

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 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 Hazel Stephens
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/RFO
Paul Parsons – Member of the Kent Police Independent Advisory Group

ABSENT: There were none

81/24-25. **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.

82/24-25. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

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

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

An apology for absence was submitted by PCSO Alan Mitchell.

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

83/24-25. **SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

84/24-25. **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.

85/24-25. **ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

86/24-25. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2024**

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 April 2024 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

87/24-25. **KENT POLICE REPORT.**

Unfortunately, both PC Bayley- Cook and PCSO Mitchell were unable to attend, and no formal report had been submitted.

Members expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of police presence, as it was noted that at the Dartford Borough Council Crime & Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee meeting from February 2024, it was recorded that Dartford's CSU Police Sargeant would resume attendance at Dartford Parish Council meetings to give advice to those bodies and address their local concerns.

Recommended: That contact be made with the Dartford CSU / Kent Police to express dissatisfaction at the lack of police presence at meetings of this committee and to request an update on the timeline for the return of PC Bayley-Cook to his duties as the officer for this ward.

88/24-25. **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 off road bikes, abandoned vehicles and neighbour disputes were highlighted.

It was noted that concerns with the local bus service had been highlighted. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Arriva expressing concern over the current level of service being provided to the Town and asking for an update on any measures being proposed to improve the reliability and frequency issues currently being faced.

Recommended:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a letter be sent to Arriva expressing the concerns of this committee as detailed.

89/24-25. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation – The Chairman confirmed that he was still in contact regarding the Mounts Road construction entrance. The developer had stated that the Watling Street entrance would be operational for use from June 2025. Councillor Peter Harman, in his role as KCC Member for Swanscombe and Greenhithe, agreed to take this matter further.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Ingress Park group would be on the 7 August. It was requested that officers contact the Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch group for an update on how they are operating.

Community Speed Watch – The previously scheduled session for June was cancelled, with the next Speed Watch expected during July.

Lorry Watch - Lead Member, Councillor Elizabeth Wickham confirmed that the last session had been undertaken on 20 June 2024. Residents had started providing intelligence directly to the Lorry Watch group, which was then being reported to Kent Police via the dedicated portal. Two recent incidents of damage caused by lorries within the Town were also noted.

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

90/24-25. CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE SAFETY OF LITHIUM ION BATTERIES.

Members considered the correspondence received seeking the Town councils support and endorsement for proposed changes in legislation.

Recommended: That a response be sent confirming the Town Councils support for the proposed changes in legislation.

91/24-25. 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.

92/24-25. 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 was transacted.

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.

93/24-25. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Ann Duke and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Wickham.

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.

94/24-25. **PARKING ENFORCEMENT – SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.**

After a lengthy discussion of the confidential report it was proposed, duly seconded and agreed:

Recommended:

1. That no further action be taken in relation to the proposal contained within the confidential report.
2. That correspondence be sent to Kent Police expressing the importance of ensuring the zigzag marking on Swanscombe High Street are regularly enforced.
3. That Councillor Peter Harman, in his role as a Dartford Borough Councillor, contact the Leader of Dartford Borough Council to discuss the level and frequency of parking enforcement on Swanscombe High Street.
4. That, subject to the outcome of 2 & 3 above, contact be made with the x2 Borough Councillors for Swanscombe to request this matter be taken further.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed _____
Chairman Date