

Minutes of the Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025 in Aldington Village Hall at 7:30pm.

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

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk

Also present 1 member of the public and P New (Neighbourhood Watch)

1605. **Apologies for absence:**

Councillors P Hannabuss and G Taylor.

1606. **Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1607. **Sellindge Synchronous Condenser:**

Works planned for this month include; vegetation clearance from the entrance to facilitate the abnormal load deliveries expected in mid June; UKPN are currently installing the constructor power supply which will remove the need for generators. Works on the foundations and site levelling are continuing. There has been more surplus spoil at the site than was envisaged therefore a further application will be made to increase the size of the bund.

1608. **Solar:**

The second round of hearings have taken place on the subject of Public Rights of Way and the Battery Storage. Written representations are being compiled expressing ongoing concerns regarding footpath AE474 and the Battery Storage together with clarification being sought on the term maintenance in the draft DCO as it lacks any limitations.

1609. **Public Participation:**

The member of the public raised the matter that the Parish Council currently has two vacancies. The Chair responded that one had only recently occurred and that the positions would be advertised within the Parish in the near future.

1610. **Neighbourhood Watch:**

Report attached.

1611. **Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:**

Re: sinkhole outside Post Office; from KCC Cllr. Clair Bell: Highways advise me it was a small area that opened up, no more than a metre cubed in volume, likely to be a small area of underground wash out from all the rain etc, so nothing of any great concern. The sewer was camera surveyed to check for any issues by Southern Water and South East Water checked for any leaks nearby - both investigations came back negative.

I gather the issues in Godstone were caused by a major water leak. Roman Road is now re-open.

Local Government Reorganisation: the Interim response from both Kent and Medway County Councils and the 12 district councils beneath them, will go to Jim

McMahon, Minister of State for Local Government and Devolution, next week on 21st March. The response will be debated in Ashford Borough Council on Thursday 20th March in a special meeting of full Council. The meeting is a public one, so anyone interested can attend or listen online. It should be born in mind that the Interim Response to Local Government Reorganisation is a cumulative response, not just that of Ashford Borough Council.

1612. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th February 2025 were submitted, subject to an amendment to the Chairman’s report agreed for the Chair to sign.

1613. **Chairman’s Report:**

This month we formed a sub-group to organise the Summer Fete. I have been researching amusement rides and, when we reach events on this month’s agenda, I will be requesting the Clerk to confirm that we have funding available.

We have closed advertising for to replace the Clerk when he retires. We have four great applicants and will be interviewing three of them. Cllr. Wagstaff and myself will conduct the interviews.

The grounds maintenance contract will change to Aspire at the end of this month. I met with the manager and walked around the fields up here and in Aldington Meadows. As with any change over, there may be issues at the start. Please pass on anything you hear to the Clerk so that we can get them addressed.

1614. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments

Payee	Purpose	Amount
Staff costs		£3,236.39
Harmer & Sons	Grounds Maintenance	£990.00
Aldington Village Hall	Room Hire	£112.50
L Harman	Reimbursement	£72.00
A Eardley	Solar representation	£7,272.00

Resolved:

1. To authorise the payment of the items in the schedule of payments
2. To authorise the transfer of £12,000.00 from deposit account to current account.

1615. **Planning Committee:**

The committee considered three applications; Ruffynes Barn confirmation of lawful start – no comment, Summer Hill Mill Lane variation of condition 2 – no comment and East Stour Solar Farm additional heritage statement – no comment.

1616. **Community Resilience Planning:**

Nothing to report.

1617. **Events Committee:**

Plans are being formulated for the Summer Fete a quotation has been obtained for a six bed trampoline and total wipeout from the Fun Firm at a cost of £1,500 which includes staff to operate. It was agreed to proceed with the booking.

1618. **Quarry Field and Pond:**

Now the pond has been cleared and the surrounding area has dried wild flower seed is to be sown at the rear of the pond.

1619. **Aldington Meadows:**

After a meeting with the contractor it was agreed that the work to clear the old tennis court would be deferred until September.

1620. **Items for information:**

A litter pick is being organised to take place on 9th April.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:10pm

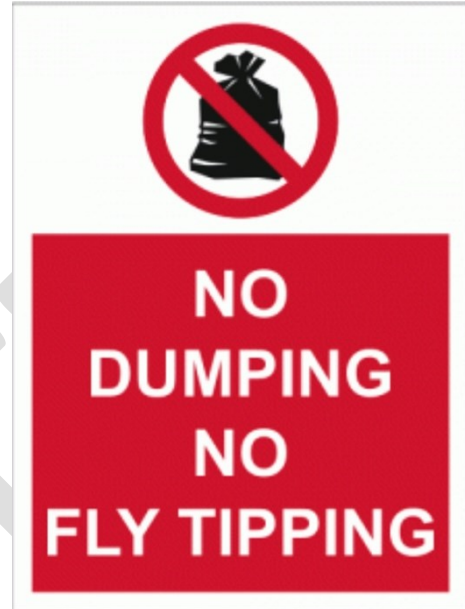
DRAFT

REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2025.

I will report on matters that I have worked on since our last meeting and take items from the 2025 plan I presented in January 2025.

In my 2025 Action Plan I will be working on Fly Tipping in areas.

FLY-TIPPING IS THE ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ITEMS



Around 80% of fly-tipped waste comes from people's homes

Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of items.

If your waste is fly tipped, by you or by someone else on your behalf, you could face a £400 fixed penalty notice or an **unlimited fine**.

Leaving items:

- beside street bins and recycling banks
- on the floor of communal bin areas
- outside closed recycling centres and charity shops

are **all fly tipping**.





HOW TO RECOGNISE

ENVIRONMENTAL ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Environment antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

Don't just accept that there is graffiti in your neighbourhood, or litter thrown around everywhere, or dog poo in the middle of the street.

Do not accept that Antisocial behaviour is normal.

DUMPING RUBBISH

Fly tipping, excessive litter and dumped rubbish can be a health hazard, not to mention an eyesore. It can cause unpleasant smells, attract pests, and **create a dangerous environment for children**, pets, and wildlife in particular. If the problem is not dealt with quickly, it can lead to an increase in fly-tipping making the area more obviously unpleasant and unsafe.

ANIMAL NUISANCE

This type of nuisance covers any situation where animals are creating a nuisance or people's behaviour associated with people's behaviour associated with caring for animals is deemed

as antisocial. It includes **uncontrolled animals, stray dogs, barking**, fouling and intimidation by an animal.

VANDALISM & DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Vandalism includes **unauthorised graffiti, light smashing**, removing/bending signage or ornamentation, breaking windows, or other damage to property. **Graffiti is marks, scratching or drawings** made on a surface on a public place, without the property owner's permission.

ANTISOCIAL DRINKING

Drinking in public places and in large groups can intimidate people, cause noise and nuisance and deter other residents from using community spaces.

DRIVING CARELESSLY

Antisocial driving is any activity involving a vehicle which causes alarm and distress. It can be **excessive noise or loud music** coming

from the vehicle, wheel spinning or doing tyre burnouts.

ARSON

Arson is the intentional and malicious **causing of a dangerous fire or explosion** for the purpose of destroying one's own or another's property.

Agencies can use restorative action to deal with offenders in relation graffiti, vandalism, litter and similar offences, which will often include them clearing up the mess.



KEEP KENT

CLEAN

**YOUR WASTE,
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

**FLY TIPPERS
GET FINED**

**NO EXCUSES.
YOU COULD GET AN
UNLIMITED FINE.**



**BEFORE YOU HIRE A WASTE
DISPOSAL SERVICE ASK:**

- for their Waste Carrier Licence
- where they dispose of their waste
- for a receipt or invoice



#KeepKentClean

Kent
Councils
Working
Together

Keep
Kent
Clean

Fly-tipping and other littering

Fly-tipping and littering covers a range of items that people might discard in a public place, from large appliances like fridges to drugs-related paraphernalia like needles and syringes. Find out more below, including what you can do to help clean up your community.

Common types of littering

While the police will take action if we witness it happening, littering should usually be reported to your [local council](#) as they can organise the removal of litter.

General littering

General littering includes the dumping of household rubbish, either in plastic bags or as individual items. It also includes dog fouling in public places.

Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of large items or waste on public roads, land or into rivers. This could include large household appliances like washing machines or discarded materials from construction sites.

Hazardous items

Equipment used for taking drugs, discarded drugs and items used during sex, such as condoms, represent a serious health risk to the general public. Your local council will want to remove these and make the area safe.

What is the impact?

Fly-tipping and littering can be a health hazard, not to mention an eyesore. It can cause unpleasant smells, attract pests and create a dangerous environment for children, pets and wildlife in particular.

We've found that if the problem is not dealt with quickly, it can lead to an increase in fly-tipping in the area, making the unpleasant and unsafe area even larger and more obvious.

What you can do

If you've witnessed littering or people leaving a mess in public, please don't attempt to remove the rubbish yourself in case there are hidden sharp or dangerous items. Contact your [local council](#) who will arrange for the rubbish to be removed.

If you've witnessed fly-tipping or people discarding drug-related equipment, please photograph the discarded items if possible, and [find the right antisocial behaviour reporting service](#) using our online tool.

ABOVE INFORMATION FROM KENT POLICE

On other matters,

The constant need to be vigilant for Sheds, Allotment sheds, garages, barns, stables any form of external storage cannot be overstated. These are targets.

Theft of and from vehicles especially has featured in my work in recent weeks and I include motorcycles.

THE NEED TO ENSURE ALL CRIMES, ATTEMPTED CRIMES and FAILED CRIMES cannot be overstated.

The reason we must be alert and proactive to battle the drug trade is because that drives so much other crime as people steal to fund the purchase of drugs.

I will verbally update you on my meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott on a one to one in his office. He was shocked on the matter of police not making meetings. I will update you verbally on this matter.

I will update you on my work on Violence Against Women and Girls police campaign and the recent seminar I attended.

This is not about **ARE WOMEN SAFE? IT IS ABOUT DO THEY FEEL SAFE?**

A matter I constantly raise with the police. I was at a seminar last week.

The matter of concern raised on national platforms is do some women carry knives for defence? See matter at end of report.

I do not think that problem is a risk in our part of Kent as I write however, you need to know my fire service background taught me "Don't worry it will never happen here" is complacency I will not buy into. I had an excellent fire service career dealing with what will never happen!

I remain constantly alert to monitor any sign of the knife culture creeping into Kent from the wider country. Again, the drug trade is responsible for my concern as dealers often carry weapons to enforce their criminal activity. Drug dealers intercepted especially "County Lines" are normally found to be carrying Drugs, Large sums of cash and Weapons.

So, to sum up my work is to stay alert and pick up any intelligence around drugs for the above reason to which I know as a council the health of our community especially our younger residents are also at the fore front of your thinking.

You will recall the need to monitor car parks as drop off points for local drug dealings.

I am aware the KCC now having elections will see candidates on doorsteps speaking to residents. This will be a golden opportunity for us to quality assure our work and pick up any intelligence on resident's concerns. I understand clear ID will be carried by councillors who are holding existing positions but will seek guidance on identification carried by perspective candidates. I need to be sure there is no business opportunity for criminals as **Bogus Callers** remains a problem.

Alongside Bogus Callers are Rogue Traders, and the constant advice must be **DO NOT AGREE TO UNSOLICITED WORK ON YOUR DOORSTEP**

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.

I will seek advice from serving KCC Councillors that naturally those holding office during the coming KCC elections will carry ID but what do other candidates carry? Or supporting workers?

I think what is also vitally important is to ensure during my report that we pause and listen to any concerns that councillors are picking up on during their routine council work. You have my 2025 plan; you know my focus and direction of travel.

Whilst KCC candidates will have considerable foot slogging to do on doorsteps this is also a wonderful opportunity to gauge crime concerns in communities.

I have had to alert the whole of SAXON SHORE to the issue of criminals scouting out premises. **IT IS ESSENTIAL EVERYTHING IS REPORTED.**



Leaving Police HQ February 11th after meeting the Crime Commissioner for a very frank and honest one to one meeting about the work of NHW in the Ashford District especially ensuring rural areas do not feel forgotten and abandoned and reflecting on this growing town of Ashford.

He knows the good work I try to do and the support I get by working with councils like you. I am totally mystified by what the police miss by not engaging with councils and councillors at meetings

I left him in no doubt about without that support from you the work would be extremely hard, not impossible but extremely hard.

On a Radio Kent interview last week, he specifically named me and working partnerships with councils like you.

STOP PRESS I will update you on my work on Catapults and the spike in these crimes.

Knowing, when I am out there in the community, that I have your backing, and support cannot be overstated, and I record my most sincere thanks but please never ever think I take that for granted.

Peter

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Community neighbourhood Watch.**