

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris – Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Lead Co-Ordinator – Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch
Deputy Lead Co-Ordinator – Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch

ABSENT: Councillor Dawn Johnston.

446/25-26. 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.

447/25-26. 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 Hazel Stephens, due to other commitments

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

448/25-26. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

449/25-26. 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.

450/25-26. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

451/25-26. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2025

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 December 2025 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

452/25-26. KENT POLICE REPORT.

Unfortunately, the beat officer for Ebbsfleet Valley, Swanscombe, Greenhithe and Knockhall, PC Simon Hodge was unable to attend but had provided a written update which was read out by the Chairman and included : recent surgery in the Old Fire Station Café had been successful AS parking at Munford Road, joint working with trading standards regarding illegal cigarettes/vapes etc., closure orders to remove residents in Swanscombe who cause issues for other residents, an individual causing problems linked to accosting (which itself is not a crime) has been arrested, new ward priorities were drug dealing, ASB and dog fouling.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

453/25-26. 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: ASB such as graffiti, neighbourhood disputes, parking issues, wheel clamps found cut and abandoned, drug dealing and vehicular movements on Stanhope Road.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

454/25-26. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch – The Lead Co-Ordinator updated the committee on the ongoing work of the patrol team, the ongoing issues with lorries, liaison with stakeholders on parked cars blocking public footpaths, reporting anti - social behaviour, liaising with residents as part of the ongoing campaign against cars mounting the pavement in Stanhope Road.

Neighbourhood Watch reported that they had been involved with residents reporting criminal damage to properties at night. They had also been involved with reports of a male knocking on doors and then hiding behind bins etc.

Unfortunately, there had been incidents of youths with slingshots/catapults firing at wildlife and residents' properties.

The patrol had also helped a distressed lady and had taken her to her destination in Castle Hill.

It was hoped that a Swanscombe Community Speed watch could be started in the future.

The Neighbourhood Watch had partnered up with I\$ Security to work with local residents to get discounts on CCTV cameras etc.

The presence of the Neighbourhood Watch had been able to stop drug use at All Saints Close.

Lorry Watch – this was hoped to continue in March when the weather had improved. The Lorry Watch continued to get reports from the Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch, and these were forwarded to Kent Freight.

Community Speed Watch – this had been held up by the wet and cold weather but was hoped to resume in March.

Recommended: That the updates be noted.

455/25-26. **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.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

456/25-26. **OBSTRUCTIVE PAVEMENT PARKING.**

Further to minute 317/25-26 Members noted the response from Jim Dickson MP and welcomed the fact that this issue had been discussed in parliament.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

There were no confidential items to be discussed.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed _____
Chairman Date