

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2019 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor P C Harris (Chairman)
Councillor P M Harman (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill
Councillor Ms L M Cross
Councillor Ms L C Howes
Councillor B R Parry
Councillor A S Reach

ALSO PRESENT: Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
Billy Unsworth (KCC Community Warden).
Steve Kears – PCSO
Sarah Rawlinson (Youth & Community Engagement Officer, Diocese of Rochester)
Tony Henley – Dartford Borough Council CSU
Zoe Harris – Kent County Council
2 x member of the public

ABSENT: There were none

578/18-19. 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.

579/18-19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Mrs A E D Barham, Mrs M B Kelly, R J Lees, D J Mote and B E Read.

Apologies were also received from Martin Smith (Dartford Borough Council Parking Enforcement), Rev Andrew Avery (St Marys Church, Greenhithe), Insp Gavin Wade (Kent Police) and Sgt Dan Horsley (Kent Police).

580/18-19. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

581/18-19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

The Chairman gave the opportunity for the meeting to be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.

A resident explained his dissatisfaction with the manner in which Kent Police handled his report of an incident.

PCSO Steve Kears agreed to take the residents details back to Kent Police and investigation his concerns further.

582/18-19. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

583/18-19. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2019.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 February 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

584/18-19. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO) REPORT.

PCSO Steve Kears gave a brief summary of recent incidents within the town including reports of nuisance vehicles and anti-social behaviour. PCSO Kears also updated members on the steps being taken to assist the gentlemen living within the telephone box near to Greenhithe Station. Members were updated that facilities were being shared at the moment with teams in Gravesham during the refurbishment of offices in Dartford.

Members thanked PCSO Kears for his attendance but wished him to take back their disappointment that neither the Inspector nor Sergeant were able to attend.

Recommended: That the report be noted and PCSO Kears be thanked for his attendance

585/18-19. KCC COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.

KCC Warden Unsworth gave an update on cases he had been involved with in the area, including fly tipping, abandoned cars, hostile dogs, suspected scams, safeguarding concerns and anti-social behaviour.

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

586/18-19. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Youth services / officers – Sarah Rawlinson gave an update that she had been working with Manor Community School to resolve incidents occurring involving students from a neighbouring school.

Zoe Harris, Kent County Council co-ordinator for Youth Services gave an update on the youth sessions recently undertaken at the Swanscombe Pavilion. These sessions were aimed to restart again in May. A further provision was planned for Castle Hill in partnership with Dartford Football Club, due to begin shortly.

Kent Fire Service – Councillor A S Reach confirmed that the Fire Service had been undertaking a lot of co-responding calls in support of the Ambulance Service recently.

Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor P C Harris updated that the importance of Neighbourhood Watch had been raised and discussed at the recent Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Panel.

Community Speed Watch – Councillor P C Harris confirmed that sessions were due to be starting again shortly.

Dartford Borough Council (CSU) – Tony Henley, Dartford Borough Council CSU gave members a brief summary of the updated Dartford & Gravesham Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2019 - 2022.

Kent County Council – KCC Member Mr P M Harman updated that KCC were due to begin charging for certain waste at recycling centres from 3 June 2019. It was currently feared that this may increase fly tipping and impact on Dartford Borough Council services.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

587/18-19. **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.

588/18-19. **ANTI-SOCIAL PARKING – LOCAL SCHOOLS.**

Further to minutes 132/18-19, 224/18-19 and 355/18-19 Councillor P C Harris gave a brief verbal update to members.

All three schools had undertaken traffic surveys and the findings and recommendations had been given to KCC Member Mr P M Harman for consideration with Kent Highways.

Students at each school had designed posters and material as part of a competition to promote walking to school. A scheme named ‘Walk on Wednesdays’ was being considered across the three schools.

A Community Speed Watch sessions was scheduled to be held in Craylands Lane, Swanscombe and was being conducted in partnership with the school council at Craylands School.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

589/18-19. **NITROUS OXIDE CANISTERS**

The Assistant Town Clerk explained the volume of canisters that had been collected over the last 6 months and the incidents of use that had been witnessed.

Members discussed the challenges faced with enforcement due to the substance not being illegal but more likely classed as littering/fly tipping.

Tony Henley Dartford Borough Council CSU explained that the Borough Council could investigate whether Community Protection Notices were possible in certain circumstances and would liaise with officers from the Town Council on individual cases.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

590/18-19. **DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC) CRIME AND DISORDER (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE.**

Members discussed the contents of the draft minutes and noted the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment which had already been summarised earlier in the meeting.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

There were no confidential items for discussion.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed _____
Chairman Date