

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2023 at 7.00 PM

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Graham Blew – Town Clerk  
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer  
PC Ben Bayley-Cook – 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

190/23-24. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

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

191/23-24. **TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2023 -2024 YEAR.**

The Town Clerk introduced the item and, after discussion it was proposed, duly seconded, and agreed unanimously:

**Recommended:** That Councillor Peter Harris be elected as the Chairman for the remainder of the 2023 - 2024 year.

192/23-24. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ann Duke, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dawn Johnston, due to other commitments.

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

193/23-24. **SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

194/23-24. **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.***

195/23-24. **ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

196/23-24. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2023**

**Recommended:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 July 2023 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

197/23-24. **POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO) REPORT.**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed PC Bayley-Cook to the meeting. PC Bayley-Cook had taken over from PC Tori Massey as the new permanent beat officer.

PC Bayley-Cook briefly introduced himself and explained that he was the new beat officer for Ebbsfleet, Swanscombe and Greenhithe/Knockhall.

PC Bayley-Cook outlined the current crime statistics and cases of note within the Town over the last few months.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted, and PC Bayley-Cook be thanked for his attendance.

198/23-24. **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 of dogs, drugs, off-road motorbikes, scams and the DSTC community day.

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

199/23-24. **COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.**

Kent Fire Service – The Chairman outlined the recent fire that had occurred in Ingress Park and the procedure for fire safety associated with the blocks of flats. Councillor Peter Harman advised regarding the recent suicide attempt from the QEII bridge and the response from the authorities.

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) – The Chairman advised that he was still chasing issues raised with the construction exit onto Mounts Road.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Chairman advised PC Bayley-Cook of the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in both Ingress Park and Swanscombe and invited him to attend future meetings.

Community Speed Watch – The Chairman confirmed the scheme had been in operation for nine years and had seen a significant reduction in the numbers of vehicles being reported during sessions.

Councillor Peter Harman advised the committee of the publicity release for the proposed Lorry Watch Scheme and members agreed to add this to the Community Safety Liaison section of the agenda for future meetings.

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

200/23-24. **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.

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

201/23-24. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – SWANSCOMBE CEMETERY.**

Members were provided with, and discussed, an extract of an email from a resident who raised concerns about an incident in Swanscombe Cemetery.

PC Bayley-Cook advised that he had investigated the crime report on this incident and agreed that he would provide further feedback to the resident who had raised the initial concerns.

**Recommended:** That the information and planned response from PC Bayley-Cook be noted.

There were no confidential items for discussion.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

