

Minutes of the Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th July 2024 in Aldington Village Hall at 7:30pm.

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

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

Also present 14 residents.

The Chair revised the order of the agenda to move solar above Sellindge Synchronous Condenser and to merge the Finance Quarterly review and Medium-Term Financial Plan as one item.

1475. **Apologies for absence:**
Cllr P Hannabuss.

1476. **Declarations of interest:**
There were no declarations of interest.

1477. **Solar:**
The Chair gave an overview of the Pre-examination phase of the proposed solar project Stonestreet Green although no precise timing or dates could be provided as the application at the time of the meeting had not been accepted, the deadline being 9th July 2024.

1478. **Sellindge Synchronous Condenser:**
Update received from Welsh Power on the planned activities for July:

- Finalise the sites platform area
- Set up construction welfare facilities including the construction wheel wash system
- We will begin foundation excavations on the main building and the DNO substation
- You will be pleased to know that the main volume of deliveries with respect to traffic on a single day has now been completed, with the levels experienced to date unlikely to re-occur on the project.

1479. **Public Participation:**
There were no public submissions.

1480. **Neighbourhood Watch:**
Report attached.

1481. **Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:**
Due to the Parliamentary Election no activity apart from day to day actions has taken place.

1482. **Minutes:**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1483. **Chairman's Report:**

Most of the last month has been spent in preparing for the upcoming decision on the Development Consent Order for Stonestreet Green Solar.

1484. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Payee	Purpose	Amount
Staff costs		£2,707.06
Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£130.50
Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£990.00
JRB Enterprise	Dog waste bags	£164.94
Handyman expenses		£124.61
Precious moments	Summer fete	£549.00
Canterbury Oast Trust	Village hall planters	£100.00
Society of Local Council Clerks	Subscription	£202.17

Resolved:

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

1485. **Finance, Quarterly Review and Medium-Term Financial Plan:**

Report ABPC/24/009 brings to the Parish Council an update on its financial standing against its budget at the end of the first quarter of the financial year as well as the current position of its reserves.

Report ABPC/24/010 the Parish Council must, in accordance with its Financial Regulations, set a budget for the forthcoming financial year by the end of December to enable the precept demand to be submitted to the Borough Council.

Given that the Parish Council is looking to consider a number of projects during its current term it would be prudent to establish a medium-term financial plan as a starting point for the development of the annual budget going forward.

The Chair expressed the view that the Quarterly Review lacked clarity on the finances and asked that Cllr Stebbings look at how the figures could be made clearer. In terms of the Medium-Term Financial Plan it would be better to consider one project at each meeting in detail going forward before considering the plan.

Resolved to review the Quarterly review at the next meeting of the Parish Council and to defer the Medium-Term Financial Plan to a future date.

1486. **Planning Committee:**

Cllr Wagstaff reported that the committee had considered three applications at its meeting:

- Land North of Parsonage Farm, Frogmore Lane Bonnington an objection was being submitted as the proposals were contrary to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and Ashford Local Plan policies.
- Field to West of National Grid Converter Station, Church Lane, Aldington a comment was being submitted requesting that no vehicular access was to be permitted to the site from the South.
- Knoll Hill House, Knoll Hill an objection was being submitted as the proposal is within the AONB and contrary to Local Plan policies.

1487. **Neighbourhood Plan:**

The Neighbourhood Plan has been passed by the Planning Inspector and the referendum has been scheduled to take place on 15th August 2024.

1488. **Highways:**

The results of the surveys carried out recently have been received today but not analysed. In terms of Roman Road in the vicinity of the school a quote is currently awaited for a survey to be carried out here to capture movement from the B2067.

Cllr Weatherall left the meeting.

1489. **Events Committee:**

Cllr Taylor reported that stall holders are slowly coming forward for the fete on the 10th August and that a number of volunteers are required to help set up as well as to supervise some of the activities.

1490. **Quarry Wood:**

A meeting with Led by The Wild to discuss the Woodland Survey and to formulate an action plan is yet to take place.

1491. **Quarry Field and Pond:**

A date for the clearance of the weed from the pond is to be organised.

1492. **Aldington Meadows:**

Remedial works are yet to take place due to the wet weather it has not been possible for the contractor to take vehicles onto the site without causing further damage.

1493. **Walnut Ridge open space:**

A request has been submitted for the grass cutting arrangements to be reconsidered to allow some areas to be longer and for the installation of a picnic bench as well as ways to prevent cars from parking on the grass.

Resolved: to leave the grass cutting as the current schedule and to obtain and install a picnic bench.

1494. **War Memorial:**

Nothing to report.

1495. **Items for information:**

It has been reported by the Cricket Club that the barriers around the square have been removed without authority on more than one occasion and it was asked if the Village Hall CCTV captured any evidence.

The Village Hall CCTV is too far from the cricket square to be seen. It has been noted on more than one occasion that dog walkers have complained about the trip hazard. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Cricket Club and suggest that a more substantial barrier be used that was luminous with appropriate signage.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

REPORT TO ALDINGTON & BONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2024.

My report is short as I have just arrived back from my family holiday albeit I was still in touch with residents and NHW matters, I just had sand and sea between my toes. I apologise I cannot make the meeting tonight.

I always carry on with NHW whilst I am on holiday albeit the Cornwall internet reception and mobile phone signal does resemble North Korea.

In Saxon Shore my focus going into these second half of the year will be a mixture of the routine crime prevention but where required the ability to look ahead to anticipate crime trends that may strike us or sadly return to our area.

On routine crime matters for your council area, I shall be focused on

**ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
CRIMINAL DAMAGE
THEFT FROM VEHICLES
THEFTS FROM GARAGES, SHEDS AND OUTBUILDINGS
SPECIAL CRIMES THEFT OF HIGH END KEYLESS CARS
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS POLICE CAMPAIGN
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
BOGUS CALLERS/ROGUE TRADERS
FLY TIPPING**

IMPORTANTLY TO LOOK AHEAD AND ANTICIPATE, ALERT AND INFORM. REACT TO CONCERNS OF RESIDENTS AND DEVELOPING/CHANGING CRIME THREATS

And of course, the crimes around **SCAMS** that strike to all parts of our community but will especially target the lonely, elderly, and the most vulnerable in our community. These crimes will grow and be a relentless attack on us all.

To try and assist I have set up a Facebook Group to store just SCAMs as a form of library one can look back and refer to. It would be impossible to email out all the scam information residents would just switch off and delete or not read the mails.

Whilst not the full answer it is another helpful step that residents can quickly look back and check if they are dealing with a scam. Trying to look back on a normal group the scam info could be lost among all other posts.

As I said it is not the full answer but at least it is another step and if one resident avoids becoming a victim then the work will have been worth it

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCAM LIBRARY GROUP by PETER NEW



 Edit

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCAM LIBRARY GROUP by PETER NEW >

🔒 Private group · 305 members



 Manage

 Invite

Featured

Photos

Events


Files


Albums



Write something...

 Anonymous post

 Photo

 Poll

Most relevant

Sort

An issue of concern that I would like to put down a marker for future debate is the lack of involvement with officers from Ashford Police, (not rank and file officers on the front line but the structure of Ashford policing) The Beat officers who replaced PCSOs were supposed to be community based but have such large areas to cover.

You are massive key partners for Kent Police and many of you hold wider office than this Council. You must be briefed; you must be alerted and your vast experience in the Community should be at the police right hand of protecting the community.

The Kent Police model of Beat Police Officers in Ashford has struggled. When did a police officer last attend your council? The P.C.C., Matthew Scott, is clear there should be an attendance once every 3 months. It has not happened. Fears that the removal of PCSOs would see a reduction in the service were dismissed, but we have been proved right.

You have seen however I am building a strong relationship with the Rural Police Team.

This will be an issue I will be driving forward on. Why have we not been briefed about where and how Ashford Police will be going forwards. You as a council and individual councillors should have been briefed and been a party to try to help them.

With me raising these issues I will disappear from the Police Christmas card list, but this is about trying to help and understand where they are and how we can best help them. They retreat behind high walls however into saying nothing and not seeking the help of partners.

A greater fear for me is however councils could shrug shoulders and just say “Oh well it is what it is, they will not change” my reply is yes, they must and a battle I will go down fighting for.

My markers for the closing months of 2024.

ITEM ONE Ashford police establishment of police numbers which I feel has not increased in the year from the launch of the new policing model (JUNE 2023) to date. You recall they launched at 50% strength. What is it some 12 months on?

This must be a question for our newly elected M.P.

ITEM TWO Ashford police liaisons with key partners like NHW, council and councillors must improve and you as councillors should be briefed on serious crimes. I cannot

make the police use myself or my resources, but you are the elected representatives of the community, big players with deep connections into the community.

As far as 6 months through the year in simple terms for us both same again please!!

If in a moment of doubt, please do not read my report as negative there are few if any more positive about trying to help the police and keep our community, especially our vulnerable, safe and secure than me. Crime free and importantly free from the fear of being a victim of crime also must be our drive.

This is about asking the police to talk to us! Explain their problems! And explore ways in which we can help and all be better for the people we have the honour to serve.

Thank you for your support as always.

Peter

Peter New

Community Neighbourhood Watch.