

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Thursday 21st November 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Present: Councillors; S Hudson (Chair), M Bilham, L Lawson and M Thompson.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Also present: P New (Neighbourhood Watch) and 3 residents

1105. **Apologies for absence:**

Cllr D Robey (KCC) and Cllr L Harman (ABC).

1106. **Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1107. **Speedwatch:**

Kent Police have undertaken a survey to ascertain if there are any safe positions in which Speedwatch can be undertaken. Whilst on site speed checks were undertaken, whilst marginally above the posted limit they were not excessive. It was also ascertained that there are no safe areas to undertake speedwatch.

1108. **Public Participation:**

There was discussion regarding the Highways Improvement Plan and an additional request was made to enquire about the possibility of signs advising of pedestrians due to the lack of footpaths. The poor condition of the road markings was also raised, this will be reported to Kent Highways for action.

1109. **Neighbourhood Watch:**

Report attached.

1110. **Kent County Councillor's Report:**

- The KCC Budget, and balancing it, still looms large at KCC. The impact of the Chancellor's Budget on KCC will be negative, in terms of the increase in National Insurance and the Minimum Wage, which will increase the costs of our Commissioned Services, especially in Adult Social Care, and we are currently working out the impact of this. We are bidding for the monies announced for potholes and buses, but the underfunding of Highways remains a critical issue.
- We have sent an Expression of Interest in some sort of Devolution Deal for Kent to the Government, in response to Angela Rayner's recent letter to Local Authorities, and we await a response. The vibes that something will happen and happen quickly.

1111. **Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:**

Ashford Borough Council are making their car parks free of charge for the 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th December.

1112. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th September 2024 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1113. **Planning Matters:**

Planning application PA/2024/1908 – Land between Hillside and Carter House South of, Hamstreet Road – Outline application for the construction of up to 140 new homes, formation of a new access from Hamstreet Road, green infrastructure including landscape planting, habitat creation and open space, drainage infrastructure including a new pumping station, pedestrian and cycle routes, and associated works and infrastructure with all matters reserved save for access.

Resolved: Bilsington Parish Council object to the proposed development on the grounds of sustainability. The neighbouring Saxonshore parishes will be impacted as they rely upon the services provided in Hamstreet, such as the school and doctors surgery. the applicant's transport assessment centres upon all traffic to and from the proposed site travelling in the direction of Hamstreet to the A2070 with no mention of Ruckinge or beyond. There are no indicative figures provided for existing traffic levels on Hamstreet Road or on projections if the development were to proceed. Given that the latest bus in the evening is 7pm and no Sunday service any development will inevitably lead to the need for private cars on roads that are already heavily used.

Planning application PA/2024/1920 – Forge Cottage, Ruckinge Road – Proposed creation of 3 dormers and 2 roof lights.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the proposals subject to compliance with the Dark Skies policy.

Planning application PA/2024/1936 – Forge Cottage, Ruckinge Road – Listed Building Consent for internal alterations including the removal/alterations to internal walls, staircase, new ground floor wc and the creation of 3 no dormers and 2 rooflights to the 1st floor bedroom including en-suite.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the proposals subject to compliance with the Dark Skies policy

Planning application PA/2024/1931 – Hill Farm House, Ashford Road – Proposed double garage.

Resolved: The Parish Council object to the proposals in their current form, however they would support the proposal if the roof was redesigned to a double hip which would be more in keeping with the other buildings on the plot and lessen the impact on neighbouring properties.

Planning application NOT/2024/2138 – Windy Nook, Ashford Road – Prior approval – Larger Home extension – Erection of a single-storey rear extension (Depth 8m x Eaves 1.95m x Ridge 4m)

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the proposals.

Planning application PA/2024/2141 – Windy Nook, Ashford Road – Prior notification for an additional storey on a dwellinghouse to a maximum height of 8.7m

Resolved: The Parish Council objects to the proposals on the grounds that the property will not be within the character of the local area.

1114. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Staff costs September	£468.91
Staff costs October	£608.27
Clerk's expenses	£17.10

Resolved: To authorise the payment of the items in the schedule of payments.

1115. Request for financial assistance:

A request has been received from the Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex seeking grant funding in the sum of £500 as a contribution to the operating costs of HEMS – helicopters, rapid response vehicles, medical equipment, fuel, highly trained crews.

Resolved: whilst the Parish Council recognises the services provided by the Charity it is not in a position to make funds available.

1116. Parish Council website and Email address:

As reported at the September meeting it is recommended that all Parish Councils should have a .gov.uk domain name for their website and .gov.uk email addresses for the Clerk and Councillors. The current provider Hugofox are certified allowing them to provide .gov domains free of charge.

Hugofox will look after the process of changing and maintenance at no extra cost to the Council.

Resolved: To request the Parish Clerk to take forward the acquisition of a .gov.uk domain and associated email address.

1117. Village Hall:

The recent defibrillator training was well attended. The Clerk was asked to send an email of thanks to the trainer on behalf of those present and the Parish Council.

The next event will be the Christmas Fair on 23rd November.

1118. Highways:

A Highways Improvement Plan has been submitted to Kent Highways for consideration including Village entry gates on Bonnington Road and priority markings for Ruckinge Road.

A meeting has been arranged with Kent Highways to discuss on 2nd December.

1119. Consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at meetings:

H M Government are at present consulting on the detail and practical implications of implementation.

Resolved: whilst the Parish Council supports the enabling of remote attendance there are practical implications that have to be considered if permitted.

1120. **Community Resilience Plan:**

The purpose of creating a Community Resilience Plan is to increase the resilience within the local community to be able to support residents during an emergency.

In nearly all cases, emergencies are dealt with by the emergency services with local authorities and key agencies such as the Environment Agency or utility companies. However, there may be circumstances, such as extensive flooding, heavy snow or severe storm damage where the arrival of the emergency services could be delayed or stretched to capacity, or when essential utilities or highways access may be compromised. When this happens, communities can really benefit from some local planning to help themselves in the early stages of an emergency whilst waiting for the local authority to provide support.

The National Association of Local Councils have been placing emphasis on the importance of Community Resilience Plans and that local knowledge when responding to emergencies. Ashford Borough Council have produced a bespoke template for its Parishes to use as this ensures a consistent approach when the plan needs to be called upon.

The first stage of the process is that all households have to be written to advising that we are producing a Community Resilience Plan and seeking community liaison volunteers. A template letter has been supplied by Ashford Borough Council for this purpose.

Resolved: The Parish Clerk will review the template plan provided by Ashford Borough Council prior to further consideration being given at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

1121. **Other items for information:**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:55pm.



REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.
BILSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NOV 2024.



My alerts must be the same as last months

THE THEFT OF INTERNET SHOPPING PARCELS & PACKAGES FROM OFF OF HOUSEHOLD DOORSTEPS

COURIER FRAUD.

Courier Fraud is where a package is delivered to your property and moments later a person calls saying the delivery was made in error. Only when a bill later arrives do people realise, they have been a victim of crime.

1. The theft of a parcel from a doorstep mainly in town areas where there is foot traffic by a "Chancer and opportunists" Sometimes the thief had no intention of committing the crime but there was a parcel and then it was gone!

2 Vans now followed no property is safe.

My work will need to address this risk in the coming months as we start to move towards Christmas.

We must encourage safe delivery arrangements.



CRIME

Parcel thefts rise from doorsteps as gangs follow courier vans



COURIER FRAUD WARNINGS FOLLOW

DRAFT

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Courier Fraud Alert

We have received several reports across the county, including, Maidstone, Sheerness, Gillingham, Longfield, Tunbridge Wells, Cranbrook, Rochester and Sevenoaks.

On four occasions, the criminals stated that they were a Sergeant Wiggins from Waterloo Police and that they had someone in custody with the intended victims bank card. They have also called impersonating Police at hammersmith Police Station.

They are asking the intended victims not to disconnect the call but to ring 999 whilst remaining on the line, to confirm that they were genuine.

These were all scams.

If you get a call like this and are not sure, then disconnect the call and ring 101 using another phone. If another phone is not available, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected before ringing 101.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm



If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at Advice about fraud | Kent Police

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams



**Kent
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.

Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk



Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Delivery Scams

How the scam works –

An unexpected parcel is delivered to the victim's door, which will normally contain a high value item such as a laptop or iPhone. Shortly after the delivery, a person wearing a uniform from the same company will attend and state that the item was delivered in error and that they are there to take it back. However, it is a scam. The item would have been ordered in the persons name without their knowledge and the criminals would have tracked the order to know when it was delivered and when to knock on the door to say it is all one big error. The totally unaware occupier will not know there has been a scam until they receive letters requesting payment for the item.

If you get an unexpected delivery that you have not ordered, then contact the company and agree with them which courier company will collect it and on what day they will attend.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)



Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



**Kent
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.

Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk



Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Courier Fraud Alert

In the last two weeks we have seen reports of courier frauds across the county but particularly in,

Chatham, Dover, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Ashford and Rochester.

Remember, the police or your bank will never:

- Ask for your bank details or PIN.
- Ask you to transfer or withdraw and handover sums of money.
- Send a courier to collect your bank cards, cash or PIN.
- Ask you to buy gold for them to collect to assist with an investigation.
- Additionally, your Bank will never call and ask that you transfer money to a safe account.

If you get any calls like these, they are a SCAM.

For more information watch - [Courier Fraud Warning: Stay Wise, Don't Compromise \(youtube.com\)](#)

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



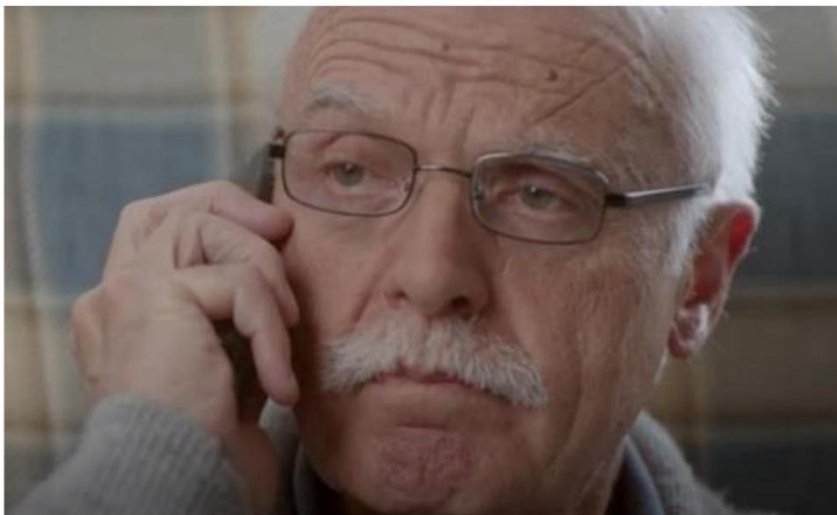
never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm



If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)



**Kent
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk



I will update council on my work with **E-SCOOTER/ELECTRIC BIKE FIRE RISK**

I will raise concerns of the failure of Ashford Police to attend council meetings throughout 2024 and in fact since the June 2023 launch of the Kent Police Model and the switch from PCSOs the Beat Police Officers.

Council may wish to consider writing to the officer of the Crime Commissioner on the matter.

I will address the work that I will carry out towards Christmas. For example, Father Christmas as we all know often stores extra Christmas presents in residents sheds.... Criminals know this!!

Residents store extra drink supplies in the run up to Christmas and the new year.... Criminals know this!!

That is the types of risks we will face.

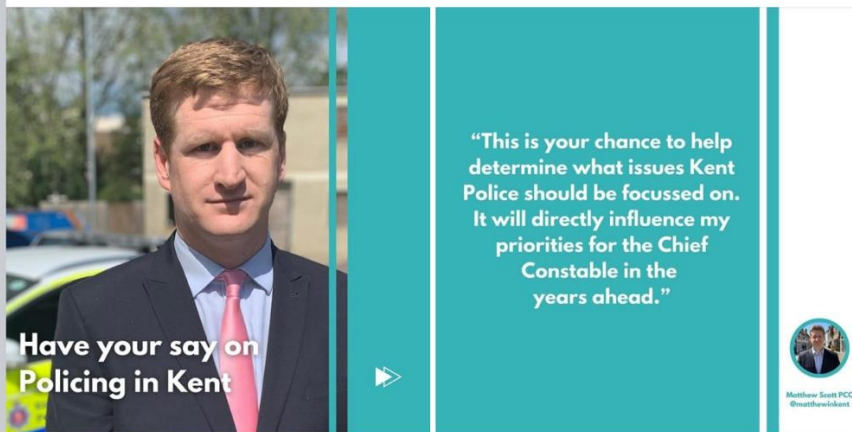
The last important matter is the **Crime commissioner's survey** to build policing plan for Kent going forwards into 2025. It is so important that rural areas reflect their concerns and priorities



Matthew Scott for Kent Police and Crime Commissioner is in Kent, United Kingdom.

25 Sep · 🌐

My Annual Policing Survey is now live. This is an important and genuine consultation on what issues you want Kent Police to be focussed on: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PoliceandCrimePlan2024/>



Dear NHW Member

A vital piece of work to help put together the Kent Police plan of the priorities for policing Kent is the Police Crime Commissioner's Plan

The plan will be built on the responses from residents in communities and the Commissioner will hold the Chief Constable to account with regular Performance Reviews and Quality Assurance Meetings.

As your Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, I would be very grateful if you took a minute or two to complete the survey of the issues you feel should be in the plan.

Often people say they are very grateful for the time and work I put in on Crime Prevention and Safety with Neighbourhood Watch. This could be your chance to show your thanks by completing the survey.

I need Kent Police focused on what concerns residents and communities and this plan will play a huge part in that process. As many people as possible in households can complete the survey.

Thank you for your support

THE LINK IS BELOW

Peter

Peter New

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch

The Police and Crime Commissioner is currently writing the new Police and Crime Plan, which sets the priorities Kent Police should follow. Matthew Scott wants to cut crime, to support victims and to build trust, but he wants to know what YOU witness and experience in your area. Do you feel safe? Do you trust the police? Please, have your say via our short, anonymous survey.

The survey is anonymous and will only take you a few minutes. We'd be very grateful if you could fill it in:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PoliceandCrimePlan2024/>

REMEMBER IT IS VITAL TO REPORT ALL CRIMES/FAILED CRIMES/ATTEMPTED CRIMES.

Contacting Kent Police



Report a non-urgent crime or incident online at www.kent.police/report or click the **Live Chat** button



In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**



If you are hearing or speech impaired, use the textphone service **18000** or download the **BT Relay app**



Sign up to www.MyCommunityVoiceKent.co.uk to receive and respond to community alerts from your local officers



Email your local policing team go www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



Find us on **Facebook.com/kentpolice**



Follow us on Twitter **@kent_police** or find your local account at www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



Follow us on Instagram **@kentpoliceuk**



For non-urgent issues, if you are unable to get online, call **101**

**Kent Police**www.kent.police.uk

Thank you all as always for your solid backing and support. I really appreciate that.
Stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant

Peter New (peternew1@aol.com) KENT POLICE VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

DRAFT