

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2024 at 7.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Harris - Chairman  
Councillor Peter Harman - Vice-Chairman  
Councillor Lorna Cross  
Councillor Ann Duke  
Councillor Leslie Howes  
Councillor Dawn Johnston

**ALSO PRESENT:** Graham Blew – Town Clerk  
Martin Harding – ATC/RFO  
Karen Sandland – Kent Police Community Liaison Officer  
Paul Parsons – Swanscombe & Greenhithe representative on the Dartford Borough Council Tenants & Leaseholders Forum

**ABSENT:** Councillor Anita Barham

**479/23-24. 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.

**480/23-24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Elizabeth Wickham, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was submitted by PC Bayley – Cook.

An apology for absence was submitted by Joanne Appleton – Kent County Council Community Warden.

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

**481/23-24. SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

**482/23-24. 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.***

**483/23-24. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

**484/23-24. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2024**

A correction was highlighted in relation to minute 425/23-24 to amend Vice-Chairman to Chairman.

**Recommended:** That, subject to the correction as detailed, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 February 2024 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

**485/23-24. KENT POLICE REPORT.**

Unfortunately, PC Bayley- Cook was unable to attend but, in his absence, he had submitted the following report which included:

A summary of the current trends in crime statistics, and overview of crime patterns of note within the area such as vehicle thefts, off-road bikes, lorries contravening vehicle restrictions and thefts of bicycles. The report also included an update on partnership work with local businesses and partner agencies.

Members raised a query regarding the continued issue of illegal and obstructive parking on the High Street in Swanscombe affecting traffic flow given the current road closure on Galley Hill. It was agreed that officers write to the Parking Enforcement Manager at Dartford Borough Council to request additional patrols in this area around key times, 8am to 9am, 12noon to 2pm and 4pm to 6pm. It was also agreed that the x 2 Dartford Borough Councillors for Swanscombe would be included in this correspondence.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Karen Sandland, Kent Police Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to the meeting.

A short presentation, along with questions, was then undertaken by Karen Sandland to outline the role of a CLO. The primary function of the CLO is to seek out, engage with and build relationships with as many diverse groups within the community. The role also includes improving public confidence in Kent Police and working alongside the Independent Advisory Groups who challenge current police procedures and practices.

**Recommended:**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That officers write to the Parking Enforcement Manager at Dartford Borough Council, along with the x 2 Dartford Borough Councillors for Swanscombe, to request additional patrols in Swanscombe High Street as detailed.
3. That Community Liaison Officer, Karen Sandland, be thanked for her attendance and presentation.

**486/23-24. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.**

Unfortunately, the KCC Community Warden was unable to attend but, in her absence, Joanne Appleton had submitted the following report which included:

A summary of the work being undertaken through the service including tackling isolation and inclusion, health and wellbeing and supporting vulnerable persons. Specific details of challenges with abandoned vehicles, financial concerns, neighbour disputes were highlighted.

It was confirmed that the service had supported the Swanscombe Food Cellar with its relocation and officers had attended the support group based out of the Methodist Church.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted.

**487/23-24. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.**

Neighbourhood Watch – The Chairman confirmed that a meeting had been held today which had been attended by PCSO Mitchell.

Community Speed Watch – The next session was scheduled to be held in the next 2 weeks.

Lorry Watch - Lead Member, Councillor Elizabeth Wickham was unable to attend but, in her absence, she had submitted a report which included:

“Lorry watch continues with weekly or fortnightly watches with volunteer Councillors and residents with lorries being recorded on Thursday or Saturdays. Residents and local business owners tell us that they appreciate us being there and some have told us about damage to their cars from passing lorries (usually in the early hours of the morning) along Stanhope Road and these residents have been encouraged to inform the Police.”

**Recommended:** That those who provided reports be thanked and the information be noted.

488/23-24. **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.

Members were pleased to see that the stats for Swanscombe and for Greenhithe seemed to indicate a decline in crime.

**Recommended:**

That the information be noted.

There were no confidential items to be discussed.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Date