

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2025 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris – Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Paul Parsons
Councillor Hazel Stephens

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/RFO
PC Adam Rafter – Kent Police
Lewis Gilbert – Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch
x1 member of the public

ABSENT: Councillor Lesley Howes

476/24-25. 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.

477/24-25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

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

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

478/24-25. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

479/24-25. 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.

480/24-25. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

481/24-25. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2025

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 February 2025 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

482/24-25. KENT POLICE REPORT.

PC Rafter gave a summary of the current policing levels in the Borough and the work that was being undertaken in relation to theft of, and from motor vehicles, anti-social behaviour and the force priority of violence against women and girls. PC Rafter confirmed that he had undertaken engagement on parking issues on Swanscombe High Street with the Kent Police Cadets, working with Firstport Management and attended the recent Galley Hill Meeting

PC Rafter also confirmed that he would be holding his regularly surgeries over the coming weeks in both Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

Recommended: That PC Rafter be thanked for his attendance and contribution to the meeting.

483/24-25. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.

Unfortunately, the KCC Community Warden was unable to provide a report for this meeting due to absence from work.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

484/24-25. VEHICULAR ACCESS AND ENFORCEMENT – SWANSCOMBE.

Further to minute 407/24-25 (Community Safety Committee – 12 February 2025) Members considered the correspondence received from both DBC Parking Enforcement and Kent Highways in relation to vehicle access and enforcement with Swanscombe.

Members noted that they were unsatisfied with the response from DBC Parking Enforcement and requested that further correspondence be sent requesting the decision be reconsidered.

Recommended: That a response be sent to DBC Parking Enforcement requesting a reconsideration of their decision.

485/24-25. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Hazel Stephens confirmed that a meeting of the Ingress Park Neighbourhood Watch was due to be called shortly.

Lewis Gilbert from Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch advised that a meeting was also due to be scheduled by the end of May once a venue had been arranged and liaison had occurred with other stakeholders.

Lewis also advised that the Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch continued to pass on intelligence to Kent Police regarding incidents of dangerous parking and disputes, off-road bikes and issues around nitrous oxide cannisters.

It was confirmed that Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch was working with Dartford Borough Council and Dartford Town Against Crime (DTAC) to liaise with shop owners to set up a 'Swanscombe Shop Safe Scheme' aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour and shoplifting from local businesses.

In her absence Councillor Elizabeth Wickham had provided a report for Lorry Watch which confirmed that residents and neighbours as well as members of the Lorry Watch Team were continuing to send in photos and reports of HGVs on the High Street and surrounding roads, some of which were legitimate delivery trucks or under the 7.5 ton limit. Those lorries that had breached the limit were reported to Kent Police via their reporting app and to Kent Freight via the Town Council.

Two new volunteers had joined the Lorry Watch Team which brought the number of members to 11. PC Rafter had spent some time with the Lorry Watch team recently.

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

486/24-25. **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.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

487/24-25. **INVITATION TO THIS COMMITTEE – KENT POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)**

Members noted that the Kent PCC had declined the invitation to attend this meeting.

Recommended: That following the AGM the Kent PCC be sent the dates for the future meetings with an invitation to attend.

488/24-25. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Ann Duke and seconded by Councillor Lorna Cross

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.

489/24-25. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS.

Members considered a verbal update on camera enforcement in the Town from PC Rafter.

Recommended: That the verbal update be noted.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed _____
Chairman Date