

**Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in Aldington Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

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

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

Also present: P New (Neighbourhood Watch) and 1 resident.

1169. **Apologies for absence:**

Councillors R Spicer and G Taylor.

1170. **Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1171. **Public participation:**

A request was made for some form of road marking adjacent to the dropped kerb by the Reynolds Gate to deter parking as access is denied to wheelchair/mobility scooter users.

Kent County Council are to be approached.

1172. **Neighbourhood Watch:**

Report attached.

1173. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1174. **Chairman's Report:**

The Evolution Power Community Liaison Panel met recently as a follow up from the consultation that took place at the end of 2022. There are a number of issues that they need to resolve and a request has been made for a re-consultation when amendments to the plan have been made. Although Evolution Power are considering this to only be an online consultation, this has been objected to. The majority of attendees were at the Aldington presentation.

The attendance at the other events held by Evolution Power generated very little interest. The proposed community fund has been set at £40,000 per annum inflation linked. The final details of this are unknown at this stage but there is a possibility that the adjoining parishes where there is very little impact could benefit to a far greater degree than Aldington.

The group of ladies that look after the War Memorial Garden would like to relay the lawn in the front of the Memorial as it suffered badly last summer and has become mainly a bed of weeds. A request has also been made that the mowing of this area be added to the Parish Council Grounds Maintenance Contract. The Parish Council have the funds set aside for the maintenance of the Memorial Garden.

1175. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1785	Dale Drummond	MUGA clean	£950.00
1786	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£990.00
1787	Aldington Village Hall	Room Hire	£112.50
1788	Canterbury Oast Trust	Planters	£96.00
1789, 1790 & 1791	Staff costs		£2,750.93
1792	M Gibbs	War Memorial planting	£76.50

**Resolved:**

1. To authorise the payment of the items of expenditure in the schedule.
2. To authorise the transfer of £6,000 from the deposit account to the current account.

1176. **Finance Review:**

**Report ABPC/22/11** 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/22/11**
2. To receive and note the financial position at the end of the third quarter of the financial year.

1177. **Planning Committee:**

There has only been one planning application considered this month, Goldwell Manor Farm, and it was decided to submit no comment.

1178. **Quarry Field, Quarry Wood and Pond:**

Nothing to report this month.

1179. **Neighbourhood Plan:**

The draft plan has been screened by Ashford Borough Council to ascertain if either a Strategic Environmental Assessment or a Habitats Regulations Assessment are required and for informal feedback on the proposed policies.

It has been confirmed that neither assessment is required. The Kent Downs AONB have been contacted to see if they can offer any advice as some of the Parish sits within the setting of the AONB.

1180. **Events Committee:**

The committee recently met to discuss proposals for the Coronation of HM King Charles III and a call for volunteers made on Social Media, however the response to this was very disappointing.

1181. **Public Rights of Way Orientation Panel:**

One of the aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan has been looking at is the Public Rights of Way in the Parish and how to promote their usage. An orientation panel located in the centre of the village would be a good way to show where the footpaths are to encourage their usage.

An indicative quotation has been sought for the construction and installation of a panel which is in the sum of £4,160.40. Councillor Harman has arranged to contribute £1,633.65 of her Ashford Borough Council Ward Member Grant towards the project. There are sufficient funds available within the s106 monies held by Ashford Borough Council to meet the shortfall.

**Resolved: to authorise the Parish Clerk to submit an application to Ashford Borough Council for the release of sufficient funds from the s106 monies held to enable an order to be placed.**

1182. **Aldington Meadows:**

**Report ABPC/22/12** summarises the recreation area at Aldington Meadows is very much in the same form as it was when the land was passed from Bellway Homes to the Parish Council by way of Section 106 agreement. The area has matured in terms of planting but the play area is now in need of attention given its age and the limited age range that it caters for.

There is in addition the area to the back of the site which was originally a tennis court when the prison service occupied the site prior to the development taking place which would appear to have been a grass court as there is no evidence of any sub base and the strength of undergrowth that has taken over despite having been cut down to ground level on more than one occasion.

**Resolved:**

1. **To receive and note Report ABPC/22/12**
2. **To authorise the Clerk to research suitable grants and to make application for them.**
3. **To authorise the Clerk to seek quotations for the installation of a zip wire.**
4. **To request the Clerk to provide regular updates on the progress of the project.**

1183. **Any items for information:**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

## REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2023

The types of crimes we face are well documented and I continue to brief the community about the risks and vulnerable areas to be alert and vigilant for.

A glance at recent crime reports across the district shows the types of crimes occurring.

Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property Stolen	Misc.
<a href="#">46/16089/23</a>	Victoria	Beaver Road, Ashford	Making off without payment	25/01/2023 08:25	25/01/2023 08:25	Petrol/Diesel	no payment
<a href="#">46/16228/23</a>	Wye with Hinxhill	Abbots Walk, Wye, Ashford	Theft from a motor vehicle	24/01/2023 23:20	24/01/2023 23:40	Catalytic Converter	
<a href="#">46/16258/23</a>	Wye with Hinxhill	Abbots Walk, Wye, Ashford	Theft from a motor vehicle	24/01/2023 23:30	25/01/2023 09:00	Catalytic Converter	
<a href="#">46/16336/23</a>	Victoria	Bridge Road, Ashford	Theft from a motor vehicle	24/01/2023 21:00	25/01/2023 09:00	School uniforms	€24k worth
<a href="#">46/16510/23</a>	Weald Central	Hopes Grove, High Halden	Burglary - Business And Community	25/01/2023 00:00		Copper piping & Batteries	
<a href="#">46/16549/23</a>	Bybrook	Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford	Theft if not classified elsewhere	25/01/2023 16:39	25/01/2023 16:39	Lead	from roof
<a href="#">46/17210/23</a>	Victoria	High Street, Ashford	Theft of a motor vehicle	25/01/2023 21:12	25/01/2023 23:05	Honda, white	<b>KR22 LGG</b> (pizza delivery bike)
<a href="#">46/17219/23</a>	Isle of Oxney	Woodlands View, Wittersham, Tenterden	Theft from a motor vehicle	08/01/2023 00:01	08/01/2023 23:59	Catalytic Converter	
<a href="#">46/17229/23</a>	Isle of Oxney	Woodlands View, Wittersham, Tenterden	Theft from a motor vehicle	08/01/2023 00:01	08/01/2023 23:59	Catalytic Converter	
<a href="#">46/17243/23</a>	Weald Central	Bethersden, Ashford	Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	26/01/2023 00:01	27/01/2023 07:00	Items taken unknown	
<a href="#">46/17625/23</a>	Victoria	Beaver Road, Ashford	Theft from a motor vehicle	26/01/2023 06:15	26/01/2023 17:15	Rear number plate	<b>MJ59 XDT</b>
<a href="#">46/17689/23</a>	Upper Weald	Pluckley, Ashford	Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling	26/01/2023 07:00	26/01/2023 19:00	Tools & equipment	from outhouse
<a href="#">46/17707/23</a>	Biddenden	Chulkhurst, Biddenden, Ashford	Theft from a motor vehicle	26/01/2023 23:00	26/01/2023 23:00	Catalytic Converter	

Importantly we are not reading Aldington but what can we learn from the above?

### Crime prevention advice

**Sheds** will remain a high target especially in rural areas along with **Vehicles, garages, barns, stables, allotment sheds, village halls, sports pavilions and any form of outbuildings and external storage**

### Catalytic Convert

These thefts have swept across East Kent and have appear to be spreading now into rural areas

### Number Plates

We continue to see these stolen to facilitate fuelling a vehicle and leaving a garage without payment and the CCTV picks up the stolen plate number.

## How to secure a shed or outbuilding?

Outbuildings should be treated in the same manner as your main premises when it comes to security. To prevent theft, you must think like a thief. Identify weak spots that could be targeted. How and where would a criminal enter your premises, and how could they break into your outbuilding? Answering these questions thoroughly will help you to discover which areas in your premises need additional security.

There's a rise in sports clubs using steel shipping containers for machinery storage. Providing they have closed shackle padlocks; this can be a great way to secure equipment and prevent theft. Steel shipping containers don't rot or mould as wood would and can hold plenty of heavy equipment – making them strong, weatherproof storage containers.

Your insurer will require you to have minimum security provisions as part of your policy. Make sure you check your Policy Wording document and comply with their stipulations as a minimum. For example, your insurer may require you to have a professional security system or specific locks. A security firm will be able to provide advice on the most effective alarm systems for your club and offer other security recommendations.

### Top tips for securing an outbuilding include:

Always lock the outbuilding. You should also consider locking the outbuilding even when you're using it. Install an alarm system. Consider security marking, which will prevent thieves from taking property that could later be identified as stolen. If you do mark your property, make sure you advertise that they are marked – this will act as a strong deterrent! Install external security lighting, which should be automatically operated, if possible. Consider installing CCTV. If your outbuilding has windows, make sure the window frames are in good conditions and use window locks. You could also replace outbuilding windows with Perspex / reinforced glass or fit window grills. Use nature to your advantage. Keep hedges near the outbuilding low so a thief is more likely to be spotted and grow shrubbery that is harder to climb through or clamber over. Make an intruder's job harder. Keep items such as bins tucked away so they can't be used to climb over fences, hedges or walls. Use a chain or immobiliser to secure valuable items such as tools, machinery, or equipment to a ground anchor. You should also lock away all equipment and machinery immediately after use. Consider purchasing closed shackle padlocks for your shed – most insurers will require two locking points. Where possible, lock tools in a secure metal cabinet within the shed. Keep an asset register, to include anything of value. Not only will this help ensure your Sums Insured is adequate, but it will also help you to evidence items stolen in the event of a claim. An asset register should include a list of items, when they were purchased, purchase price, replacement price, serial numbers and, if possible, a photo of the item. This will help identify what has been taken during a theft and will help demonstrate to your insurer that you have stayed within the limits of your policy. Take photographs of all valuable machinery and equipment kept in your shed. This will help police identify and retrieve them if a theft occurs.

## Protect your property

Given the opportunity, thieves will target **sheds** and **garages** for items such as high-value power tools and bikes.

Take measures to protect your valuables and reduce this risk of theft.



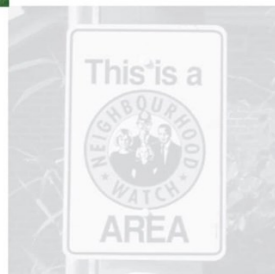
- Keep garages or sheds locked when not in use
- Consider fitting security alarms and external lights where possible
- Security mark valuable items and keep receipts somewhere safe
- Lock away tools or equipment that could be stolen or used to break in to your property
- Dispose of packaging carefully – wrapping and boxes can advertise rich pickings for criminals

## Keep your shed and garden secure



# Shut it, lock it, keep it

Advice on how you can help **protect** your property



CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE



The other concerning trend at present is the sudden rise in **CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS**.



## Help prevent the theft of catalytic converters



To reduce this risk:

- mark or etch it with the vehicle identification number or a unique serial number
- secure it to your vehicle with a cat clamp, cage or wire
- park in a garage or busy, well-lit area where possible

If you see something suspicious, **report it.**



### 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**



**Picture of guards that can be fitted to assist in protecting the Catalytic Converter.**

We have seen an increase in theft/removal of catalytic converters across the County. Our reports would indicate that Toyota and Honda vehicles are more likely to be targeted. Catalytic converters contain a high concentration of precious metals. All cars manufactured after 1992 contain a catalytic converter so any vehicle could be a target. The catalytic converters are being removed from vehicles that are being parked on the road (outside houses) as well as from vehicles that are being left in car parks for long periods of time, usually whilst the owner is at work.

To reduce the risk of having your catalytic converter stolen, you should:

- **Park your car in a locked garage** where possible, or gated car park but if this isn't an option **park it in a busy, well-lit area, ideally where CCTV is present.**
- Fit a catalytic converter clamp or security cage to protect your catalytic converter.
- Security mark and register the metal shell of the converter so if it is stolen and recovered, it will be easier to trace it back to your vehicle.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously around parked vehicles in suspicious circumstances please report it on 999.

I am also very please to confirm my new crime prevention initiative named

## **OPERATION GUARDIAN ANGEL**

I have implemented this across the district where elderly and vulnerable persons are added into our Neighbourhood Watch, but the contact details are added in of a relative so in the



event of a crime of concern in the area especially rogue traders and bogus callers the contact is made with the family relative or indeed a friend who can speak to the person at risk on the telephone. The warnings and alerts will be delivered by a known friendly voice and more likely to be heeded, essential when dealing with cases of dementia.

This is especially important with crime prevention advice to prevent crimes in the first place.

This is my personal initiative to keep vulnerable people safe and supports independent living.

We know where a vulnerable resident lives. Criminals also work to know too!

It supports not just the elderly and our very senior pensioners but a full range of disabilities The warning and alert may be better received from a son or daughter of an elderly person for example, rather than a more official source. Firstly by telephone but also to discuss matters on family gatherings/visits, involving the wider family in helping to keep the person safe.

Many of our elderly and vulnerable at best have only a land line exchange telephone.

Many of the police new contact methods are to report on line, live chat, Facebook, web site, twitter etc etc. Much of the crime prevention comes via methods not available to the vulnerable, especially to those who cannot read or write.



KENT  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH

KENT  
POLICE



# **NO CANVASSERS OR CALLERS**

**We do not buy or sell to callers at the door.**

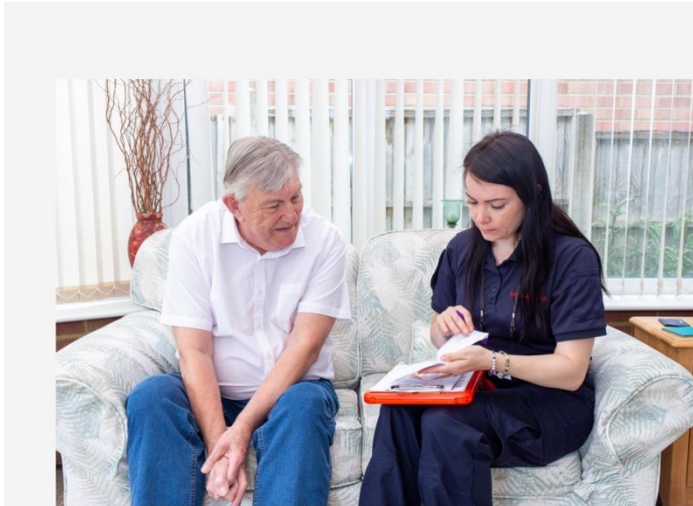
**We do not require services of any kind.**

**CALLERS ARE ONLY SEEN BY APPOINTMENT**

***WE WILL ALWAYS ASK FOR IDENTIFICATION!***

It is essential NHW does not leave these persons out on their own. NHW can also be a vital cog in calling in support from other agencies and example would be my past life in the Fire Service.

I can request a **free Home Fire Safety visit** as I am deemed a partner agency referral person. Smoke detectors and fire safety advice home visits especially to keep vulnerable persons safe.



## 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 feel it is important to finish the report to you as a council to confirm my 2023 plan

1. When crimes are committed that we immediately try to prevent further crimes in the area
2. Can we learn from the wider district to prevent crimes in Aldington
3. Can we assist with the investigations eg witnesses, information and CCTV
4. Can we issue further crime prevention from lessons learnt.
5. Can we continue to build NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH to assist in keeping our residents crime free and free from the fear of being a victim of crime.
6. Can we work on those AVOIDABLE and PREVENTABLE CRIMES

Thank you all for your continued support for our work together and as important for your personal support for me.

Thank you

Peter

**Peter New Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch**

