

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2026 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris – Chairman
Councillor Dawn Johnston – Vice Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Hazel Stephens
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Indigo Allred – Administration Officer
PCSO Alan Mitchell
Councillor Denise Butler
Councillor Claire Pearce
x1 Member of the public

ABSENT: There were none.

551/25-26. **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.

552/25-26. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ann Duke, due to other commitments

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

553/25-26. **SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

554/25-26. **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.

555/25-26. **ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the fire at The Pavilion, Broomfield Recreation Ground on Saturday 4 April 2026 and advised that this had been reported to both the Police and the Town Councils Insurance Company.

556/25-26. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 February 2026 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

557/25-26. KENT POLICE REPORT.

Unfortunately, the beat officer for Ebbsfleet Valley, Swanscombe, Greenhithe and Knockhall, PC Simon Hodge was unable to attend but PCSO Alan Mitchell provided a verbal update of the crimes in Swanscombe and Greenhithe for February and March which included: thefts from motor vehicles, criminal damage, thefts of motor vehicles, attempted residential burglaries, public order issues, ASB Nuisance, burglaries of businesses and other matters.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

558/25-26. 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, youths with catapults, suspected drug dealing, criminal damages to properties, abandoned vehicles, there were also environmental issues including potholes and fly tipping.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

559/25-26. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch (SNW) – unfortunately the Lead Co-Ordinator was unable to attend but, in their absence, had submitted a report which included: youths climbing onto the scaffold at St Peter & St Pauls Church, large group of youths at the Londis Shop in Stanley Road and at the chicken shop in Stanley Road.

The Patrol Team have gathered intelligence including suspicious activity around The Pavilion during the early hours and drug taking activity in All Saints Close.

The SNW have contacted the local ward Police officer on x3 occasions but have not received any responses which makes supporting Swanscombe residents very difficult. PCSO Alan Mitchell advised the meeting that he and PC Hodge had both tried to contact the SNW without success.

The SNW also feel that a CCTV network installed in Swanscombe by Dartford Borough Council would support Kent Police as well as increase the safety of residents.

Kent Fire Service – The Chairman detailed the recent incident in Ingress Park, Greenhithe where x2 residential buildings had been attended by the Fire Service when they were on fire.

The Vice-Chairman asked that the Town Councils gratitude to the professionalism of the Kent Fire Service when dealing with the incident in Ingress Park and at The Pavilion be passed on to the Fire Service.

Greenhithe Speed Watch – The team would be starting sessions at the end of the month and again at the end of May.

Lorry Watch – The last session had been held in February and were scheduled to recommence soon.

Recommended: That the updates be noted.

560/25-26. **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. The Chairman noted that Swanscombe seemed to be levelling off at around 75 whilst Greenhithe seemed to remain around 50.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

There were no confidential items to be discussed.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed _____
Chairman Date