

KENARDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7.00pm
In the Village Hall

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Cllrs. S. McIntyre (SMc), B. Hedley (BH), J Whittington (JW)

Borough Cllr:

KCC Cllr:

Members of Public: 2

PC:

Clerk: A Beach

Minute No		ACTION
1235	Apologies & Reasons for Absence Cllrs Shilton and Chapman	
1236	Declaration of Councillor' Interests <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To approve or reject any application put to the meeting by the Chairman in respect of Members seeking a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011, section 33. Request that Councillors' or any other persons' present declare if they intend to record any of the proceedings using any video or audio recording device or camera 	
1237	Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th August 2025 The minutes were approved by Councillors' and were signed by Cllr McIntyre.	
1238	Public Session At this point the Meeting will be adjourned. This session is for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the agenda. Peter New – Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator presented the attached report. Appendix 2509-01 A resident attended to explain her concerns regarding the speed vehicles come round the bend unaware of the exit from The Wish and also that the school bus stops to allow children to alight and having to cross on a 'blind' corner, and asked if it was possible to have warning signs installed. Cllr Whittington offered to speak to Keiran Doble at KCC Highways to request these, although he was unsure whether these would be available.	

1239	Village Survey & Recruitment of New Councillors Councillors decided to have a discussion outside of the PC meetings to agree the questions that should be included, to keep the survey questionnaire to a single, double-sided A4 sheet.	
1240	Borough Councillor Report Cllr Shilton was unable to attend the meeting	
1241	County Councillor Report Cllr Chapman was unable to attend the meeting but his monthly report showed the following points for Kenardington: - <u>Highways Update</u> Kenardington–Appledore Road – Repairs have now been completed. <u>Pondswood Solar Farm</u> At Kenardington Parish Council’s recent meeting, a key topic was the proposal to convert Grade A arable land at Pondswood Farm into a solar farm. The planning application is now live on the Ashford Borough Council planning portal for public comment, reference PA/2025/1201 <u>Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation</u> Discussions continue between KCC, Medway Council, and district and borough councils regarding the different options for local government reorganisation. The next KCC LGR Committee meeting will take place on 30th September. I can be contacted at: wayne.chapman@kent.gov.uk	

1242

Finance**a. NALC Salary Increase**

The salary increases for 2025-26 has been agreed by NALC for 3.2%; backdated to April 2025, details as follows: -

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. We encourage employers to implement this pay award as soon as possible.

Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26

		01-Apr-24	01-Apr-25	Scale Ranges	
		SCP	£ per		
		annum	£ per		
		hour	£ per		
		annum	£ per		
		hour			
18	£30,559	£15.84	£31,537	£16.35	LC2 (below substantive range)

This increases the Clerk's salary by £2.29 per week

Increase was approved unanimously by Councillors'

b. Payments

Direct Debits

HugoFox – August Website fee - £11.99

BACS – for approval

A Beach – Clerk's Salary for July, August and September, including increase and back payment £669.54

c. Receipts

Deposit account interest July & August £41.21

Following the above, the current account has a balance of £4,406.94 and the business reserve a balance of £15,390.26 giving a working balance of £19,797.20 which includes £5,833 allocated to the proposed play area. Reconciled to the bank statement dated 25th August 2025

1243	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u><i>Proposed Pond Wood Solar Farm – S106 Proposals</i></u></p> <p>The KPC objection has been applied to the planning portal, with a request for a S106 agreement to be put in place if ABC approve the application</p> <p><u><i>Parking on The Wish</i></u></p> <p>The Clerk has chased Robert Perfitt for an update on the utilisation of the land to the side of the garages. <i>Post meeting Cllr Whittington followed the matter up with ABC</i></p>	Clerk
1244	<p>Planning</p> <p><u><i>Planning Applications</i></u></p> <p>PA/2025/1335 – Sly Corner Cottage, Sly Corner</p> <p>Proposed annexe accommodation to support the main dwelling following the demolition of an existing outbuilding</p> <p>KPC Comments</p> <p>Agreed unanimously</p> <p>NOT/2025/1465 – Horsemarsh Farm</p> <p>Prior approval for the change of use of 2 agricultural buildings and land within their curtilage to 8 dwelling houses and associated operational development.</p> <p>KPC Comments</p> <p>Refuse (2 to 1)</p>	

1245	<p>Village Matters</p> <p><u><i>HIP & Highway Improvements</i></u></p> <p>Cllr Whittington raised the issue of the overgrown hedgerows and verge ingress onto the pavement along the section from Church Lane to the B2067. Councillors agreed to employ a Contractor to undertake this and Cllr Whittington would obtain a quotation.</p> <p><u><i>Designated Green Space & Play Area</i></u></p> <p>Details of how we proceed have been received and our application has to be submitted by 27th September 2025</p> <p><u><i>Bus Shelter Repairs</i></u></p> <p>Notification has been received of a possible grant for repairing or replacing shelters.</p> <p>Cllr Hedley reported that the shingles on the shelter on the B2067/Appledore Road junction had rotted and in need of replacement, caused mainly by the overhanging trees. The Wish shelter is also in need of a roof replacement and preservation treatment.</p> <p>Therefore, it was decided to apply for the grant and contractors would be asked to supply quotations to allow an application to be made prior to the closing date.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to contact Ashby Farms to request they either pollard or prune the trees prior to any repairs taking place.</p>	
1246	<p>Village Hall</p> <p><u><i>News</i></u></p> <p>The main problem is parking, but when taking a booking for a children's party recently, Cllr Hedley made it clear that parking was available at the Church, hopefully, making potential hirers aware of this bookings will increase.</p>	
1247	<p>Sustainable Energy & Environment</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	

1248	Correspondence Items previously emailed. KALC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chief Executive Bulletin – August Newsletter – Training & Weekly Bulletins – Ashford Local Plan KALC – Ashford Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minutes of the meeting on 30th July 2025 NALC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chief Executive Bulletins Ashford BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Details of Green Space application 	
1249	Future Agenda Items/Items for Information The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7 th October	

Cllr McIntyre closed the meeting at 8.45 pm

2025/26 Meeting Dates Starting at 7.00pm

October Tuesday 7th

November Tuesday 4th

December Tuesday 2nd

Please note, if necessary, these may alter at short notice

APPENDIX 2509-01

I will update council on my Neighbourhood Watch work and the trends that we still remain vulnerable to.

CRIME TRENDS

Vehicle crime. cars and vans, nothing whatsoever to be left on show in a parked car anywhere!

Vans with tools are a risk please try to park as safe and secure as possible.

Motorbikes and cycle thefts.

Sheds, garages, barns, stables, outbuildings and any form of external storage can be vulnerable.

Internet shopping parcels stolen from doorsteps especially as criminals now follow the vans.

Bogus Callers and Rogue Traders

You must never ever agree to unsolicited work in on your doorstep no matter how cheap and attractive the price.

Scams

There is a scam for everything and anything 365 days a year 24 hours a day.

Please take your time and do nothing in a rush. If in doubt do nothing.

VAWAGs. I carry out considerable work on Violence Against Women and Girls.

Vulnerable persons. I carry out work to assist vulnerable persons with my Operation Guardian

Angel. This group will be especially targeted by criminals.

Knife Crime and Drugs

These can be linked and never forget that many of the thefts carried out by 'chancer and opportunists' criminals that target the matters in the crime trends above are carried out to fund the purchase drugs

Rural Crime

I am now linking in with the Rural Police Task Force. I am running numerous rural crime themes like horse safety, sheep worrying and fly tipping.

Plus working on trends like catapults.

REPORTING

It is essential that all crimes, attempted crimes and failed crimes are reported. So many crimes are not reported and writing on Facebook is not reporting. You must report and get a crime number, that way we can follow up police actions or perceived lack of police actions.

COMMUNICATIONS

I have done considerable work to strengthen my Neighbourhood Watch network.

1. I have met both MPs that cover the Ashford District
2. I have met and set up working relations with the new KCC councillors that cover the whole Ashford district. Some have been NHW members with me for 7 years others we are starting from scratch.
3. I continue to work close with Ashford Borough Councillors
4. I work with as many Parish/ Community Councils as I possibly can as many as 14 meetings a month
5. I write in numerous magazines, and I am always looking for space in parish/community magazines and newsletters
6. I continue to build a very strong NHW data base to communicate directly with residents.
7. I write on about 200 Facebook Groups across the whole of Kent
8. I have started to utilise other communications systems to assist residents for example local WhatsApp groups.

CURRENT CRIME TREND WORK. SPECIAL TARGET AREAS

At this time of year, I am dealing with the following issues that I believe cause concerns, worry, upset and distress in communities.

1. **CATAPULTS**
2. **E-SCOOTERS**
3. **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.**

Catapults

I have done considerable work on Catapults. Recent work included arranging to meet with the lead officer for Kent Police

Work with National BBC TV and Local BBC TV news. Live broadcast on Radio Kent and I hope to feature in a BBC documentary in September.

I helped to run a government petition to change the law on catapults I secured 25000 signatures.

Although that was not enough to trigger a government debate. It did allow a government response to me after 10000 signatures and put me in a strong position to hold local police to account on the communities perceived lack of action. The Police announcing a crackdown last week was a major step forward.

I hope residents have followed my work on this issue and this is now what I am needing from you.

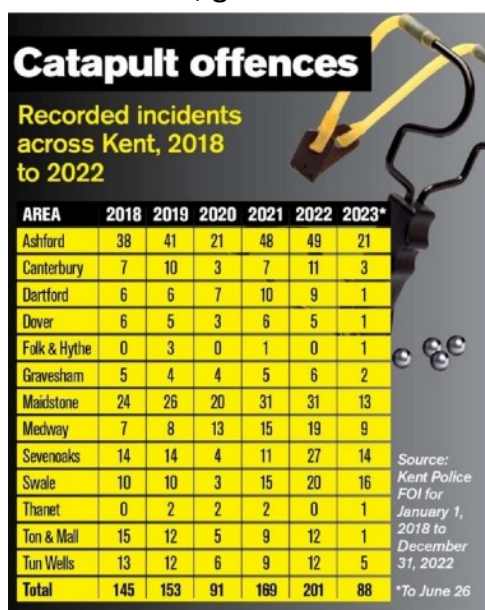
REPORTING INCIDENTS ON 999

You must report every incident at the time you see it. Turning a blind eye or being too busy does not help at all.

You must make a 999 call then and there when you see these incidents, it is a “999 call “crime in progress”

It is for Force control to manage responses. Do not make the decision the “police are too busy”, “the police won’t come”, “the police won’t do anything”

Make the call, get a crime number and we can follow up police actions.



6 years of data tells its own story, and I feel in recent years the problem has got worse.

E-scooters

Ashford police were very slow off the mark as against other districts. A Engage and educate policy saw Ashford District blighted by more and more e-scooters

The PCC position was crystal clear Seize and Crush them and at last now Ashford police are making interceptions and seizing the scooters.

I have also carried out extensive work on the fire safety issue of the e-scooters causing fires when they are being charged. The nearest fatal fire caused to this area was in Faversham.

Again, please report when e-scooters are blatantly ridden in communities.

Anti-Social Behaviour.

A subject that can cause criminal damage, upset, distress and in some cases fear. When a 30-year-old resident is a victim, it is vastly different to a 90-year-old victim.

Although seen as a low-level crime it is clear one that causes much concern in communities.

Again, you must report please.

I have been hugely disappointed by Ashford Police attendance across the district to council meetings by police officers and I have raised this with the Crime Commissioner on several occasions.

We were assured when PCSOs were abolished as community officers and replaced by Beat officers PCs there would be no loss of service.

The agreed standard is for a police officer to attend once every 3 months.

Some areas however have not seen an officer since the new policing model was launched in June 2023, and I work with many councils who have not seen an officer in 4 years.

This is so fundamental to community policing and a subject I will continue to fight for. By attending meetings and linking in with you the council and individual councillors the police would pick up so much valuable and important intelligence and information.

There are two new police sergeants who have arrived in Ashford, and I meet with them regularly and I have found them a breath of fresh air. Sergeant Dan Edge heads up the Beat Officers for the district and Sergeant Jason Bushell heads up the Task force that can be brought to issues and can target specific crime trends.

I am committed to supporting them but will challenge them and hold them to account if policing does not focus on community concerns.

There is no doubt the huge areas covered by Beat Officers puts them under pressure.

It is important when I meet with the police, I pose these very simple questions

1. How can we help you?
2. What do you need from us
3. How can we work better together by getting intelligence and information in so a much more targeted approach to dealing with crime can be made and intelligence lead proactive campaigns are launched

“Crime cannot prosper on communities that care and are alert and vigilant”.