Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Thursday 1st December 2022 at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors: S Hudson (Chairman), M Bilham, L Lawson and R Thompson.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Also present: P New (Neighbourhood Watch) Cllr L Harman (ABC)

922. Apologies for absence:

Cllr S Carrington and Cllr D Robey (KCC)

923. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

924. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 29th September 2022 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

925. Neighbourhood Watch:

Report attached.

926. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

The Borough Council are experiencing a gap in its budget due to reduced revenues from businesses closing, reduced footflow and people experiencing financial difficulties as well as increased numbers seeking benefits and more homeless. As a short term fix this can be taken from reserves.

A considerable amount of time has been committed to the Evolution Power statutory consultation for the Solar project in Aldington which will be discussed at the Borough Planning meeting on the 7th December.

927. Kent County Councillor's Report:

- The big issue at KCC now, is the fact that we have a large projected overspend for the current financial year, due to all the various national economic pressures. This is not a problem that is restricted only to KCC in Local Government, or even only to Local Government. Balancing the budget will require some very difficult decisions, but ones that are necessary to ensure that the Authority remains solvent and able to operate.
- Similarly, we have a gap in our budget for 2023/2024, and we are considering how to deal with this, in parallel with the work on the numbers for this financial year. Extra funding for Adult Social Care was announced in the Autumn Statement from the Government last week, and this will help.
- Roger Gough, the KCC Leader, has written a joint letter with the leader of Hampshire County Council, to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Levelling-up, Housing & Communities, about the crisis that we face in Local Government Finance, and informally, we understand that the letter has been received sympathetically.

928. Planning:

Y19/0257/FH – Land bounded by: the M20 and Channel Tunnel Railway Link (CTRL) to the North; the A20/Stone Street and Sandling Park to the East; Harringe Lane to the West, and; Aldington Road to the south. – Amended outline planning application, with all matters reserved, for a comprehensive residential – led mixed use development comprising:

- Up to 8,500 residential homes including market and affordable homes; age restricted homes, assisted living homes, extra care facilities, care homes, sheltered housing and care villages.
- The demolition of identified existing buildings
- A range of community uses including primary and secondary schools, health centres and nursery facilities.
- Retail and related uses
- Leisure facilities
- Business and commercial uses
- Open space and public realm
- Burial ground, sustainable urban drainage systems
- Utility and energy facilities and infrastructure
- Waste and waste water infrastructure and management facilities
- Vehicular bridge links
- Undercroft, surface and multi-storey car parking
- Creation of new vehicular and pedestrian accesses into the site, and creation of a new vehicular pedestrian and cycle network within the site
- Improvements to the existing highway and local road network
- Lighting
- Engineering works, infrastructure and associated facilities
- Together with interim works or temporary structures required by the development and other associated works including temporary meanwhile uses.

Resolved: The Parish Council note that a revised Otterpool Park Transport Response Report V2 has been tabled. However, the Parish Council is very disappointed that no consideration has been given to its previous submission regarding the usage of the B2067 from Harringe Lane towards Hamstreet which passes through the centre of Bilsington.

It is already known and statistically proven that when there is an issue with traffic delays on either the M20 or A20 SatNav users are diverted onto the B2067 which is not suitable for the volumes of traffic generated by this, leading to damaged verges and considerable inconvenience for local residents in terms of noise and increased pollution levels.

A development of the size being proposed will generate significant additional traffic of which a proportion will use the B2067, therefore the Transport plan must reflect this as this is the material planning consideration of highway safety.

929. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Staff costs September £454.37
Staff costs October £509.38
Staff costs November £391.46
Clerk's expenses £51.30
Christmas Tree £120.00

Resolved: to authorise payment of the items in the schedule of payments.

Budget 2023 / 2024:

Report BPC/2022/08 brings to the Parish Council the budget making process for 2023/24 and makes recommendations to enable the Council to set its precept for 2023/24 and to notify the tax collecting authority in accordance with statutory legislation.

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note Report BPC/22/08
- 2. To agree the Parish Council's budget for 2023/24 as set out below
- 3. To confirm the precept for 2023/24 in accordance with the provisions in Sections 39,41 and 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 4. To authorise the Clerk of the Parish Council to sign the Precept demand on the Borough Council.

Staff costs	£4,600
Clerk's expenses	£220
Audit	£50
Insurance	£430
Subscriptions	£260
General	£1,300
Room hire	£150
Website	£25
Defibrillator	£300
Precept requirement	£7,535

Based on a tax base set by Ashford Borough Council of 158 the Band D equivalent will be £47.69, 92 pence a week.

930. Highways:

Kent Highways have recently undergone a restructuring exercise and as a result are reviewing all Highways Improvement Plans that have previously been submitted. It is anticipated that the review of the parish's plan will have been undertaken prior to the next meeting of the parish council.

931. Village Hall:

Nothing to report.

932. Other items for information:

The Speed Indicator is currently not working, this will be checked and adjusted as necessary.

Enquiries are to be made to organise a training session for the defibrillator.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:05pm.

REPORT TO BILSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2022. By 91725 Peter New Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch

As we move into winter and towards Christmas I may sound like a broken record. In fact, I was recently told I often write the same and sadly yes, I do because the crimes are much the same!! Many of which are preventable and avoidable!

All the trend crimes of Vehicles, Farm vehicles, Garages, Sheds, Barns, Stables, any form or Outbuilding and External Storage the risks remain the same. We just need to be extra careful and vigilant with the earlier darker evenings.

The thefts of internet shopping deliveries taken from doorsteps are still apparent with the risk now increased to rural areas as the vans are now followed. This will increase as Xmas approaches.

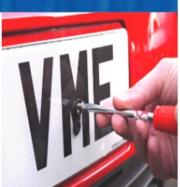
NUMBER PLATE THEFTS These are carried out whereby they are removed at night from parked vehicles and the plates place on vehicles which are mainly to allow a vehicle to collect fuel at a garage forecourt and make off without paying and the CCTV pick up the registration number stolen from a car.

They can also be used to avoid congestion charges and Dartford Crossing fees. Just occasionally they are fitted onto a vehicle to commit a far more serious crime.

PLEASE ALWAYS REPORT A NUMBER PLATE THEFT IMMEDIATELY. Prevention advice follows



Thieves steal number plates to use in other crimes





Make sure you are not the next victim.

Fitting tamper proof screws can help prevent your number plate being stolen.



Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat — available 24/7 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

A serious crime trend within the Ashford District in the last 2 weeks follows

HIGH END TYPE CAR THEFTS BMWs, MERCEDES, AUDIS and RANGE ROVERS TYPES

A worrying trend of high value car thefts has hit the Ashford District in recent weeks, again not in directly in your Council area but all around us and breaking now into rural areas and nearby Folkestone.

Areas hit close by were

Park Farm 4, Chilmington 1, Knights Park 2, Repton Park 1, Singleton 2, Washford Farm 1 Willesborough 2, Egerton1, Boughton Aluph to name those close by. Others have occurred in East Kent especially in Folkestone.

The car thefts in Ashford District were all high end BMWs, Range Rovers and Mercedes many with keyless ignitions.

This was a very professional organised crime. Cars would be scouted for make, address and location. There was nothing "Chance and Opportunist" about this crime the exact cars and properties were known, and cars taken in a matter of minutes.

Police investigations are underway but to date it would appear the criminals had devices that can intercept key codes from within your properties.

Advice is now given to ensure that keys are stored safely away from front hallways and front door window ledges.

As always it is a strong message into the community that if persons are seen acting suspiciously around vehicles in the early hours of the morning especially trying car doors **CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY.**

I am hugely frustrated when I read on Facebook groups what people have seen but failed to call 999.

This is 'crimes in progress' pick the phone up and ring 999 there and then

PLEASE SEE BELOW CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FROM KENT POLICE

Ashford residents are being warned to be on their guard following several reports of vehicles being stolen from driveways.

Over the last two weeks, several keyless entry vehicles have reportedly been stolen from outside homes and officers are urging people to protect themselves against criminals.

Keyless entry

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry.

Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition.

Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home. This means that even if your car and home are secure, thieves can still unlock, start and steal your car.

How to protect your keyless entry car

When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car and any windows and doors.

Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking box, tin or pouch such as a Faraday Bag so that the signal can't be 'grabbed' from the outside and used to open your car – and don't forget to do the same with any spare set.

Reprogramme your keys if you buy a second-hand car.

Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.

Further advice:

Consider investing in CCTV and sensors which alert you when someone walks near your vehicle or enters the driveway. Use a steering wheel lock. It might seem odd fitting a steering wheel lock to a high-tech new car that costs tens of thousands of pounds. However, a steering wheel lock could add valuable minutes to the seconds it might take to steal a car using a relay attack. Also, a criminal may think twice about stealing a car if they see a steering wheel lock. Lock all doors and close the windows whenever you leave the vehicle. Park in a garage, secure car park or well-lit area if possible. Consider having windows etched with the vehicle registration number or use an invisible ink marker pen to mark these details and your postcode on the underside frame of the vehicle. Make a note of the chassis number. Consider installing a dash cam that offers round-the-clock protection. These dash cams usually come as a set of two – one for the front of your car, and one for the rear. These cameras generally offer 180° views, so with two cameras you can capture footage a full 360° around your car. Unlike regular dash cams, these models come with fittings that connect directly to your car's

battery, so they can continue operating even when the engine isn't running. However, there's no risk of them depleting your car battery overnight – they'll automatically deactivate if they detect your battery's running too low. Some models even have built in wi-fi with dedicated apps. This way, you can get a live feed of the car's cameras, even when you're hundreds of miles away.

Officers are currently investigating these thefts. Anyone with information should contact Kent Police via the Kent Police website. You can also call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. If you see anyone acting suspiciously around your vehicle or property then please do call 999.

Once again warnings about SCAMS, not just to residents but to you as councillors and council officers who may be approached by concerned residents for advice, assistance, and help.

It is essential we keep our advice to residents especially our elderly, disabled and vulnerable simple and easy to follow.

There is a scam for virtually anything and everything which can come via phones computers, laptops, tablets letters and in some cases in person on the doorstep.

They can come from 3,30,300 and 3000 miles away and as I stated face to face on the doorstep.

If in doubt residents should not even open the door. If anyone becomes aggressive or pushy call 999 immediately. You may be lucky but the elderly more vulnerable person down the road may not be so lucky.

If in doubt with phone calls and emails do nothing, Hang up! Or delete!

Check, check again and if still in doubt do absolutely nothing.

You will recall I did warn councillors and indeed our clerk that they may be approached for help and advice especially in other council events/ functions, and forums where residents may feel more comfortable asking. Food Banks, Allotments, Church events, Council events indeed even being stopped in the street and ask because you are known and trusted. The Energy costs and worries that face us all have been seen as a fantastic "Business Opportunity" for criminals. Just about any crisis will present an opportunity. We must be alert and vigilant with our advice, crime prevention and it must be simple to follow... IT MUST BE "DO NOTHING IN A RUSH IF IN DOUBT DO NOTHING"

CHECK, CHECK and CHECK again and then DO NOTHING without CHECKING FURTHER

We must be prepared to help and support our vulnerable residents, criminals will be looking for them and will strike. We know where our vulnerable residents are.....so do criminals.!!

To our residents we must be strong and clear with our crime prevention work, our advice and guidance to our community especially to our vulnerable must try to anticipate the wave of crime that difficult national situations like Energy Rising Costs bring about.

Those issues are seen as a 'BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY' by Criminals

OTHER CRIME TRENDS

It has also come to my attention about **HARE COURSING** in surrounding areas. Sometimes those crimes may be actioned by police officers from Folkestone so I may not be fully in the loop. Residents keeping me briefed of events once reported to the police would be a great help in the battle about getting information out about CRIME PREVENTION. Please report all these incidents to the police. Again volume of calls will help me as it will attract a level of response rather than one isolated call!

USE 999 and quote "OPERATION GALILEO" for HARE COURSING



Officers join forces to tackle hare coursing



Rural Task Force officers

A new approach is being taken by officers across the East of England in an effort to combat hare coursing.

Kent Police has teamed up with six other forces to offer a borderless response to tackle the illegal blood sport. This means that the seven forces signed up to the partnership can work as one when exercising certain powers such as the seizure of dogs and share interactions and movements of suspects.

The forces within **Kent's** partnership are made up of **Bedfordshire**, **Cambridge**, **Herefordshire**, **Norfolk**, **Suffolk** and **Essex**.

The agreement, which has been completed with the support of the Crown Prosecution Service, supports the national initiative, Operation Galileo, which primarily aims to combat hare coursing.

Sergeant Darren Walshaw of Kent Police's Rural Task Force said: 'This is an encouraging step in our efforts to tackle hare coursing.

The agreement allows us to use anti-social behaviour legislation across the counties. This means that someone who is found to be committing hare coursing offences across several borders will be dealt with as if all of their criminality had occurred in one county and a prosecution can commence sooner. In short, if someone is involved with three incidents of anti-social behaviour linked to hare coursing, they will be prosecuted regardless of where those offences have been committed.'

Hare coursing traditionally coincides with the harvest when the fields are ploughed, making them the perfect ground for the illegal blood sport. Hare coursing causes damage to crops, harms animal welfare and threatens the rural community. It can result in intimidation and even violence

Landowners are urged to consider blocking entrances to their fields with ditches, fencing or trees or even barriers like barrels filled with concrete.

Anyone who sees hare coursing taking place is asked to contact police immediately on 999 and provide officers with a description of the people involved, any registration numbers, vehicle descriptions and the location and direction of travel. Its important people don't confront hare coursers or put themselves at risk.

REMEMBER IT DOES NOT HAVE TO HAPPEN IN BILSINGTON FOR US TO BE ALERTED TO OTHER CRIMES IN THE AREA AND NEARBY

BANK ROAD ALDINGTON.....TOOL THEFTS

Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property Stolen	Misc Info
Reference						Stolen	
46/214955/22	Mersham, Sevington	A2070, Mersham,	Theft from a motor vehicle	03/11/2022	04/11/2022	Number Plates	in lorry park. VRM
	South with Finberry	Ashford		21:00	09:00		- GDA 75126
46/215416/22	Saxon Shore	Bank Road, Aldington,	Burglary - Business And	30/10/2022	30/10/2022	Chainsaw	from workshop
		Ashford	Community	01:00	01:00		

FORGE HILL ALDINGTON.....SHED THEFT



East Kent Neighbourhood Watch Messaging Team Report

Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property stolen	Misc.
46/223698/22	Victoria	Victoria Road, Ashford	Theft from a motor vehicle	18/11/2022 15:30	18/11/2022 15:30	Gold coins	Bag grabbed from convertible with roof down
46/223770/22	Stanhope	Kilndown Close, Ashford	Theft if not classified elsewhere	17/11/2022 12:05	17/11/2022 13:20	Parcel	From doorstep
46/223930/22	Aylesford & East Stour	Bentley Road, Willesborough, Ashford	Theft if not classified elsewhere	16/11/2022 17:00	16/11/2022 18:00	Wheelie bins	
46/224209/22	Saxon Shore	Forge Hill, Aldington, Ashford	Burglary - Residential - Non- Dwelling	19/11/2022 00:01	19/11/2022 12:55	Items taken unknown	Shed broken into
<u>46/224238</u> / 22	Tenterden South	Preston Lane, Tenterden	Burglary - Residential - Non- Dwelling	19/11/2022 22:00	19/11/2022 23:59	Two bicycles	Shed broken into

RUCKINGE.....TOOLS FROM TRAILER

East Kent Neighbourhood Watch Messaging Team Report									
Crime	Ward	Location	Offence	Date	Date to	Property	Misc.		
Reference				from		stolen			
46/216484/22	Biddenden	Woodlands Lodge Park area of Biddenden	Burglary	08/11/22 0930 hours	08/11/22 1130 hours	Fishing tackle stolen from shed			
46/216667/22	Ilse of Oxney	Stone area	Theft from motor vehicle	07/11/22 1800 hours	08/11/22 0920 hours	Purse and contents stolen from glovebox			
46/217243/22	Singleton West	Little Hempen area of Singleton	Burglary	10/11/22 0001 hours		Attempt made to enter shed	Nothing stolen		
46/217715/22	Victoria	Station Road area of Ashford	Burglary	03/11/22 1545 hours		Oil barrels stolen			
46/219195/22	Saxon Shore	The Row area of Ruckinge	Theft from motor vehicle	27/11/22 2230 hours		Socket set stolen from trailer			



Aldington and Bonnington Village Community Group

Peter New · 21 Nov · 🔄

Dear Readers

I will not repost all my guidance I wrote 5 minutes ago but I have just now since writing that post received the report below of a shed theft in

FORGE HILL, ALDINGTON.

Again any information, witnesses, or any form of CCTV then please contact the police and quote the crime number shown.

Anything I have said and written about sheds theft is there to see

Peter

Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch



Like

○ Comment



East Kent Neighbourhood Watch Messaging Team Report

Crime Reference	Ward	Location	Offence	Date from	Date to	Property stolen	Misc.
46/223698/22	Victoria	Victoria Road, Ashford	Theft from a motor vehicle	18/11/2022 15:30	18/11/2022 15:30	Gold coins	Bag grabbed from convertible with roof down
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Like

Comment





Aldington and Bonnington Village Community Group

Peter New · 21 Nov · 🔄

THIEVES ACTIVE IN THE AREA. PLEASE BE ALERT. Dear Readers

You will recall last week the trailer theft I have previously reported on (reposted below)

Members of the community and the council will have heard me speak last week about the types of thefts we face.

At the community coffee morning last week I spoke about the same.

Last night an attempted trailer theft from EARLSFIELD. Any witnesses, further information or any form of CCTV please contact me as below.

It is vehicles, sheds, garages, barns, stables, outbuildings and any form of external storage is vulnerable if we are not secure, alert and vigilant.

THIS IS WHERE THIEVES WILL STRIKE, I CANNOT SPEAK PLAINER THAN THAT.

Sheds especially will be targeted in the run up to Xmas, as we all know Father Christmas stores presents there and sometime our Christmas supply of alcohol to save indoor space also.

Father Christmas knows it, we know it and so do criminals!!!!

Always report any attempts or failed crimes as this brings us to maximum alert.

Please stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant. Thank you as always for your help and support. Peter

Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)
Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood
Watch



At the time of writing this report a theft of a wood chipper from POULTON WOOD NATURE RESERVE ALDINGTON Saturday 26^{th} November Crime number 46/229751/22

Protect your heating oil tank

Most people who use heating oil at home or at work take steps to help keep fuel tanks secure.



Do you:

- · keep your yard or drive gates closed and lock and maintain boundary fences and hedges?
- · keep your tank within view from your home or office but where it may be difficult for thieves to spot?
- · plant thorny shrubs around your tank to make it hard for thieves to reach without catching their skin or clothing?
- lock away tools so they can't be used to access your tank?

Have you:

· considered installing CCTV, security lighting or a level alarm which will sound if the level of your fuel drops suddenly?

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









PETE'S CHRISTMAS TIPS.

The most important feature of my crime prevention work is to try to anticipate where you will be vulnerable in the coming weeks especially as the run into the Christmas period is well and truly with us.

I will start our work by featuring 3 areas where I feel we will be vulnerable and we can work to prevent an "avoidable and preventable crime"

Criminals will up their game in coming weeks our crime prevention must firstly match that and better that.

- 1 Thefts of internet shopping deliveries from doorsteps.
- 2 Storage of Christmas matters in outside storage like sheds
- 3 Thefts from Vehicles, especially when Christmas shopping, even in shopping centre car parks.

1. THEFTS OF INTERNET DELIVERIES FROM DOORSTEPS

The trend of these thefts is there to be seen on routine crime reports however as we move towards Christmas and especially events like Black Friday sales the risk increases.

Please try to make safe delivery arrangements for your parcels

You are firstly at risk of a passing "chancer and opportunist" seeing the parcel sitting there, but secondly if criminals follow the delivery vans the risk increases.

2. SHED THEFTS

Now we all know that Father Christmas stores some presents in sheds from prying eyes. Sometimes we store our extra Christmas drinks and alcohol there. Many sheds are just not secure enough.

Criminals know this so must we.

It is no good storing thousands of pounds of items with a nail keeping the door closed.

Please just consider security and risk.

3 THEFTS FROM VEHICLES.

We all know that we should leave nothing whatsoever on show when parking our vehicles especially last park up at night.

At Christmas we shop and return parcels to the car and then go again shopping or ideally for lunch!! Criminals know this!

When going away for Christmas especially travelling early on Christmas morning we tend to load the car the night before. Criminals know this!

Better to get up 30 minutes earlier and load rather than the night before

I hope these tips may just make you think. Take a few moments and risk assess your actions. We all make mistakes especially under pressure and in a hurry.

Take a few moments to stay safe and secure

As we move into the run up to Christmas and Winter many criminal actions will occur. They adjust and adapt to situations and times of the year....so must we!! My job will be

- 1.To reduce the **AVOIDABLE and PREVENTABLE** crimes carried out by 'Chancers and Opportunists'
- 2. Combat the more sophisticated professional criminal who will use **SCAMS and HIGH TEC CRIMES** especially against our vulnerable and elderly residents.

I am very grateful for the ongoing support of the council and each of you as individuals for the Neighbourhood Watch work and for your support for me personally. Your support is essential, gratefully received but never ever taken for granted.

Thank you Peter

Peter New 91725 Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch