

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7:20pm

Present: Councillors; S Hudson (Chairman), M Bilham and R Thompson.

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

Also present: P New (Neighbourhood Watch)

1081. **Apologies for absence:**

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

1082. **Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1083. **Public Participation:**

There were no public submissions.

1084. **Neighbourhood Watch:**

Report attached.

1085. **Kent County Councillor's Report:**

As far as KCC is concerned, the main issue remains money, and we are working to ensure that we stay afloat with balanced budgets going forward, which I believe that we will.

Now that we have a new government in Westminster, there are bound to be lots of implications for many things, and, as far as local government is concerned, I hope that there will be a review of both its structure and how it is financed. The initial announcement a few days ago, about changes to the planning system and mandatory housing targets, did not fill me with hope though, I have to say, but we will see.

1086. **Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:**

Ashford Borough Council are hosting a series of consultation events for the forthcoming local plan, whilst the plans showing all of the sites put forward under the call for sites will be on show it is emphasised that no decisions have been made as to acceptance or not. This exercise is to gather the thoughts of residents prior to the plan being drawn up.

The proposed Solar Farm plans at Aldington have been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate and will now proceed to the pre-examination stage where people can register to comment on the plans when the applicant publishes the date for registration, the documents are all available on the PINS website.

1087. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1088. **Planning:**

**Planning application PA/2024/1149 – The Barn, Ashford Road, Bilsington –**  
Single storey side extension.

**Resolved: to offer no objection to the proposals.**

1089. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Staff costs May	£543.84
Staff costs June	£452.68
Society of Local Council Clerks	£41.02
Westcotec Ltd	£91.50

**Resolved: to authorise the payment of the items in the schedule.**

1090. **Village Hall:**

The next event is the annual Flower Fruit and Veg show on 3<sup>rd</sup> August the hall being open between 10 and 12 then closed until prize giving at 3pm.

1091. **Other items for information:**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:10pm.

## **BILSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2024**

In Bilsington and indeed Saxon Shore my focus going into the second half of the year will be a mixture of the routine crime prevention but where required the ability to look ahead to anticipate crime trends that may strike us or sadly return to our area.

On routine crime matters for Bilsington and Saxon Shore I shall be focused on

The areas that residents may be vulnerable to and crime trends to be alert and vigilant for are.

### **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

### **CRIMINAL DAMAGE**

**THEFT FROM VEHICLES (LEAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ON SHOW IN A PARKED CAR) VANS CARRYING TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT ARE AT RISK**

**THEFTS FROM GARAGES, SHEDS, BARNs, STABLES AND OUTBUILDINGS**

**THEFTS OF INTERNET SHOPPING PARCELS FROM DOORSTEPS (VANS ARE NOW FOLLOWED, EVEN REMOTE RESIDENTS/PREMISES ARE VULNERABLE**

**SPECIAL CRIMES eg THEFT OF HIGH END KEYLESS CARS/KNIVES/DRUGS**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS CAMPAIGN**

**BOGUS CALLERS/ROGUE TRADERS/SCAMS**

**FLY TIPPING**

**IMPORTANTLY TO LOOK AHEAD AND ANTICIPATE, ALERT AND INFORM. REACT TO CONCERNS OF RESIDENTS AND DEVELOPING/CHANGING CRIME THREATS.**

**IMPORTANTLY CARRY OUT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO TALK ABOUT CRIME AND IMPORTANTLY LISTEN TO RESIDENTS**

And of course, the crimes around **SCAMS** that strike to all parts of our community but will especially target the lonely, elderly, and the most vulnerable in our community. These crimes will grow and be a relentless attack on us all.

It is absolutely essential that you **DO NOT AGREE TO UNSOLICITED WORK ON YOUR DOORSTEP NO MATTER HOW ATTRACTIVE THE PRICE.** It never ends up the same price quoted and can result in needless poor-quality, shoddy work. It can also lead to very unpleasant nasty threatening behaviour with persons even driven to cash points to get money or even to banks.

To try and assist I have set up a Facebook Group to store just **SCAMs** (see below) as a form of library one can look back and refer to. It would be impossible to email out all the scam information residents would just switch off and delete or not read the mails.

Whilst not the full answer it is another helpful step that residents can quickly look back and check if they are dealing with a scam. Trying to look back on a normal group the scam info could be lost among all other posts.

As I said it is not the full answer but at least it is another step and if one resident avoids becoming a victim then the work will have been worth it

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCAM LIBRARY GROUP by PETER NEW



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCAM LIBRARY GROUP by PETER NEW >

🔒 Private group · 305 members



🛡️ Manage

👤 Invite

Featured

Photos

Events

Files

Albums



Write something...



Anonymous post



Photo



Poll

Most relevant

Sort

The membership has increase to almost 500 in the last 6 days.

On all the other crimes listed earlier in this report I risk assess vehicles, sheds, garages, barns, stables and any form of outbuildings as the types of crimes that could strike in Bilsington and where we need to be secure and alert. Criminals are constantly scouting out potential targets.

An essential part of the Crime and Safety strategy with Neighbourhood Watch is a close working relationship with you the Parish Council.

As a community Bilsington residents can help me by

1. **JOINING BILSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** (email me at [peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com), its completely free, but just if required I can email you a targeted message.)
2. **ENSURE ALL CRIMES AND ATTEMPTED/FAILED CRIMES ARE REPORTED** this builds up a picture of the extent of issues and crimes in an area. If you do not report then the police and myself with NHW will be totally unaware. You may have had a lucky escape further down the village somebody else may not be so lucky.
3. **CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN A COMMUNITY THAT CARES, STAY SAFE, SECURE, ALERT AND VIGILANT**



## **AREA OF CONCERN**

An issue of concern that I would like to put down a marker for future debate is the lack of involvement with officers from Ashford Police, (not rank and file officers on the front line but the structure of Ashford policing) The Beat officers who replaced PCSOs were supposed to be community based but have such large areas to cover.

You are massive key partners for Kent Police and many of you hold wider office than this Council. You must be briefed; you must be alerted and your vast experience in the Community should be at the police right hand of protecting the community.

The Kent Police model of Beat Police Officers in Ashford has struggled.

When did a police officer last attend your council? The P.C.C., Matthew Scott, is clear there should be an attendance once every 3 months. It has not happened. Fears that the removal of PCSOs would see a reduction in the service were dismissed, but we have been proved right. Can you name your Beat Officer ?

I am building a strong relationship with the Rural Police Team.

This will be an issue I will be driving forward on. Why have we not been briefed about where and how Ashford Police will be going forwards. You as a council and individual councillors should have been briefed and been a party to try to help them.

With me raising these issues I will disappear from the Police Christmas card list, but this is about trying to help and understand where they are and how we can best help them. They retreat behind high walls however into saying nothing and not seeking the help of partners.

A greater fear for me is however councils could shrug shoulders and just say "Oh well it is what it is, they will not change" my reply is yes, they must and a battle I will go down fighting for.

## **My markers for the closing months of 2024.**

**ITEM ONE** Ashford police establishment of police numbers which I feel has not increased in the year from the launch of the new policing model (JUNE 2023) to date. You recall they launched at 50% strength. What is it some 12 months on?

This must be a question for our newly elected M.P.

**ITEM TWO** Ashford police liaisons with key partners like NHW, council and councillors must improve and you as councillors should be briefed on serious crimes. I cannot

make the police use myself or my resources, but you are the elected representatives of the community, big players with deep connections into the community.

As far as 6 months through the year in simple terms for us both same again please!!

If in a moment of doubt, please do not read my report as negative there are few if any more positive about trying to help the police and keep our community, especially our vulnerable, safe and secure than me. Crime free and importantly free from the fear of being a victim of crime also must be our drive.

This is about asking the police to talk to us! Explain their problems! And explore ways in which we can help and all be better for the people we have the honour to serve.

I shall be looking to engage with the Crime Commissioner on a number of my deep concerns.

**Thank you all for your continued support and backing. I really do appreciate it without it this volunteer's job would be very difficult indeed.**

**Peter**

**Peter New. ( [peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com) )**

**Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch**