

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2023 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris - Chairman
Councillor Peter Harman - Vice-Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Lesley Howes

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
Inspector Nick Grainger – Kent Police
PCSO Alan Mitchell – Kent Police
Billy Unsworth – Kent County Council Community Warden
Paul Parsons – Swanscombe & Greenhithe representative on the Dartford Borough Council Tenants & Leaseholders Forum

ABSENT: Councillor Anita Barham
Councillor Sue Butterfill
Councillor Jay Shah

483/22-23. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

The Chairman explained the arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting.

484/22-23. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Emma Ben Moussa, due to medical reasons.

Recommended: That the reasons for absence, for the Councillors listed, be formally accepted, and approved.

485/22-23. **SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

486/22-23. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

As per Standing Order 34 c) the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to allow members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business being transacted at the meeting.

487/22-23. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

488/22-23. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2023

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 February 2023 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

489/22-23. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO) REPORT.

PCSO Mitchell and Inspector Grainger gave an update on matters within the area, including anti-social behaviour, call numbers, anti-social vehicles and crime statistics.

Recommended: That the report be noted and both PCSO Mitchell and Inspector Grainger be thanked for their attendance.

490/22-23. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.

KCC Warden Unsworth gave an update on matters he had been involved with in the area, including welfare concerns and support, untaxed vehicles, and scams.

Recommended: That the report be noted and KCC Warden Unsworth be thanked for his attendance.

491/22-23. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Local Schools – Members discussed the effectiveness of the cameras placed at Manor Community Primary School to enforce the zig-zag lines. It was agreed that this had caused a displacement of cars onto the double yellow lines and that correspondence be sent to the Parking Enforcement Team at Dartford Borough Council to request whether extra patrols were possible between 2.30pm and when school pick up ended.

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) – The Chairman advised that he was still chasing issues raised with the construction exit onto Mounts Road. He confirmed he was awaiting a response from the Development Manager from Countryside to confirm when traffic would be re-routed to the completed roadway on Watling Street.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Chairman updated that the group in Ingress Park was continuing to regularly meet and raise issues, with the next meeting scheduled for the end of April.

Community Speed Watch – The Chairman confirmed that a further session had been undertaken with 12 vehicles recorded travelling above the speed limit.

Dartford Borough Council (CSU) – Councillor Peter Harman updated that at a recent meeting of the Crime & Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Kent Police had provided an update on the operation to reduce nuisance vehicles in the Crossways Boulevard area. The statistics confirmed that in the 12 months prior to this operation Kent Police received 199 calls regarding nuisance vehicles with 90 being related to Crossways Boulevard. Inspector Grainger confirmed that the actions taken using a combination of cameras and Special Constables had almost completely eradicated the issue, but diligence and continued work would be undertaken to enforce the borough wide Public Space Protection Order on nuisance vehicles.

Recommended:

1. That those who provided reports be thanked and the information be noted.
2. That correspondence be sent to the Parking Enforcement Team at Dartford Borough Council to request whether extra patrols were possible between 2.30pm and when school pick up ended outside Manor Community Primary School.

492/22-23. **DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CRIME STATISTICS FOR SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.**

Members were provided with, and discussed, the up-to-date detailed analysis of crime figures for Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

493/22-23. **PARKING – SWANSCOMBE HIGH STREET.**

Members considered the report, including photographs, from Councillor Peter Harman regarding the issue of parking on zig-zag lines in Swanscombe High Street.

Inspector Grainger confirmed that whilst parking on the zig-zag lines, or crossing, was an offence, officers were unable to ticket this on the spot. Evidence would be gathered and sent through to the Traffic Enforcement Unit to issue the appropriate penalty.

Recommended: That the information be noted, and Inspector Grainger be thanked for his input.

494/22-23. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

MOVED BY Councillor Peter Harman and seconded by Councillor Lesley Howes.

RESOLVED:

That, pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item(s).

No members of the press or public were present during discussion of the following items of business.

495/22-23. **CONFIDENTIAL UPDATE – KENT POLICE.**

Members were provided with a confidential update from Inspector Grainger on the Neighbourhood Policing Review.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed _____
Chairman Date