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The Mission Hall  
Forge Hill  
Aldington  
Kent  
TN25 7DT

TO MEMBERS ALDINGTON AND BONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL.

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to attend the meeting of the **PARISH COUNCIL** to be held on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30 pm** in Aldington Village Hall, Roman Road, Aldington.

*Peter Setterfield*

Peter Setterfield PSLCC  
Parish Clerk.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. To receive and accept apologies for absence:**
- 2. To receive any declarations of interest from members:**
- 3. Public Participation Session:**  
This provides an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of, and make comments, regarding the Parish Council. Questions not answered at this meeting will be answered in writing to the person asking or may appear as an agenda item for the next meeting. Members of the public are asked to restrict their comments, and/or questions to three minutes.
- 4. Neighbourhood Watch:**
- 5. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:**

Members of the public are reminded that they are not permitted to participate in the remaining items on this agenda.

- 6. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup>**

## **November 2023:**

### **7. Chairman's Report:**

### **8. Solar:**

An update will be given to councillors of any meetings or submission developments that have occurred since the last Parish Council meeting.

An update has been received from the Aldington & Mersham Support Group.

### **9. Finance:**

The Parish Council is asked to approve the schedule of payments to be tabled at the meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. To receive and authorise the payment of the items of expenditure.**
- 2. To authorise the transfer of £10,000.00 from deposit account to current account.**

### **10. Budget 2024 / 2025:**

**Report ABPC/23/011** concludes the budget making process for 2024 / 2025 and makes recommendations to enable the Parish Council to set its precept for 2024 / 2025 and to notify the tax collecting authority, Ashford Borough Council, in accordance with statutory legislation.

### **11. Planning Committee:**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee will give an overview of the planning applications considered in the last month.

### **12. Neighbourhood Plan:**

An update will be given at the meeting.

### **13. Events committee:**

An update will be given at the meeting.

### **14. Biodiversity policy:**

**Report ABPC/23/012** Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including Parish Councils) who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

### **15. Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024 – 2034 Consultation:**

KCC, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Has an overview role for local flood, which is flooding that arises from surface runoff, ordinary watercourses, and groundwater. As LLFA, KCC have a duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) that sets out how local flood risks will be managed in the county.

The current Local Strategy (2017 – 2023) needs to be replaced and a new Local Strategy has been drafted which will cover a 10-year period with a review after the first 5 years.

The draft Local Strategy builds upon lessons learnt from the previous Strategy. Through it, they aim to improve the safety and wellbeing of Kent's residents and the economy of Kent with appropriate flood risk management. This will be achieved by working with communities and partners, adapting to climate change, and utilising natural processes to provide multiple benefits, where possible.

Full details of the consultation can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk/localfloodrisk](http://www.kent.gov.uk/localfloodrisk)

The Parish Council is asked to consider its response to the consultation which has a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**16. Quarry Wood:**

Application has been made to the Forestry Commission for a Felling licence to enable selective thinning of the woodland to take place to enhance the biodiversity of the area.

As an insurance requirement the Parish Council has to undertake a Tree survey on a regular basis to ensure that the trees are in the opinion of an arboriculturist safe and to identify any works to the trees that are required. The last survey was carried out in October 2022 with the recommendation that a repeat survey be carried out in January 2024.

The Parish Council is asked to authorise the Clerk to place the request with the arboriculturist for an up to date survey together with recommendations as to the trees to be removed for effective thinning.

**17. Quarry Field and Pond:**

An update will be given at the meeting.

**18. Aldington Meadows:**

Two applications have been submitted to Ashford Borough Council for funding under the Rural England Prosperity Fund 2023/24 to enable the refurbishment of the Old Tennis Court and to replace the play equipment.

The Grant in respect of the old tennis court has been successful and the contractor will shortly be given the go ahead to clear the undergrowth.

With regards to the other application this has been deferred by the Borough Council until March meeting of the Community Grants Panel due to budget pressures. As the maximum grant available under this scheme would be insufficient for the project an application has been made to the National Lottery Community Fund for further funds, the decision on this application will not be known for approximately 12 weeks.

**19. Any items for information:**