

ALDINGTON AND BONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Aldington held on Tuesday 23rd April 2013 at 7.30pm in the Aldington Eco Centre, Goldwell Lane.

Present: Cllr Michael Jupp (Vice Chairman)
 Cllr Alf Banyard
 Cllr Roger Hughes
 Cllr Peter Kemp
 Cllr Trevor Wright
 Cllr Christopher Young
 Mrs Tina Hale (Parish Clerk)
 Borough Cllr William Howard
 Mrs Jane Martin (Candidate for Borough Councillor Election)
 County Cllr Andrew Wickham
 Reverend Martin Jones – St. Martin’s Church, Aldington
 Mr Graham Kingston- Community Warden, Kent County Council
 Mr Colin Evans - Aldington and Bonnington Gardeners’ Society
 Mrs Brenda Kemp – Aldington Primary School Governor
 Mr Trevor Sutton – Aldington Tennis Club
 Mr Steve Trice – Kent Fire & Rescue Services – Aldington
 Mr J Gilbody – Aldington Short Mat Bowls Club
 Mrs Patricia Jupp
 Ms Monika Mann
 Mrs Evans
 Plus 4 Members of Public

Minute No.		Action
1. Open	<p>Cllr Jupp, Vice Chairman, opened the meeting at 7.30pm, by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Cllr Jupp gave apologies on behalf of Cllr Martin Boulden, Chairman, who was unable to attend.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp also gave his apologies, as the advertised refreshments were not available.</p>	
2. Apologies for Absence	<p>Cllr Martin Boulden, Chairman Cllr Angela Saunders PCSO Amy Edwards – Community Police Mrs Pam Rawling – Aldington Eco Centre Mrs Karina Sellers – Kaleidoscope Childcare Mrs Sarah Rix – Aldington Tots and Tiddlers Mrs Margaret Turton – Aldington Gentle Exercise Club Mrs Hilda Underwood – The Phoenix Club</p>	
3. Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 24th April 2012	<p>The Minutes of the Aldington Annual Meeting held Tuesday 24th April 2012 were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and to visitors before the start of the Meeting</p> <p>Cllr Wickham advised of an error in his County Councillor Report, with</p>	

	<p>the Budget amount to be amended to 2.1 Billion pounds. The Clerk gave her apologies for the error and confirmed this would be amended in the recorded minutes.</p> <p>Councillors unanimously approved the Minutes, with the declared amendment noted.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Wright. Seconded: Cllr Young. Unanimously approved.</p>	TH
<p>4. Parish Council Chairman's Report</p>	<p>Cllr Jupp reported that the Financial Year, ending 31st March 2013, has seen a lot of change for the Parish Council and the two parishes that it serves. Councillor Alison Finn stood down as Chairman and Councillor Martin Boulden was unanimously voted to become the new Chairman in May 2012. Councillors thanked Councillor Finn for her efforts for the Parish Council.</p> <p>The events outlined below are of particular note:</p> <p>The Handyman Project continued throughout 2012-2013, despite significantly reduced funding from Ashford Borough Council. The aim was to provide a stream-lined local service that was personal to the community that it serves. The Handyman Scheme was seen as a practical way of providing a service using the ethos of the Localism Act. The Parish Council employed a local person for 28 hours per week.</p> <p>The Handyman's Contract has since come to an end and is not being renewed, due to no Borough Council funding.</p> <p>The Aldington Village Hall Committee held a Street Party in June 2012, in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Some of the proceeds were donated towards the costs of two Jubilee Benches, for placing on the Reynolds Playing Field and the Aldington Meadows Play Park. Parishioners felt the Jubilee Celebrations were helpful in welcoming and uniting the new residents in the village. The Jubilee Bench will be officially placed in the Aldington Meadows Play Park on 2nd June 2013, at 3.00pm.</p> <p>The Parish Council has eight allotments on the Forge Hill Allotment Site. One allotment became available during 2012 and this was immediately re-allocated. There were, until recently, two people on the Waiting List, with a third person added in April 2013.</p> <p>The Parish Council has been taking part in a project with Ashford Borough Council and Housing 21, to provide sheltered accommodation in the parish for older parishioners. A Public Consultation Event was held in May 2012 and Ashford Borough Council approved the Planning Application in March 2013. Land has been allocated off Calleywell Lane for the development, which has recently been fenced off. A Pre-Construction Information Event is being currently being organised by Housing 2. Residents of Aldington, Bonnington and the surrounding villages will be invited to attend, so they can ask questions and look at the construction plans.</p>	

	<p>A Christmas Tree was erected outside the Village Hall in December. A Carol Service was held beneath the tree. Mulled wine, mince pies and fruit squash were served to all those who attended. Reverend Martin Jones held the Service and took requests for the carols. The weather was cold but people enjoyed refreshments in warmth of the Village Hall.</p> <p>The Aldington Meadows housing development is now complete, with some remedial work needed on the surrounding roads. The Aldington Meadow Children’s Play Area is complete and the legal adoption is in progress. The hedging has been tidied up in readiness for the summer season.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to thank Pam Rawling, Mrs Jupp and numerous other parishioners for all their support given over the past year.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp expressed the Parish Council’s sympathy to the family and friends for the passing of the late Borough Councillor, Peter Wood. Cllr Wood previously served as Chairman to the Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp asked if anyone present had any questions at this point.</p> <p>Mr Evans asked who is responsible for maintaining the hedging and grass cutting at the Aldington Meadows Play Park?</p> <p>Cllr Jupp responded that this is now subcontracted out.</p> <p>Mr Evans responded with the question of why the precept has gone up if the Borough Council was paying for the Handyman funding?</p> <p>Cllr Jupp responded that the Parish Council received funding from Ashford Borough Council for the Handyman Pilot Scheme in its first year. The Parish Council retained some savings from the Pilot year, which meant the Scheme could run for a second year, however funding was not available for 2013-2014.</p> <p>Mr Evans commented that the Parish Council has made a saving by not continuing the Handyman Project but the precept was increased for 2013-2014.</p> <p>Mr Evans advised the meeting that the BT Telephone Box has fallen into a state of disrepair and asked who is responsible for the maintenance? Cllr Jupp replied that the Parish Council sponsors the box under the Sponsor-A-Kiosk scheme with BT.</p> <p>The Clerk will contact BT, to advise them of the poor condition of the box and ask that it is maintained.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanked Mr Evans for his comments.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TH</p>
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<p>5. Borough Councillor's Report by Cllr William Howard</p>	<p>Borough Cllr William Howard reported that his first of his news is the sad death of Cllr Peter Wood. This has had a significant impact for local residents and a number of Councillors. Cllr Peter Wood will be sorely missed.</p> <p>The next big thing in the Borough this past year was the Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee events. The Borough communities and parishes turned out and showed a lot of support.</p> <p>The Olympic Torch drew out approximately 28,000 people, who turned out to watch the procession of torch. The event as well attended, with residents coming together as a community.</p> <p>Ashford Borough Council is going forward and is hoping to launch a legacy- maker initiative, using the community spirit generated by the Olympics and Jubilee. This will build on the volunteering sense that these events have helped to raise so effectively.</p> <p>Once again, there are planning matters that are important across the ward and Cllr Howard reported that he is happy to intervene or help when possible, if asked. Cllr Howard encouraged the meeting to ask for help, to support or object to a Planning Application, or to call on the Planning Committee so everyone can have “their day in court”.</p> <p>Cllr Howard helped to support Ruckinge Parish Council in their strong objections to the Silver Birches park application. This Application went on to an appeal and the Inspector overturned the decision.</p> <p>Cllr Howard reminded Councillors that there is a long list of conditions to follow in any planning application and it is the Planning Department's role to ensure the list is followed, with the aid of regular Officers visits to sites and close attention being paid to each application so that the appropriate inspections are made to ensure all is in line with the guidelines and conditions.</p> <p>This year, for the first time, the Borough Council has been in the lucky position of being able to give money to community activities. Cllr Wood and Cllr Howard each had £2,500 to allocate to parishes who applied for the Member Grant Scheme. All the allocated funds available were spent, as the funds would have been allocated into a general pot, with no roll-over into the next financial year. Cllr Wood and Cllr Howard wanted to ensure the Saxonshore Ward kept their share of the grant allocation. The last thing Cllr Wood did at Ashford Borough Council was to approve the Member Grant Application of £930 to Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council, which will be contributed to various projects.</p> <p>Cllr Howard reminded Councillors that each Parish can apply for the Member Grant Scheme again in 2013-2014. Community groups, as well as Parish Councils, can be represented and allocated awards within the Saxonshore Ward. Cllr Howard reiterated he would like to grant all the funds available so they are not handed back to general funds. The Grant</p>	
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	<p>Application forms come directly from the Borough Councillors, so please ring or contact Cllr Howard, who will issue the Forms. £350 is the average amount per project, which would ensure that the Grant funds are spread around the Ward. If a lot of Grant funds are left unallocated towards the end of the year, a further invite to apply may be issued.</p> <p>Cllr Howard would be pleased to hear from any community groups. The Grants last year paid for some shirts for a Community Group in Ruckinge, who took part in the Hamstreet Jubilee Celebrations. The Brabourne Allotment Society has benefited with some extra equipment. Some running costs of the Pantomime in Brook were also covered and the Brook Village Hall also received a grant towards the Stage costs.</p> <p>Cllr Howard would like to be able to come back next year, to give details of new grants that local communities and parishes have benefited from.</p> <p>The 2030 Document has meant some hard work for Ashford Borough Council and the direction they would like to go in. Ashford Borough Council would like to kick-start the 2030 Project and see some of the Projects started this year.</p> <p>A Press Release has been issued from the John Lewis chain. The Ashford store will be finished in time for Christmas this year. It's finally happening and the Borough needs other examples like this for the year.</p> <p>Cllr Howard asked if there were any questions.</p> <p>The question was asked about the Local Needs Housing on the Abattoir site and who made the decision not to include the four Affordable Houses in the Application, as the Parish Council had not been spoken to by the Borough Council at all.</p> <p>Cllr Howard reported that he did not know but will look into the matter with the Planning Department to get an answer for us.</p> <p>£200,000 funding was given to Ashford Borough Council by Jarvis Homes, towards the next Affordable Housing Project in the Borough was given by Jarvis Homes. Cllr Howard was asked who retains the Financial Control of these funds if Aldington does not receive the Affordable Housing within the Abattoir Development?</p> <p>Cllr Howard replied that in the past (and he may not be correct) it has been down to the discretion of the village. Has Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council said that the villages have enough local housing? Cllr Howard cannot confirm this at the present time and apologises if this is not correct.</p> <p>A Councillor asked if these funds would be allocated to Aldington in Section 106 Funding? Who gets the interest in the account?</p> <p>Cllr Howard replied that the Borough Council does not hold the money if it is part of a Section 106 Agreement. The Developers usually hold the</p>	<p>WH</p>
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	<p>money and the Borough Council draws down on this as things need to be paid.</p> <p>It is sometimes the case that some developers in the Borough hold the Section 106 Funds but the Borough sometimes then finds that the funds are not available that should be held. For example, if the Section 106 Funds are not available for Phase 1 of a development and the Section 106 Funds are not spent when the Phase 2 wants to be started, then a building Project may be started with the Section 106 Funds, such as a Community Hall.</p> <p>Cllr Banyard stated that he thought it was very bad of Ashford Borough Council to pass this without this matter being referred to the Parish Council. Cllr Banyard also stated that there WERE four Affordable Houses included in the Planning Application on evening we voted on it.</p> <p>Cllr Howard confirmed that he will ask Richard Alderton, of the Planning Department, to confirm the date the Affordable Homes were taken off the Application.</p> <p>Cllr Banyard went on to state that he does not think the Parish Councils are given enough explanations by the Borough Council for their decisions.</p> <p>Cllr Wright commented that he had written a personal letter to Mr John Bunnett, the Chief Executive of Ashford Borough Council, asking for the Planning Department to re-visit the Abattoir Site. Cllr Howard confirmed that he will look into the letter, which Cllr Wright has not received an acknowledgement or response from, if he was able to give Cllr Howard more information on the letter.</p> <p>Cllr Howard reiterated that applications get rejected by the Planning Department if they are bad plans. If the applications are great, then the Plans will get passed. Cllr Howard feels that if there are problems in an Application it is better to delay the Application by a month, to get a better development for the community in the end. Some of the Planning Committee at Ashford Borough Council are not from this area but it's the biggest borough in the county.</p> <p>Cllr Howard confirmed he will raise a deferment if this can be discussed and will contact Richard Alderton from Planning and come back to the Parish Council with his findings. Cllr Jupp confirmed that he would like this request met for the Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Howard took further questions.</p> <p>Mr Evans asked if Junction 10A was still happening, as no additional planning was to be considered until the Junction 10A was in place but a further 170 house Application for the Kingsnorth area has been submitted.</p> <p>Cllr Howard responded that experts state there is capacity for a further</p>	<p>WH/TH</p> <p>TW/WH</p> <p>WH</p>
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5700 houses in the A28 area, even though it is already gridlocked on A28. There are 2 parts to the Kingsnorth Application.

Part 1 – There is a capacity Allocation for J10 and within the Application, the Highways experts state there is still further capacity on J10, which is all allocated to the set development of the Park Farm extension, the development near to the Julie Rose Stadium and some, is in Newtown (some but not all)

The Experts say there is further capacity but travellers know of the problems on J10. The Borough Council will keep a close eye on the development/capacity and will step in to advise the experts if the Junction won't hold up to further capacity.

In Kingsnorth, not all of the Section 106 money from the Developers has been spent yet. This part of the Park Farm extension should not receive any further planning until further facilities have been built with the Section 106 money.

Cllr Howard stated the Cllr Andrew Wickham may be more informed about the development on the Chilmington Green side of the town.

There are planned road improvements for the A20, Cobb's Wood and Godington Road side of the town.

Mr Evans drew Cllr Howards attention to Drover's Roundabout and an article recently featured in the local paper. Mr Evans stated that it's our local community who has to live with the problems we've got there and asked what has been heard from the experts?

Cllr William stated that he will not comment on the article but stated that he does not want to make the mistakes that some of the current and previous developments have incurred, that fixing after the development. The problems need to be fixed or improved before the development starts. Far too long is spent fixing previous mistakes from 20 plus years ago, if not more. Cllr Howard does not know why the mistakes were made, as he was not a Borough Councillor then, but he would prefer to delay a development rather than fix the problem afterwards.

Cllr Howard stated that the Badmunstriefel Junction is being looked at, with the suggestion of a roundabout. Cllr Howard felt that this was a sensible option as it a dangerous Juntion and it may take traffic off Junction 10. The Borough Council is also looking at plans for the Sevington development and is currently proposing traffic lights. The only thing stopping the roundabout from going ahead is the funds to build it.

Cllr Banyard asked about the Recycling Blue box scheme, as it appears to have gone by the board with the new Contractors, as the boxes are all tipped into a dust-cart and not sorted from the street.

Cllr Howard responded that he had come from a waste contract meeting about the Waste Transfer contract. Although the blue boxes are all tipped into one container, BIFFA has a sorting facility and the recycling is now being sorted on site. This has been found to be quicker than sorting on side of the street.

The Recycling rate will not be going down further in this period and will be maintained at the existing level as when it was previously being sorted off site.

The Transfer of Contractors has begun. The new Contractors, BIFFA, started on 1st April 2013, while the Street Clean Scheme is in the process of changing.

The Borough Council is changing the whole system. There are 5 Teams, who have each been allocation an area of Ashford. Each team needs to keep their area clean. If 2 rounds a week are needed, or less, then the Team is in charge of the Rota to keep it clean. This may mean we get quicker responses if we have the demand and this is needed on the Street Clean Scheme.

There have been some reported hiccups of bin emptying but this is due to adjusting rotas for the bin emptying. Other areas are instantly informed about these hiccups so they can be looked at. There will be bins, wheelie-bins, caddies and bags. The first thing to say is every situation could be different. The rule of thumb is – if the access is easy and big enough to a rear garden, a wheelie-bin is most likely. If access is difficult then it will be staying with the black sack.

There will not be an option at first. Everyone will be issued with a food caddy, which is in 2 parts. A smaller part stays in the house for food waste, while the larger caddy remains outside and has a lockable lid, which is also for food waste. These will be collected weekly.

There will be a recycling container, which is the original blue box.

Officers will be sticking with what is allocated, unless there are immediate problems, as they have over 47,000 items to get rolled out to start the initiative.

If there is an issue after the initial roll-out, there are dedicated telephone call centre operators and officers, which have been increased to help. If you experience a problem, please call Ashford Borough Council on the Customer Services line. If you know of problem for someone moving their wheelie-bin, then please call Ashford Borough Council and the bin men will assist with the wheelie-bin moving.

If you have a long drive, you can discuss if the wheelie-bin is the best option, as bags or a stand for bins, placed at the end of drives, might be the best option offered. Cllr Howard urges everyone to give the new system a month or 2 to try it out and requests our patience, please, while the new system is rolled out.

	<p>A member of the public asked when this scheme will come to the villages because as yet there is nothing to replace the Blue Box.</p> <p>Cllr Howard responded that we will be keeping the Blue Boxes for the new recycling scheme.</p> <p>The member of public replied that Bonnington did not have any recycling collections since the new Contractors had taken over.</p> <p>Cllr Young asked if there will be a waste/recycling leaflet going to every household or is the information still to come?</p> <p>Cllr Howard responded that at the Borough meeting today he was informed that information is starting to appear now, on buses and in a Pamphlet that will be included with the Council Tax bills. There should also be another package, explaining the waste facility we will get in our area. Every property will have been assessed for the facility they need. The Borough Council will be left to test the new system out.</p> <p>Cllr Young asked if the previous contractors were contacted, so the information is known about what amount of sacks/bags and caddies etc, are going to be handed out?</p> <p>Cllr Howard responded that 1 of each product will initially be handed out. Later on the Borough Council may be able to hand out further quantities of the items people need. There are no records of the number of bin bags collected from each property, as there are no markings on bags and some bags were collected from communal areas. Current contractors will have walked through the streets and checked off the items they feel people will need. Cllr Howard did not feel that long drives/tracks were suitable for the wheelie-bins and so this is going to be re-assessed.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanked Cllr Howard for his report.</p>	
<p>6. County Councillor's Report by Cllr Andrew Wickham</p>	<p>Cllr Andrew Wickham introduced himself and stated that he covers the area from Bonnington to Old Wives Lees in Chilham for Kent County Council and went on to say he will keep the information local to our area, as a lot of the Kent County Council work is outside of our Ward.</p> <p>The local things, we are probably most concerned about, are the lorry park, which is proposed at Sellindge. Cllr Wickham feels fairly convinced this will not happen in this area now. There is an appointed task group, who have been headed to find a more suitable solution and are trying to turn the Leaders to look for better provision for overnight lorry parking, rather than finding provision to accommodate Operation Stack, which happens approximately every 2 to 3 years and is not worth damaging a large part of our area for. The Freight Action Plan does seem to be making a difference.</p> <p>There are a number of small lorry parks, which are causing</p>	

inconvenience, which should not happen after the overnight lorry parking provision is in place. It will then be made illegal to park in the current places and Highways will be trying to solve these parking problems. Cllr Wickham hopes there will not be an Operation Stack park in the area.

We have been lucky with grants allocated in this area over the last four years, with a small grant being allocated to Kaleidoscope Childcare. It was a small grant but Cllr Wickham will be looking favourably to grants for Aldington, if elected.

Aldington has benefited from the Members Highway Fund (MHF) in past, with the Schools Keep Clear Scheme, which includes double yellow lines, dropped kerbs and a crossing. The double yellow lines and dropped kerbs have been recently approved and the measures are not in place yet.

Cllr Wickham thought the roads and areas immediately surrounding the school would be chaos but they were not as bad as expected at closing time, with the sign at the village hall helping, which states if there is village hall activity, the parking is not for parents but parking available at hall at all other times. Cllr Wickham feels that the school area will be better when the new measures are in place.

The five 30 mph Gateways were also funded through the MHF, and this shows the Fund does enable things to happen outside of the Highways criteria. Cllr Wickham stated that he does not want accidents to happen before things are done and urged the Parish Council to contact him if we feel something is needed in the village or wanted by the majority.

Cllr Wickham reported that he had been going round recently with the Borough Councillor Candidate, Jane Martin, and had been taking the opportunity to look at the conditions of the road. Cllr Wickham has received many comments about the size of agricultural vehicles, which are getting bigger, causing the edges of the roads to collapse as the verges dig in and the tarmac breaks away. These edge collapses cost a fortune to remedy. Pot holes can be reported on the Kent County Council website, which is easy to use. Repairs can be carried out quickly, usually within 2 weeks, if a fault is reported in a well-used location. Each fault reported will generate a reference number. If it is taken a long while to be fixed, please contact Cllr Wickham with the reference number.

We had hard frosts a couple of months ago. Pot holes are not repaired in the bad weather. If a fault is unsafe, it may be filled with temporary tarmac, such as used in the holes near Evegata recently, until a full repair can be made.

Cllr Wickham feels that Kent County Council did a good job in clearing the snow and it was an immense task to keep roads clear. Priorities are given to staff safety and the grit available.

On County-wide matters, there is regeneration in the economic development and there is success with apprenticeships. Kent County Council is keen on apprenticeships as they turn time and money into

	<p>regeneration projects. There is some regeneration in the East Kent area, with the knock-on effects being felt throughout the County.</p> <p>Cllr Wickham asked if there were any questions.</p> <p>Cllr Banyard stated that he thought it a bit short-sited of Kent County Council in granting the Change of use at Woodleas Farm, Goldwell Lane, to a Waste Transfer Station, after the Bellway Section 106 funds were spent on the roads around the Mill on Station Road.</p> <p>Cllr Banyard asked Cllr Wickham where the rest of Bellway Section106 money is allocated to.</p> <p>Councillors also reported that 2 pot-holes had been reported but the holes were bad enough to take wheels off vehicles when they hit them. Cllr Wickham asked for reference numbers so that he can chase up the fault logs.</p> <p>Cllr Banyard asked how much do the siting of signs cost and why are signs not picked up when broken and then repaired.</p> <p>Cllr Wickham asked if the un-collected signs were unique or general and Cllr Banyard replied that Diversion signs had not been collected. Cllr Wickham will look into this.</p> <p>Cllr Wickham concluded that the Kent County Council, Highways costs had not gone up in this area for 3 years. With the savings that everyone has had to make, such as the Officers in Finance saving £95 million, they have done a brilliant job of saving the money this year and have come in with an under-spend. They are doing an amazing job.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanked Cllr Wickham for his report.</p>	AW
<p>7. Community Police Report</p>	<p>None.</p>	
<p>8. Kent Fire & Rescue Services Report by Mr Steve Trice</p>	<p>Mr Steve Trice introduced himself as the Watch Manager at Aldington Fire Station, Kent Fire & Rescue Services.</p> <p>Watch Manager Trice reported that Aldington is lucky to benefit from still having a Fire Station. The axe fell on 7 Fire Stations and although he would like to think it will not fall again, he is hopeful Aldington Fire Station will remain active.</p> <p>From April 2012 to March 2013, Aldington attended 157 turn-outs, which for a stand-alone, part-time Station, is a significant number.</p> <p>The good news is that figures show Aldington to be a safe community, with regards to fires, as of the 157 turn-outs, only 7 were in the village.</p> <p>The Aldington Fire Station covers from Lympne to Warehorne and all</p>	

	<p>along the canal to Ashford. 13 incidents were attended in this area.</p> <p>Watch Manager Trice considers our community to be safe, as there were 144 turn-outs in another area. The Fire Brigade's work is no longer specific to fire and Aldington Station has been called out as far as Ramsgate and Dartford.</p> <p>Aldington Station is currently recruiting, and the recent recruitment drive has led to a potential of 8 applicants. Ideally Aldington would like to take on all 8 of the applicants but are only allowed to take on 3 recruits, as the Station is becoming busier and this would allow more time for the existing crew. There may be 2 crew members finishing soon, so it would be nice to have 5 recruits. The team at Aldington is a good, dedicated and hard-working team.</p> <p>Watch Manager Trice asked if there were any questions.</p> <p>Mr Sutton asked if the Kent Fire & Rescue Services were still controlled from Maidstone.</p> <p>Watch Manager Trice replied that they were, up until 2 years ago. The Services were going to be controlled from the Hampshire Control Centre but this has not gone ahead because of funding. Tovil could not be used as a Control Centre as the communications were outdated and The Fire Services now share a Control Centre with Kent Police.</p> <p>Cllr Wickham asked if the ranks had been changed as a retained fire station used to be run by the sub officer.</p> <p>Watch Manager Trice responded that ranks were changed about 4-5 years ago. Each Station would have had a leading fire-fighter but now there is a Crew Manager and a Watch Manager, following agreements made during strikes.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanked Watch Manager Trice for his report.</p>	
<p>9. KCC Community Warden's Report By Mr Graham Kingston</p>	<p>Mr Graham Kingston introduced himself as the Warden from Kent County Council. Cllr Jupp welcomed Mr Kingston back after being away on sick leave.</p> <p>Mr Kingston reported that we are still living in nice safe and comparatively crime-free area. PCSO Amy Edwards could not be present at the meeting today and passed on her apologies. PCSO is still fairly new to this area only having been transferred here since January 2013.</p> <p>There have been 3 reported crimes, including a vehicle fire in Roman Road, theft of tack in Frith Road and damage caused to vehicles at Aldington Meadows. In a 4-month period, this is not bad when compared to rural Ashford, where there have been as many oil thefts in a day and thefts of particular types of Landrovers. Mr Kingston has not been made of any anti-social behaviour, which is good to report.</p>	

	<p>Mr Kingston thanked the Parish Council and the Clerk for their support around the villages and thanked Watch Manager Trice for the use of the Fire Station for shelter in bad weather and the supply of refreshments.</p> <p>Mr Kingston has been involved with some Community work with the local primary school and was proud to be involved when the School was given the Gold Award for the Bike It Scheme, which only a handful of schools have received. Mr Kingston also helped with cycle marking, along with the PCSO and was also involved in the Walking Bus, which is currently operating at 2 days per week. It is hoped they will be able to increase this.</p> <p>Mr Kingston also attended the 50th Anniversary of the Aldington Fire Station with the PCSO. Celebrations were organised by Watch Manager Trice and Officers at the Station and everyone had a good time.</p> <p>Mr Kingston has passed on Referrals for the Winter Care Scheme and is happy to have been involved with the Handyman Scheme, the Dog Wardens, the Street Clean Scheme and has made referrals, where possible, with the help of the Parish Council. There is always room to improve but in general feels that our Village is in good shape.</p> <p>Mr Kingston reported that he is contactable by phone, email and in the street.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanked Mr Kingston for his report.</p>	
<p>10. School Governors' Report by Mrs Brenda Kemp</p>	<p>Mrs Kemp introduced herself to the meeting as a Governor for Aldington Primary School.</p> <p>The building work has been completed, providing 2 additional classrooms. This provides for 160 children compared to 140 previously and the School is hoping to increase to 210 children and one-form entry.</p> <p>Aldington Primary is now a Forest School, providing 2-hour sessions to help children in their natural environment, teaching them to light fires and keep chickens.</p> <p>The Year 4 children have enjoyed a trip to Kearsney Abbey and the Harvest Festival was well supported.</p> <p>The School has been given a Gold Award for the Bike-It Scheme. The PTFA continues to work hard and raised approximately £500 by holding a Jumble Sale.</p> <p>The next School event is the Fete, which is being held on 30th June 2013, which will hopefully bring better weather.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanked Mrs Kemp for her Governor's report.</p>	

11. Report by Kaleidoscope Childcare	None.	
12. Report on Aldington Eco Centre	None.	
13. Report on Aldington Village Hall	Cllr Banyard reported that the Aldington Village Hall Committee is in serious need of a Chairman. The Secretary is unable to take on the addition role of Chairman.	
14. Report on St. Martin's Church by Reverend Martin Jones	<p>Reverend Martin Jones from St. Martin's Church reported that it had been a good 12 months, with the Church community growing in numbers and life.</p> <p>There is a thriving Youth Group, which is held in the Village Hall, with new people going to Church and helping in the Groups. There are home groups and other meetings too.</p> <p>St. Martin's Church is a Member of the Benefice of the Saxonsore Line, along with Bilsington, Bonnington and Warehorne, The Reverend Canon Roger Martin looks after Bilsington and Bonnington, with Reverend Rod Whateley looking after the others.</p> <p>Reverend Jones reported that he had been involved in a lot of things, such as Gideon's Work, Street Pastors, the Food Bank and a day of work for Christians Against Poverty. Poverty is on the increase, with people who are hungry contacting the charities from the village that are connected to the Food Bank.</p> <p>As a member of the Church Reverend Jones reported that he is interested in what goes on in and around the village and is producing a questionnaire in early May, asking people how they feel on issues about the village and what can Churches help with.</p> <p>In thinking about the geography of the Church, which is out of the village, this is in some ways a challenge, as Reverend Jones would like to be more central. A coffee Morning is being held on Saturday 11th May in the Village Hall and it would be nice to see people there.</p> <p>As a Church of 24 hours of prayer, there are often more people in at 1am on Sunday than 1 pm on a Saturday.</p> <p>The Church is open again on the May Bank Holiday. Reverend Jones would like to invite people who want to spend time in the Church. Regular prayers are said for the Village people, so please do let him know if you would like prayers said.</p> <p>Reverend Jones went on to say that it is nice to be here as an Aldington resident, having moved in just over a month ago. It is a special village to be living in and he is pleased to be here.</p>	

<p>15. Report on Aldington Evangelical Mission by Cllr Roger Hughes</p>	<p>Cllr Jupp thanked Reverend Jones for his report.</p> <p>Cllr Roger Hughes explained that he had been invited to make some comments on behalf of the Evangelical Mission.</p> <p>Cllr Hughes recalled that someone had commented that the Evangelical Mission was on opposite sides to the Church but the Evangelical Mission has joined in work with Reverend Jones from St. Martin's and they often work together.</p> <p>The Mission is looking for a Pastor and is always open. Cllr Hughes reported that he has been associated with the Evangelical Mission for many, many years and is excited that they may possibly have a new Pastor with St. Martin's.</p> <p>The Evangelical Mission is involved with and supporting the Charity Christians Against Poverty, as is the Church.</p> <p>Cllr Hughes issued a thank you, to those who ask and encourage, despite efforts previously to close the Mission down.</p> <p>Cllr Hughes ended his report by saying the Sign is in the Sign-Writer's garage, with a new telephone number to come.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanks Cllr Hughes for his report.</p>	
<p>16. Report on Aldington Tennis Club by Mr Trevor Sutton</p>	<p>Mr Trevor Sutton introduced himself as a Member of Aldington Tennis Club, which has just started the new year's Membership, from April 2013.</p> <p>In 2011 the Club had 111 members and this has reduced in 2012 to 94 members. The Membership numbers of the Club had been going up but in the recent hard times, people have been looking at the pennies. The Lawn Tennis Association Membership has gone down by 20% but the Aldington Tennis Club Membership has only gone down by 15%.</p> <p>Some of the members are local families, with some coming from the Romney Marsh. Aldington is the least expensive Club, as they do not have full facilities as other clubs do, such as a club house, toilets and lighting, which would all would help. Approximately 20 Members turn up every weekend. Sunday morning Junior coaching costs £3 a head for an hour. The Adult coaching costs £5 per head, which is extremely cheap but the Tennis Club does try to encourage the younger members. The Memberships for the Junior players are more fluid than the Adult players, as families move and young adults move on to University.</p> <p>The Club is healthy and regularly visits other clubs for competitions. Some of the other Clubs do come to Aldington but lack the lack of facilities in the village means that we visit more often than not.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanked Mr Sutton for his report.</p>	

17. Report by Aldington Gentle Exercise Club	None.	
18 Report on Aldington Short Mat Bowls Club by Mr Jim Gilbody	<p>Mr Gilbody from the Aldington Short Mat Bowls Club reported that the Club has been operating successfully since 1986 but the Members are all aging and number of members has reduced to down to 10.</p> <p>Of the 10 members, there is one from the Village, with most of the members coming from Willesborough or Ashford.</p> <p>The Short Mat Bowls Club is good fun, with no cost to play and beverages supplied. The Club would like to see more members joining and will continue to try to recruit more so the Club stays active.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanked Mr Gilbody for his report.</p>	
19. Report by Phoenix Club	None.	
20. Report on Aldington & Bonnington Gardening Society By Mr Colin Evans	<p>Mr Colin Evans gave his report for the Aldington and Bonnington Gardening Society, which he said was a very much a repeat of the reports made over past years.</p> <p>Membership numbers are still going up, which is good considering a lot of gardening society memberships numbers are going down.</p> <p>The Society holds 8 meetings and 3 shows per year, and holds a joint venture with the Ashford Bee Keepers.</p> <p>The Society also has an arrangement and link with the Eco Club at the School, and the Club displays at the Spring and Summer shows. The Society hopes to encourage young members from the School Club.</p> <p>There is a Plant Sale on the 18th May 2013 and this Sale is where most of the Society's funds are raised. There will also be a barbecue and Garden Visit this year. The Society has previously visited the Lookers Huts on the Romney Marsh.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp thanked Mr Evans for his report.</p>	
21. Report by Aldington Tots & Tiddlers	None.	
22. Open Forum	<p>Mr Trevor Sutton commented that the different Clubs and Societies are so diverse within the village.</p> <p>The Clubs and Societies are listed on the Saxonshore Website and in the Aldington, Bonnington, and Bilsington Church & Village News magazine.</p>	
23. Close	Cllr Jupp thanked everyone for taking time to attend the meeting and for	

	<p>their Club's and Society's reports and emphasised that all meetings are open to the Public.</p> <p>Mr Colin Evans thanked Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council for their support and went on to thank the County and Borough Councillors, for making themselves available to answer questions and give feed-back on the local community.</p> <p>Cllr Jupp declared the meeting closed at 21.04 hours.</p>	
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Signed Cllr Martin Boulden (Chairman)

Date..... Monday 8th July 2013