

**Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in Aldington Village Hall, Roman Road, Aldington at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors; L Harman (Chairman), M Boulden, R Boulding, R Lloyd and S Wagstaff.

**Absent:** Cllr R Spicer

**In attendance:** Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk

Also present: Peter New (Neighbourhood Watch) and 1 member of the public.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a one minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to former Parish Councillor Peter Kemp who sadly passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> February.

1000. **Apologies for absence:**

Councillors A Bowman and W Parkinson.

1001. **Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1002. **Neighbourhood Watch:**

Report attached.

1003. **Public Participation Session:**

The resident present raised the following issues:

The footpath from 16 Walnut Ridge along to Mount Pleasant is rutted and dangerous for wheelchair/mobility scooter users. **The Clerk to report to Kent Highways.**

When it rains a large puddle forms in the road adjacent to the new roundabout in the playing field, lorries going past cause a wave of water over the roundabout and potential users. **The Clerk to report to Kent Highways.**

Vehicles park on Roman Road by the dropped kerb located at the Reynolds Gate making it impossible for mobility scooter users to cross the road here, can we have double yellow lines?

Post meeting note: The introduction of parking restrictions is subject to regulations that require public consultation and a Traffic Regulation Order organised through Kent Highways the cost being in the region of £3,000 plus the cost of the markings. In addition the application has to be supported by Ashford Borough Council as they would be the enforcing authority.

1004. **Parish Council Vacancies:**

Two applications have been received by the Clerk for the two vacant seats, one was present at the meeting.

**Resolved: To co-opt Richard Lloyd as councillor for the Aldington Ward, the second seat to be determined at a later date.**

1005. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1006. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman was pleased to report that the new roundabout has been installed at Reynolds Playing Field, whilst the news was posted onto the Parish Council Facebook page the majority of the comments made related to Aldington Meadows. The old tennis court has now been cleared of bramble more on this later on the agenda.

Ashford Borough Council are holding a virtual training session on planning on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm enquiries will be made to see if this is being recorded.

1007. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1669	Ashford Borough Council	Tree works	£1,926.00
1670	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£960.00
1671	Aldington Village Hall	MUGA Works	£32.27
1672	J Boot	Neighbourhood Plan	£258.90
1673	Dale Drummond	MUGA Clean	£820.00
1674, 1675 & 1676	Staff costs		£1,672.23
1677	M Gibbs	Memorial Garden	£76.77
1678	Aldington Village Hall	Room Hire	£28.00
1679	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£2,640.00
1680	Luminance Pro	MUGA Light	£561.12
1681	Sutcliffe Play	Roundabout	£5,924.16
1682, 1683 & 1684	Staff costs		£1,600.96

**Resolved:**

1. To receive and authorise the payment of the items of expenditure
2. To authorise the transfer of £25,000.00 from deposit account to current account.

1008. **Finance, Quarterly review:**

**Report ABPC/21/18** brings to the Parish Council an update on its financial standing against its budget at the end of the third quarter of the financial year.

**Resolved:**

1. To receive and note Report ABPC/21/18
2. To receive and note the financial position at the end of the third quarter of the financial year.

1009. **Quarry Field, Quarry Wood and Pond:**

The possibility of installing a pathway around Quarry Field was raised at the November 2021 meeting of the Parish Council. In this respect various contractors have been approached and asked to quote to undertake the various works. To date 3 quotations have been received in the sum of £34,920.00, £35,400.00 and £59,765.00 excluding VAT.

In view of the level of funding required Councillors Wagstaff, Parkinson and Lloyd to discuss outside of meeting and report back with possible alternatives at the April meeting of the Parish Council.

1010. **Community Garden:**

Works have commenced for the landscaping of the Community Garden with completion anticipated at the end of February. The volunteers will then commence the planting and maintenance.

1011. **Play equipment:**

The new accessible roundabout has been installed in the play area at Reynolds Playing Field.

The old tennis court on the Aldington Meadows recreation area has been cleared of brambles and can now be accessed. An indicative quotation has been sought to surface the area in order that a costed project can be drawn up to enable funding applications to be made. It has been ascertained during a site visit that the tennis court was not hard surfaced as there is no evidence of surfacing material or sub base.

In addition consideration will be given to the provision of equipment suitable for an older age range than the existing play equipment.

1012. **Highways Improvement Plan:**

The Parish Council are currently awaiting an update from Kent Highways as to the availability of potential funding for the items that have been put forward, this is expected in the next few weeks.

1013. **Highways Drainage:**

Kent Highways are currently undertaking surveys on New Road Hill in the area between Mill Lane and Bill Deedes Way and on Giggers Green Road between Goldenhurst and the canal as the drains are unable to cope with the quantities of surface water in heavy rainfall.

Progress on this is being closely monitored as excessive water on the carriageway is a hazard to traffic as well as potential icy conditions.

1014. **Neighbourhood Plan:**

The Neighbourhood Planning Team are organising a workshop entitled "How Green is Our Plan?" on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will provide the evidence base required for any policies that will be included within the final plan.

1015. **Events Committee:**

The events committee recently met and are making progress on the following events:

Children's Easter Egg Hunt – Good Friday

Jubilee Beacon Lighting – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9.45pm

Big Jubilee Lunch, Picnic on the park – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Village Fete – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

1016. **Allotments:**

**Report ABPC/21/19** brings to the Parish Council a proposal for improvements to the allotment site situated at Aldington Meadows.

**Resolved:**

1. **To receive and note Report ABPC/21/19**
2. **To request the Clerk to organise quotations for the proposed works**
3. **To request the Clerk to consult with allotment holders on the proposals**
4. **To request the Clerk to bring an update on progress to the next Parish Council meeting.**

1017. **Assets of Community Value:**

**Report ABPC/21/20** brings to the Parish Council details of the Community Right to Bid under the terms of the Localism Act 2011.

**Resolved:**

1. **To receive and note Report ABPC/21/20**
2. **To request the Clerk to commence the application process on the pub, post office and shop.**

1018. **Football on Quarry Field:**

It has been observed that whilst not many football matches have been played the pitch has till to be rotated. The Clerk is asked to write to the football club regarding the orientation of the pitch as well as asking for their proposals going forward.

1019. **Queen's Green Canopy:**

To thank Her Majesty for her service and celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, Ashford Borough Council is aiming to plant one tree representing each resident who will be living in the borough in 2022. This will almost be 135,500 trees planted over the next three years. This is also a fantastic opportunity to increase opportunities to sequester carbon in the longer term and beyond. This is the Parish Council's chance to support the Borough Council as a green pioneer, increase biodiversity and enhance the local environment, improve the health and wellbeing of residents and enjoyment of local areas.

In order to support this exciting project, the Borough Council are inviting Parish Councils to apply for trees to plant within their own parish areas. Each Parish Council can apply for as many trees or hedging plants that the proposed site can

accommodate, they do require that the Parish Council either owns the land to be planted or have the legal landowner's permission in writing. The Parish Council may also apply for more than one planting site. However, a separate application will be required for each site proposed.

As part of the application process the Parish Council will need to submit an overview of the proposal, where the trees are to be planted, what the Parish Council is hoping to achieve and how the site will be prepared the method of planting and how the trees are to be maintained once they are planted to ensure the project is sustainable and aligned to the Borough Council green pioneer objectives. If the Parish Council should plan to make a small woodland for local interest, provide shading for a popular seating area or want to plan a hedgerow to improve a site's biodiversity, this is the opportunity to let the Borough Council know how the Parish Council will enhance the local environment and improve local people's health and wellbeing.

Trees have many benefits, they benefit people's health and wellbeing, they benefit the environment, they enhance biodiversity, they strengthen communities and have been shown to benefit local economies, by planting the right trees in the right places for the right reasons, it is possible to achieve so much more than just sequestering carbon.

All trees and hedging will be native species sourced through the UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown (UKISG) Assurance Scheme which is consistent with maintaining very high standards of biosecurity and biodiversity. All plants will vary in size depending on species but will be approximately 60 – 80cm.

Trees will be delivered to successful Parish Councils by Aspire Landscape Management for planting in December 2022.

The Chairman to meet with Councillor Boulden to look at the area adjacent to Quarry Wood to determine what can be achieved.

1020. **Other items for information:**

Councillor Harman asked about the lack of a designated parking bay in the Village Hall car park for disabled. This is a matter for the Village Hall committee and not the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

## REPORT TO ALDINGTON & BONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 14th FEBRUARY 2022

By Peter New 91725 Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch Team.

I am continuing to get the message into the Aldington Community that.....

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Which is free to join can

- **Reduce crime and the opportunities for crime**
- **Help and reassure those who live in fear of crime**
- **Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities**
- **Help improve the local environment**

### **In setting the NHW/Crime Prevention agenda for 2022 I will seek to**

Keep the Community briefed and alert to the crimes that have the potential to strike in the area.

You will also hear me refer to PREVENTABLE CRIMES and AVOIDABLE CRIMES

The best example of the above would be items left inside vehicles when you park and leave them especially at night. That crime is preventable, avoidable by just taking those few seconds when you park to look inside and ensure nothing is left on show, ideally totally removed.

### **THE KEY AREAS**

All main properties secure at all times

Vehicles secure with nothing left on show. Vans with tools inside overnight are at extra risk.

Sheds, garages, barns, stables, outbuildings, and any form of external storage keep as secure as possible.

Domestic heating oil storage tanks

Care with internet shop thefts from items left on doorsteps

Naturally there is the need to track the trend crimes of say dog thefts and catalytic converter thefts.

The important other crime is SCAMS which is a 365 x 24 x 7 crime. Getting better and better all the time and covering any subject you can think of.

Remember SCAMS can come from 3, 30, 300 and even 3000 miles away. There is also the need to be alert to scams on the doorstep and BOGUS CALLERS/DISTRACTION BURGLARIES

2 incidents to illustrate the above from nearby.

Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property Stolen	Misc. Info
<a href="#">46/8666/22</a>	Upper Weald	Beech Drive area of Hothfield	Theft of motor vehicle	13/01/22 1200 hours		White Peugeot Partner van	Vehicle located and recovered from New Romney
<a href="#">46/9871/22</a>	Charing	The Hill area of Charing	Burglary	13/01/22 1230 hours	13/01/22 1330 hours	Collection of medals, coins and bank notes	<b><i>Distraction burglary</i></b> – suspects purporting to be from a building company arranged to clean gutters and mend alleged faulty pointing, theft took place whilst suspects were engaged in above tasks.

# Beware of suspicious callers

Most people who call at your home are genuine.

But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to:

- Trick their way into your home to steal valuables or money
- Sell you services or items you do not want or need
- Carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.



If concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can also:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Never leave your door unattended
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you.



**Kent  
Police**

#### Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

There have been cases across the wider District of Bogus callers and Rogue Traders. Never agree to any unsolicited work on your doorstep. **ADVICE TO RESIDENTS when in doubt do not even open your door.**



# You don't have to open the door to unexpected visitors



You can also:

- lock the rest of your home before opening the front door
- use a keychain and spy hole and check their ID
- stay with them when they are in your home
- ask them to come back later if you are worried

Find out more [www.kent.police.uk/burglary](http://www.kent.police.uk/burglary)

A distraction burglary is where one criminal will come to the front door to engage a resident in conversations whilst a second will try to slip in the rear backdoor and just grab anything to hand like a purse, handbag, or phone etc in a matter of seconds.

You will hear and see me report “Clouds on the horizon”

This is where it may not be in ALDINGTON however it is nearby and shows a clear indication that criminals are active in the area and or there may be a trend to be alert to.

It is essential that **ALL CRIMES, ATTEMPTED CRIMES/FAILED CRIMES, ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR and CRIMINAL DAMAGE ARE REPORTED.**

So many crimes are not reported. So many times, social media platforms like FACEBOOK have reports and comments about crimes but the police have not been informed.

## **THE POLICE**

Do not hesitate to call the police on **999** if a crime is in progress or about to be committed. **Call 101** to report non urgent crime or to give the police information and intelligence.

Use **CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111** to give information to the police via this network. Sometimes criminals are known in communities, but people are nervous and frightened about naming them to the police. Crimestoppers allows you to give information and even names of persons completely anonymously and confidentially.

**IT IS ESSENTIAL IN RURAL AREAS THERE IS NO HESTITATION TO MAKING A 999 CALL WITH TRAVEL RESPONSE TIMES.**

# Contacting Kent Police



Find your answer online. Browse our A to Z question finder [www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice](http://www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice)



Email your local policing team. Visit [www.kent.police.uk/yourarea](http://www.kent.police.uk/yourarea)



For non-urgent issues, call **101**



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**



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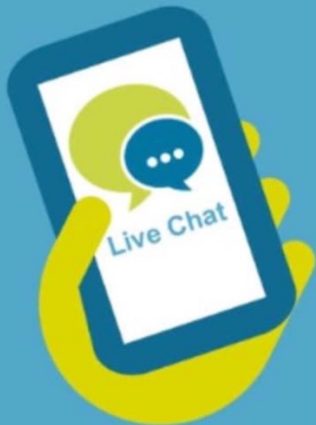


Follow us on Instagram [@kent\\_police](https://www.instagram.com/kent_police)



**Kent Police**

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)



## Need to report a crime?

### Do it online



A quicker way for you to report crime and incidents



Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately

Go to [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

**Crime**Stoppers.

**0800 555 111**

100% anonymous. Always.

✓

✓



## Home fire safety visits

Making sure home is a safe place is important for everyone, especially if you have a long-term health condition or dementia, a young family, are an older person or a smoker.

One way to help make your home a safer space is to request a free home fire safety visit from one of our firefighters or Safe and Well officers.

These visits are available to any of our customers who may have particular needs or priorities.

### Check if you are eligible for a home fire safety visit

Free home fire safety visits are available for to anyone who:

- is [aged 70 or over](#)
- is [living with dementia](#)
- has a [long term health condition](#)
- has [young children or is pregnant](#)
- is a [smoker](#)

#### Safety in the home

- Home fire safety visits
- Home safety advice
- Smoke alarms
- Firesetter intervention

Share: [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook](#) [Email](#)



## Home fire safety visits

A Kent Fire and Rescue Service free Safe and Well home visit means you can talk with one of our friendly Safe and Well officers in the comfort of your home. You'll receive fire safety advice relevant to you and an opportunity to talk about any safety concerns you may have.

I have met with my ex colleagues in the Fire Service and if I identify persons in the community who are vulnerable or require smoke detectors/fire safety advice I can call in the fire service who will fit smoke detectors free.

This work meets our visions and goals of a safer community

### **STOP PRESS ISSUES**

There has been an alarming spike in car theft crime across East Kent but especially Ashford District.

Thankfully once again not in Aldington but under my "clouds on the horizon" approach I will warn the community.

EXAMPLE BELOW

Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property Stolen	Misc. Info
<a href="#">46/183331/22</a>	Stanhope	Bredgar Close, Stanhope, Ashford	Theft from motor vehicle	27/01/22 1700 hours	28/01/22 0840 hours	Vehicle wing mirror stolen	
<a href="#">46/18497/22</a>	Beaver	Weavers Way area of Stanhope	Theft of motor vehicle	27/01/22 0200 hours	27/01/22 1420 hours	Silver VW Sharan stolen  <b>VN06 CLZ</b>	
<a href="#">46/18804/22</a>	Singleton East	Manorfield area of Singleton	Theft of motor vehicle	27/01/22 2200 hours	28/01/22 0815 hours	Blue Ford Fiesta stolen  <b>HK15 XRA</b>	
<a href="#">46/17693/22</a>	Willesborough	Blackwall Road South area of Willesborough, Ashford	Theft from motor vehicle	26/01/22 0645 hours	26/01/22 1500 hours	Front and rear index plates stolen  <b>GJ03 NAU</b>	
<a href="#">46/17723/22</a>	Norman	Ellingham Way Industrial Estate area of Ashford	Burglary	26/01/22 1822 hours	26/01/22 1833 ho	No entry gained, no property stolen	Attempt, damaged caused
<a href="#">46/17876/22</a>	Victoria	Cygnets Way area of Ashford	Theft of motor vehicle	26/01/22 2230 hours	27/01/22 0546 hours	Silver Ford Kuga stolen  <b>GM66MTJ</b>	
<a href="#">46/18766/22</a>	Tenterden South	St Mildred's Place area of Tenterden	Theft of motor vehicle	27/01/22 2130 hours	28/01/22 0720 hours	Grey Honda NSC 110 motorcycle stolen  <b>GY17WNH</b>	

**CAR THIEVES ARE IN YOUR AREA**



**LEAVE IT LOCKED, LIT AND EMPTY.**

**PROTECT YOUR CAR, LEAVE IT:**

**1. LOCKED**  
LOCK YOUR CAR WHEN YOU LEAVE IT

**2. LIT**  
PARK IN A WELL-LIT AREA

**3. EMPTY**  
HIDE ANY ITEMS ON SHOW

SHARE THESE 3 STEPS WITH 3 FRIENDS

www.ourwatch.org.uk

**Most people take steps to keep their car safe**



Do you:

- remove expensive items?
- lock and alarm it?
- store keys safely?



Types of advice and campaigns I will be running



My reports hopefully show direction of travel of our work and hopefully will be more towards informing you and a light read rather than requiring your intervention or direct action.

To reach the community I will communicate via.....

Facebook

Email to registered NHW Members ( phone in exceptional circumstances)

Newsletters

Aldington Parish Council Web page.

Importantly face to face at as many functions as I can get to. I look forward to some coffee morning type of the events and other village events.

May I close my report by thanking you as councillors for the way in which you have welcomed me to your previous meetings and the positive support and commitment you have made to this work.

I am looking forward to working with you and supporting you and the community in 2022 and onwards. To help keep your community safe and to help you as a council deliver your visions and goals.



**Thank you all very much, I really do appreciate all your support and the work you do.**

**Peter**

**Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)**

**Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch Team**