maintenance cuts. The total funding required being approximately £5,000.

The Parish Council has been asked to consider making a grant available in the sum of £3,000 for the purchase of the goals.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To receive and note Report ABPC/19/12.**
- 2. To continue with the existing arrangements with the football club.**
- 3. To consider making funds available for the purchase of the goals at the next Parish Council Meeting.**

**587. KCC Highways and Transportation:**

Further to last month's meeting the Community Speedwatch Team at Kent Police have been contacted to ascertain if the area around the school meets the risk assessment standards to enable Speedwatch to be operated, a response is currently awaited.

A site visit by Kent Highways at an appropriate time has been requested to enable an assessment to be carried out to see if there are any highways improvements available and costings, this has been agreed to.

The PCSO's have been contacted to request visits to view and comment upon driving, speed and parking in and around the vicinity of the school.

Following the last meeting of the Parish Council the Aldington Road Users group has been established and a petition started to request a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph.

The school have agreed that the hedge closest to the school can be cut back to improve visibility on the approach.

**588. Speed Indicator Device:**

The Speed Indicator Device software provides the following reports:

Analysis Report – which is an hour by hour summary of the data collected.

Monthly counts/speed averages

Weekly counts/speed averages

Charts – average weekly speeds, Average weekly volumes, Daily volumes.

All of the data captured is retained which will be used to produce a like for like comparison for the previous year once the anniversary is passed in September.

**589. Planning:**

**19/00895/AS – LAND NORTH OF 1, CHURCH VIEW, ALDINGTON – Residential development consisting of four detached dwellings with associated accesses, garaging and parking areas, with land to provide open space and agricultural field access.**

**Resolved: Aldington & Bonnington Parish Council has considered the proposals of this application, whilst acknowledging the fact that the site is included in the Ashford Local Plan for development Policy S51; The Parish Council object to the current plans placed before it.**

**The site was designated in the Local plan with an indicative capacity of 6 dwellings. The current application is for 4 dwellings detached dwellings of 4 and 5 bedrooms. The Parish does not need properties of this type and size since it is felt that local needs are for smaller 2 and 3 bedroomed properties.**

**The proposals are not in accord with Policy S51 which requires vehicle access from Goldwell Lane as shown on the policies map. The application is for 4 separate accesses through the hedgerow, which will not conserve the mature hedgerow along the road frontage required by the Policy.**

**The proposal for four individual accesses through a hedgerow will be affected by the natural growth of the hedges which will reduce the visibility splay making egress from the properties more hazardous. A single access and layout similar to that of nearby Church View would provide a better visibility splay and preserve the nature of the hedgerow.**

**The proposed dwellings are not in keeping with the street scene as the neighbouring Church View properties are much smaller as are Goldwell Close opposite are bungalows.**

**The proposed layout does not provide for maintained through view towards the church.**

**The proposed layout does not include clear proposals for safe pedestrian movement along Goldwell Lane.**

**Should the Borough Council be mindful to grant permission for the development as submitted, or permission is granted for a suitable alternative plan, the Parish Council would wish to see the following conditions attached to the grant.**

**No development including any preparation works prior to building operations shall take place on site until a Construction and Transport Management Plan has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority following consultation with the Parish Council. The approved statement shall be adhered to throughout the construction period and shall include:**

- 1. Dedicated on-site parking for all vehicles: including site construction, personnel, operatives and visitors;**
- 2. Proposed routing of construction vehicles, no traffic to use Roman Road for either delivery of or removal of site related materials**

3. **Prior agreement to establishment of time slots for the delivery of goods and or removal of site materials to ensure that this does not interfere with the free flow of traffic at peak periods (including school drop off and pick up times during school terms)**
4. **Areas for loading and unloading of plant and materials including on-site turning for construction vehicles;**
5. **On-site storage of plant and materials;**
6. **Programme of works (including measures for traffic management);**
7. **Provision of secure boundary security hoarding behind any visibility zones;**
8. **Wheel washing facilities;**
9. **Measures to control the emissions of dust and dirt during construction;**
10. **Banksman where reversing HGVs onto the highway;**
11. **The location and layout of temporary site offices and sales office;**
12. **Proposed hours of working; these to be agreed with the Parish Council and to take into account potential disturbance of nearby residents in Church View and Goldwell Cottages**
13. **Details of any pile driving or other noisy equipment to be used**
14. **Sufficient prior notice of any potential disruption to the free flow of traffic along Goldwell Lane as this is a key entry and exit route for the village of Aldington**
15. **Establishment of regular liaison between a nominated member(s) of the Parish Council and a key representative of site management**

**Written confirmation that high speed fibre broadband will be made available, it is known that there are capacity issues with the local exchange.**

**The Planning Statement at paragraph 6.15 states that the extent of the development falls below the threshold for which contributions may be sought. However, the Parish Council would like to request that contributions by way of s106 agreement are made to the Parish as residents will be using the recreational facilities that these sums contribute towards the enhancement and maintenance thereof.**

**19/00872/AS – FRITH BUSINESS CENTRE, FRITH ROAD, ALDINGTON – Conversion of light industrial buildings to form 10 units (in accordance with the recent prior approval for the change of use of the buildings into ten residential units under reference 18/00714/AS), to include associated building works and parking details.**

**Resolved: The Parish Council have considered the application albeit situated in the Parish of Mersham as it sits on the border with Aldington and any development in this vicinity will have an impact on Aldington.**

**From the documentation available on the Borough Council planning portal there appears to be some anomalies with the application. The documentation quotes “recent prior approval for the change of use...” however when this application is viewed the decision was “prior approval is not required”.**

**The Planning Design and Access statement does not provide a clear indication as to the provision for parking and compliance with the Ashford Local Plan in this respect. However it is noted in paragraph 8.12 that Kent Highways have been misquoted as they had no objection in principle to the proposal subject to the final design being submitted.**

**It is noted that there is no provision made in the application for the disposal of sewerage from the site, it is a known fact that Aldington Frith is not connected to the mains drainage system.**

**The area benefits from dark skies at night therefore the application as it stands would appear to breach the Borough Council's supplementary planning document on this subject as the proposal is for skylights in each of the 10 units.**

**The site is in an isolated hamlet where there are no footpaths and a very limited bus service which will necessitate the use of private cars.**

**Should the Borough Council be mindful to grant permission for this proposal it would wish to see the following conditions applied to the grant:**

**No development including any preparation works prior to building operations shall take place on site until a Construction and Transport Management Plan has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority following consultation with the Parish Councils. The approved statement shall be adhered to throughout the construction period and shall include:**

- 1. Dedicated on-site parking for all vehicles: including site construction, personnel, operatives and visitors;**
- 2. Proposed routing of construction vehicles, no traffic to access via Aldington Village;**
- 3. Areas for loading and unloading of plant and materials including on-site turning for construction vehicles;**
- 4. Storage of plant and materials;**
- 5. Programme of works (including measures for traffic management);**
- 6. Provision of secure boundary security hoarding behind any visibility zones;**
- 7. Wheel washing facilities;**
- 8. Measures to control the emissions of dust and dirt during demolition and construction;**
- 9. Banksman where reversing HGVs onto the highway;**
- 10. The location and layout of temporary site offices and sales office;**
- 11. Proposed hours of working;**
- 12. Details of any pile driving or other noisy equipment to be used**

**Written confirmation that high speed fibre broadband will be available, it is known that there are capacity issues with the local exchange(s).**

**Aldington & Bonnington Parish Council acknowledges that this development is on land designated as in Mersham; however Parish Council would like to**

request that contributions by way of s106 agreement are made to the Parish as residents are very likely to be using the recreational and other facilities within Aldington since Frith Road is a key route through the village to the proposed development and these sums would contribute towards the enhancement and maintenance thereof.

**19/00799/AS – THE DUKES, BANK ROAD, ALDINGTON** – Erection of a porch to front elevation: replace kitchen door with window: erection of two dormer windows to front and rear elevations: first floor extensions: garage roof conversion.

**Resolved: The Parish Council has no objection to the application.**

**590. Chairman’s Report:**

All matters have been covered elsewhere within the content of the meeting.

**591. Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Detail	Amount
1412	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£613.20
1413	First rescue training and supplies	Defibrillator parts	£360.00
1414	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£1,254.00
1415 & 1416	Staff Costs		£1,234.83
1417	JRB Enterprise	Dog Waste bags	£297.00
1418	X2 Connect Ltd	Phone box door insert	£558.00
1419	David Sephton	Tree survey	£450.00
1420	Society of Local Council Clerks	Subscription	£146.18
1421	D Earnshaw		£700.00
1422	P Kemp	Reimbursement	£52.16

**Resolved:**

- 1. To receive and approve the items in the schedule for payment.**
- 2. To transfer the sum of £5,000.00 from deposit account to current account.**

**592. VE Day 75:**

The letter from the Pageantmaster provides an outline of the activities being planned to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe. The Parish Council is asked to consider the activities and determine if it wishes to participate in the commemorations.

**Resolved: As this is a major event Cllrs R Spicer, A Baldwin, P Kemp and L Harman to organise a public meeting to initiate volunteers, fund raising and a list of possible events.**

**593. Otterpool Park:**

Posters for the Consultation evening have been placed on all of the Parish Council noticeboards and on the website. Copies have been sent to the adjoining Parish Councils and the ward members from Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council together with the Planning Team at Ashford Borough Council have been invited to attend.

An agenda is being prepared for the evening and **Cllrs Harman and Spicer are to organise refreshments.**

**594. Section 106 funding:**

The Parish Council has submitted details of the projects for which it will be seeking funding. The planning application this relates to is 17/00388/AS for four dwellings at Quarry Wood which will be decided by the Borough Council Planning Committee at some stage.

**595. Play equipment:**

The Parish Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor has been asked to obtain prices for the replacement of the items of equipment in the Reynolds Playground, which are currently awaited.

Councillor R Spicer has undertaken some research into the type of equipment preferred by the older children. Examples given were the Dome at Hamstreet, the tower at MacArthur Glen Outlet and the tower at Bridgefields, these are to be discounted as the costs are in excess of £25k which would involve the Council having to undertake a full Tendering Process which will add approximately six months to the project.

The potential style of the equipment has however been determined and the **Parish Clerk is arranging for various manufacturers to undertake site visits and to quote for suitable equipment.**

**Councillors R Spicer and W Parkinson have arranged a visit to Aldington Primary School to undertake direct liaison with some of the children to ascertain potential likes / dislikes. This information to be fed back to the Clerk for inclusion in his investigations of suppliers / prices.**

**596. Speed limit on New Road Hill:**

Kent Highways have issued a copy of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit on New Road Hill from the current national speed limit to 40mph. This is a consultation and any persons wishing to support the proposal or object to it have until the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**597. Trees in Quarry Wood:**

The tree survey on Quarry Wood has now been carried out and the Arboricultural Condition Report received. The report has highlighted 11 trees which are considered to pose a significant threat to users of the woodland. Of these 4 trees require felling to the ground within a month, 5 trees require felling within 6 months, 1 can be left for nature conservation purposes as it leans back into the woodland itself and the remaining tree to be inspected within 12 months.

A tree surgeon has been requested to provide a quotation for the urgent tree works, those requiring attention within one month, which at the time of the meeting was awaited.

**598. Telephone Kiosk:**

Restoration of the telephone kiosk at Walnut Ridge is well under way, the Parish Council is asked to consider what future use can be made of the kiosk.

**Resolved: to compliment D Earnshaw on his efforts to restore the phone kiosk. Cllr R Spicer to undertake some research on the possible uses for the kiosk and to report back to the Council.**

**599. Village Hall Car Park:**

The Contractor who provided the previous quotation for the resurfacing of the car park has confirmed that the price remains the same and that they can undertake the works during the school holidays to reduce disruption.

The Parish Council is asked to approve the placing of the contract and to request the Parish Clerk to apply to the Borough Council for the release of S106 monies to cover the cost of the works.

**Resolved: to request that the Contractor undertakes a further site visit with the Chairman to agree the works and start date.**

**600. Future projects:**

The Parish Council is asked to consider drawing up a list of potential projects to be undertaken following on from those put forward on the Wish List and those being undertaken.

To be carried forward to the September meeting of the Parish Council.

**601. Allotments:**

Cllr Kemp advised that several of the fence posts at the Forge Hill site are wobbly and need replacing. Also a request was made for compost bins to be installed at both sites.

**Resolved: to request the Grounds Maintenance Contractor to provide a quotation for the replacement of 20 fence posts and for compost bins at both sites.**

**602. Ashford Borough Councillor Report:**

Nothing further to report.

**603. PCSO Report:**

Attached.

**604. Village Hall:**

The new noticeboards have now been installed on the Village Hall and a replacement map has been sourced.

Following comments received relating to the positioning of the new notice board on the corner of Calleywell Lane / Roman Road and the potential difficulty of some people being able to safely approach this notice board the Grounds Maintenance Contractor



will be asked to quote for the re-siting of the board in a more accessible location on Roman Road.

The defibrillator has now been put back as the case door has now been replaced.

It is intended to organise a further training session on the use of the defibrillator in due course.

**605. Correspondence:**

1. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019
2. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019
3. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019
4. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019
5. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019
6. Ashford Borough Council – Parish Briefing No 7
7. Ashford Borough Council – Parish Briefing No 8
8. Ashford Borough Council – Parish Briefing No 9
9. Kent Association Local Councils – News June 2019
10. Information Commissioners Office Newsletter
11. Oast to Coast Summer 19

**606. Any Other Business:**

Mention was made that facebook posts were remaining in view for a short period of time and it was suggested that the Parish Council had its own facebook account.

This will be investigated, however, it must comply with the Public Sector Bodies accessibility requirements.

Councillor Kemp reported that the ride on mower has now been returned following the replacement of the Camshaft, however it needs to be noted that the engine is showing serious wear and could fail at any time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm

### PCSO Report

Dear All,

I am one of the Police Community Support Officers at Ashford Police station and I cover the following wards, **Finberry, Bridgefield, Mersham, Sevington, Aldington, Brabourne, Brook, Hastingleigh, Bonnington, Bilsington, Smeeth and Ruckinge**. I am going to be sending out monthly updates to key members of the community with a general overview and what I have been involved in that month. If you do not wish to continue receiving this email please let me know.

### School Visits:

I will be trying to get around more schools between now and the summer holidays.

### **Safety in Action:**

We held our yearly Safety in Action event at Ashford Fire station. We invited year 6 pupils to come and take part in discussions about Internet Safety and ASB/Gangs. This was a huge success and we were really impressed with the participation of the students. We hope to put on a similar event next year.

### **Summer events:**

We have attended our first event The Sausage and Cider festival at Victoria Park. It was a great day talking to people and seeing everyone having a great time. If you would like us to attend any future events please let me know. If I cannot attend I will do my best to find a colleague who may be able to on my behalf.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

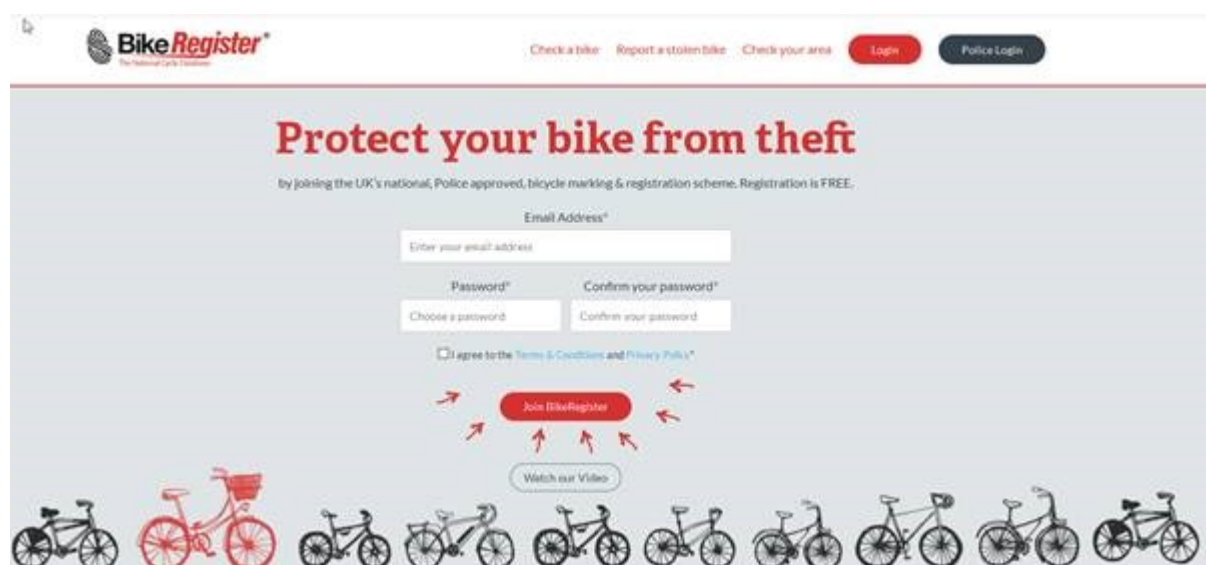
At the moment ASB is low across my areas however we are still having a few issues in Finberry and Bridgefield. These two areas are being monitored and we have managed to identify a number of youths responsible for the graffiti in the underpass at Finberry and this is an ongoing investigation.

### **Mersham Le Hatch:**

We have had some strange activity around the car park behind Mersham Le Hatch. Can I please stress not to leave any belongings on show in your car. Also ensure cars are locked and secure before you set off on your walk. I will also be doing my bit by attending the carpark regularly and showing a police presence. I have asked Mersham Le Hatch to create signs that will give people a heads up before setting off and will keep you updated on progress.

### **Bike Theft:**

We have recently had a period of bicycle theft's happening in and around Ashford and we are trying to encourage people to register their bikes through the following website [the bike register website.](#)



If you have friends or family with bikes please advise them and make them aware of this website to help protect them from theft.

### **Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)**

We would like to promote Neighbourhood Watch in your area and if you are interested please go to [the neighbourhood watch website](#)

### **Burglaries and Theft**

Please could you take a moment to read through the below step's on securing your property.

#### **At home**

- Lock all windows and doors before you go out or go to bed, making sure you know where your keys are in case of an emergency.
- Fit security measures such as intruder alarms, door chains and locks.
- Avoid labelling house keys in case you lose them and they fall into the wrong hands.
- Don't leave keys (including car keys) or valuables on display near doors or windows.
- Make sure fences, hedges and gates are in good condition.
- Consider installing external security lights, but make sure they do not affect your neighbours.
- Avoid leaving side gates open and put away ladders, tools or garden equipment that could be stolen or used to break into your home.
- Keep garages and sheds locked and alarmed where possible.
- Store bins carefully so they cannot be used as climbing aids.
- Never hide spare house keys outside or in a shed.
- Dispose of packaging carefully - empty boxes left outside your home could advertise your valuables to thieves.

#### **If you go away**

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to give the impression that someone is home.
- Cancel regular deliveries, such as milk and newspapers.
- Make sure garden furniture is stored away and lock sheds and gates.
- Ask a relative or trusted neighbour to pop in and move any post from inside your door
- Arrange for the curtains to be opened and closed while you are away.
- Offer your neighbours the use of your driveway.

**All incidents that have been reported to the Police can be found in full depth from crime statistics which are available by visiting [the police website](#) .**

**I would like to remind all residents to stay vigilant and report anything suspicious online or via the Kent Police non-emergency number 101 or if you do witness a crime in progress then please do call 999.**

**Please do not report directly to me as there are days when I am not on duty and this could delay any actions that need to be taken, leading to potential loss of evidence.**