

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2019 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris - Chairman
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Sue Butterfill
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Jay Shah

ALSO PRESENT: Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
Billy Unsworth (Kent County Council (KCC) Community Warden).
Rob Young – Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
Sgt Tony Quilter - Kent Police
Sarah Rawlinson (Youth & Community Engagement Officer, Diocese of Rochester)
Sue Hart – CAS Training
Graham Doyle – CAS Training
6 x member of the public

ABSENT: There were none

123/19-20. 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.

124/19-20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Anita Barham, Peter Harman and Lesley Howes.

An apology was also received from Tony Henley (Dartford Borough Council, Community Safety Unit (CSU)).

125/19-20. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

126/19-20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to accept questions from the public.

A member of the public enquired about the enforcement of obstructive parking along Craylands Lane, Swanscombe. Sgt Quilter confirmed that this was a matter for the police to deal with and that they would initially contact the registered owners, failing this they would have the vehicle removed.

127/19-20. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

128/19-20. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2019.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 April 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

129/19-20. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO) REPORT.

PCSO Rob Young gave a brief overview of the role of a PCSO, including his powers and responsibilities.

Sgt Quilter introduced himself and explained the division of work, and staffing levels, within the Dartford Team.

Members asked for an update on some recent high profile cases including the stabbing at Lovers Lane and the attempted robberies around Greenhithe Station. Sgt Quilter confirmed that both investigations were ongoing but the lack of description and witnesses for the Lovers Lane incident was preventing the police taking any further steps at this time.

Recommended: That the report be noted and both PCSO Young and Sgt Quilter be thanked for their attendance

130/19-20. KCC COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.

KCC Warden Unsworth explained the role of a Community Warden and updated on his recent work around fly tipping, dog fouling, scams and anti-social behaviour.

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

131/19-20. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.**

Members discussed recent incidents of anti-social behaviour that appear to be attributed to the same groups of individuals.

Sgt Quilter updated that measures were currently being taken to prevent further behaviour from one such group but, due to operational issues, he was unable to elaborate further at this point.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

132/19-20. **DRUG DEALING – SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.**

Members discussed the feedback from the recent coffee morning with the Police and Crime Commissioner where one of the issue highlighted had been of drug dealing.

Members also discussed the increase in visibility of used nitrous oxide canisters.

Sgt Quilter confirmed that intelligence was key to tackling these issues and reiterated that reports should be submitted to the police via 999, 101, or by using the Dartford police message line or via Crime stoppers. He re-iterated that reports could be made anonymously.

Sgt Quilter clarified that the nitrous oxide canisters were not illegal. The only criminality associated with it was the selling of the canisters knowing they were for human consumption or the littering of the used canisters.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

133/19-20. **COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.**

Youth services / officers – Sarah Rawlinson gave an update that she had been working with a local primary school following an incident that resulted in a child being excluded. She was also undertaking a lot of early intervention work with the youth engagement PCSO from Kent Police.

Sue Hart from CAS Training gave an update on the success of the Town Council funded MCM Youth Club that had opened at the Old Fire Station in April of this year. Sue confirmed that the registration was almost at capacity for the premises and that they were awaiting feedback from their first survey but early indications were that parents were pleased with the impact that attendance had had on their children.

Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Peter Harris invited any local residents from the Swanscombe area to consider contacting PCSO Young with regards to setting up more Neighbourhood Watch Groups.

Community Speed Watch – Councillor Peter Harris explained his involvement with Community Speed Watch and gave an overview of what a session involved.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

134/19-20. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CRIME STATISTICS FOR SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.

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

Recommended: That the item be noted.

135/19-20. THE SCHOOL RUN.

Further to minutes 132/18-19, 224/18-19, 355/18-19 and 588/18-19 Councillor Peter Harris had provided a written report for members.

Councillor Harris explained that the programme was on hold until after the summer holidays and that the next step was for the School Councils to engage with Kent County Council further on suggestions for road improvements.

Members requested that the Town Council contact the KCC Member for Swanscombe and Greenhithe expressing the importance of lollipop people as part of traffic calming measures and would support the request from Craylands School for a lollipop person.

Recommended:

- 1 That the information be noted.
- 2 That the Town Council contact the KCC Member for Swanscombe and Greenhithe to express both the importance of lollipop people and to support the request from Craylands School to have a lollipop person for the school run.

136/19-20. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) – 20MPH ZONE TRIAL.

Members discussed the potential for operating a 20mph trial within the Town and highlighted the areas that already operated this speed restriction.

The Assistant Town Clerk / RFO explained the potential financial implications of a scheme.

Members agreed to consider this information further and place this item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Community Safety Committee Meeting for consideration.

Recommended: That this item be placed on the next meeting of the Community Safety Committee for consideration.

137/19-20. **DELEGATION TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS DURING RECESS PERIOD.**

Members were requested to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972, to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period. The Town Clerk would consult with the Chairman and Town Mayor, if appropriate, before any business is transacted. If any emergencies did occur during this time the Executive & Emergency Committee would be convened.

Recommended: That, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Town Clerk be delegated authority to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period

There were no confidential items for discussion.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed _____
Chairman Date