

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2025 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Parsons (Chairman for the meeting)
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Hazel Stephens
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/Responsible Financial Officer
Indigo Allred – Administration Officer
Lead Co-Ordinator – Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch
Deputy Lead Co-Ordinator – Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch
x3 members of the public

ABSENT: There were none.

221/25-26. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING.

As both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were unable to attend the meeting it was duly proposed, seconded, and agreed.

Recommended: That Councillor Paul Parsons be elected as the Chairman for the meeting.

222/25-26. 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.

223/25-26. 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 Peter Harris, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lesley Howes, due to other commitments.

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

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

224/25-26. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

225/25-26. 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.

Two members of public spoke to update the council on the recent resident led efforts to stop vehicles mounting the pavements, reporting of lorries and general dissatisfaction of the ongoing vehicular issues in, and around, Stanhope Road, Swanscombe.

The Chairman thanked the members of public for their update and their efforts in addressing this issue.

226/25-26. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

227/25-26. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2025

Recommended:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 July 2025 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

228/25-26. KENT POLICE REPORT.

Unfortunately, the new beat officer for Ebbsfleet Valley, Swanscombe, Greenhithe and Knockhall, PC Simon Hodge was unable to attend but, in his absence, Simon had submitted a report which included the data for reported crimes along with updates on anti-social behaviour, youths with catapults, and vehicles parking inappropriately.

Recommended:

That the item be noted.

229/25-26. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.

Unfortunately, the KCC Community Warden was unable to attend but, in her absence, Angela Jarrett had submitted a report which included Unlicensed HMO's, youth anti-social behaviour, quad bikes, fly tipping, graffiti and vehicle related problems including parking, abandoned vehicles and illegal mechanical work on the public highway.

Recommended:

That the item be noted.

230/25-26. **COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.**

Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch – The Lead Co-Ordinator updated the committee on the creation of a patrol team, the ongoing issues with lorries, liaison with stakeholders on parked cars blocking public footpaths, reporting anti - social behaviour, including youths with catapults, to Kent Police and that the Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch would now be having monthly residents' meetings and quarterly meetings with stakeholders and partners.

Ingress Park Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Stephens confirmed that the regular issues with parking were continuing and that a meeting had been recently held.

Community Speed Watch – Councillor Stephens updated that a notable drop had occurred in the number of offenders and speed levels identified, and that the next Speed Watch session was scheduled for November.

Lorry Watch – Councillor Wickham reported that there had been x17 reports of inappropriate lorries in Swanscombe and Greenhithe since the last Committee meeting and that 50% of the reported incidents had come from Stanhope Road. Councillor Wickham thanked members, the public and the Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch for their continued reporting.

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

231/25-26. **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 and highlighted a lack of detail in the way in which incidents are categorised. Councillor Parsons agreed to raise this concern when he next attended the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) meeting with Kent Police.

Councillor Parsons briefly updated members on his attendance at the last IAG meeting and emphasised the value of the My Community Voice Application that was available to residents to use as a liaison tool with Kent Police.

Recommended: That the information be noted, and that Councillor Parsons would raise the points highlighted with statistics as detailed.

There were no confidential items to be discussed.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 7:45pm

Signed _____
Chairman Date