

APPENDIX to Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on Wednesday 16th October 2024

6. Reports from Police & Community Warden

PC Abigail Myers:

Between 17th September – 13th October there were 26 reports made to Kent Police from the East Peckham area. Of these 7 I believe would be relevant to your meeting and they consisted of poaching, suspicious events, youths with catapults, vehicle damage, blackmail and an accosting.

In relation to vehicle damages these were low level in terms of damage, one potentially from someone known to the victim and one was from suspected catapults. We are seeing a rise of catapult crime across Kent particularly in rural areas and by children. I have liaised with our rural task force to enquire what can be done in relation to this and have received the following:

‘The issue...is being looked at nationally, and Rural Task Force will look at the initiatives that come from this to see if there is benefit in them being introduced in Kent. The Child Centred Policing Team and RTF are looking into a prevention programme at schools.’

As there have only been one or potentially two incidents with youths with catapults reported at this stage I shall continue to patrol and monitor. If the issue persists I would ask anyone who has grief from this sort of crime to report it online if non-emergency (for intel purposes) or 999 if an emergency. This way, I am able to build up a picture of what crime is happening in what locations and look to respond accordingly. This could be targeting specific areas at specific times across the team by raising a report called a PSP. However, as aforementioned I do not believe this is warranted at present.

Regarding the accosting this was not something I am overly concerned about at this stage and I am happy to go into further detail at the meeting if required. Again, the blackmail sounds quite concerning however this was one incident over the phone and I would just re-iterate the same advice I gave a couple of months ago particularly to older residents re not passing over any money to anyone who is unknown/pressurising them/ or giving circumstances or reasons why that do not make any sense. If they are at all uncertain they should call a family member or report it online.

In relation to the poaching this appeared to be another isolated incident but I shall look to carry out foot patrol the area in question of a weekend as this was when it occurred and I think a little bit of presence might be just the thing!

As usual, please continue to report your crimes or intelligence online/ via 999 **in addition** to making me aware so matters can be properly tracked and dealt with. If there are any issues not mentioned above please let me know and we can discuss

Community Warden Diane Wakeling:

Following on from the public consultations of the Community Wardens, there has now been a re-arrangement of areas.

I have managed to keep my areas of East Peckham and Hadlow, with the addition of Trench in Tonbridge. I will continue to support the elderly and vulnerable in all my areas. Wardens continue to be very busy as there is now only 5 of us covering the Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling Areas.

7. County Councillors, Borough Councillors, Residents

7.2 To receive correspondence from residents

We have had contact from residents regarding possible flooding by Co-op in the village, parking around the village on a Sunday due to the increase in demand at the Jubilee Hall, mud on the road between Addlestead road and Little Mill, overflowing dog poo bins and leaking manhole covers, the streetlights, fallen trees on the river path, as well as contact via Facebook regarding concern over speeding throughout the village. The issues have been resolved / reported to the relevant departments or added to agenda for council discussion where appropriate.

8. Reports from the Chairman and Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk:

3 of the 4 streetlights that were not working have now been fixed. The 4th, along Hale Street, apparently has no power supply to it, so the office is following this up with the UK Power network.

The second local Clerk's Catch up was held last week and was a useful opportunity to speak to other clerk's in both TMBC and TWBC on current items such as the new financial regs and other issues they have been experiencing.

The Parish Office is planning to be closed for Christmas from 24th December to 27th, open on 30th and 31st, closed for New Year's day and then open as normal from Friday 3rd January.

10. To review reports from members who attended any meeting on behalf of EPPC not included elsewhere on the agenda

KALC – TM Meeting- Attended by D. Seal and Parish Clerk (26/09/24)

Full minutes are available, main points to note:

The new policing model and Beat Team has been in place for a year now and is almost at capacity; there are 10 PC's at the moment, 2 new officers have just been recruited

leaving 2 places to be filled. There is also the Neighbourhood Task Force which consists of four PC's plus one Sergeant, to target repeat issues. Crime generally is down .

Kalc Website - There is a login available to the new website, via our clerk

Climate: the recent Shipborne & Plaxtol meeting was well attended, with lots of buy-in from residents and also Trades who measure their own carbon footprint.

Points of interest - The trades we use, do they have plans for carbon neutral , to measure their own foot print?

Water usage / energy usage - TMBC have a thermal energy camera all Parishes can book to use (Hikmcro). Booking forms will be made available .

Robin Betts is TMBC Climate Person

1.5M to be spent on Larkfield Leisure centre, Tonbridge swimming pool has 150 solar panels, Laybourne lakes café has solar and water heat source pumps

It is advised Parish Councils should talk to schools, this would involve KCC and school governors, apparently parish councils can use money via S137 grant to help with initiatives.

One Parish mentioned they are installing three car charging points , whilst TMBC also have plans to install a number of them .

Housing - It was mentioned that the new housing target is up from 835 homes per year to 1100 ,however it was also mentioned to expect a third call for land ,still waiting for any local plan announcement .

KALC Standards Conference – Attended by M. Williams and D. Seal (10/10/24)

The focus of the morning was very much taken up by a talk on how to deal with vexatious electors, with a short time on NALC's call for tougher sanctions and that the government may improve the current rules.

Other points to note: Councillors can have personal details removed via the monitoring officer; KALC do have an HR specialist for advice; there will be a new Kent Code of Conduct.

The role of the Monitoring Officer explained along with KALC mediation/ training being discussed. We can ask the Monitoring Officer to attend a meeting and they could do a brief review of their role.

13. Grass Cutting at Holy Trinity

Further to the email received from the resident regarding the issue of strimming around the graves, points to note:

- Current cost is £440 per month for maintenance of the church yard at Holy Trinity

- To the manner of how to actually maintain the churchyard, , The DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS 1981 state that:

4. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCHYARD.

- (a) The Parochial Church Council which is, under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, responsible for the care and maintenance of the churchyard, is encouraged to make its own rules to meet the needs of the local situation. These must be submitted to the Chancellor of the Diocese for approval and must be kept within the limits laid down in these Regulations. All existing rules will be superseded by these Regulations and should be resubmitted for approval, suitably amended if necessary. Any power exercised by the Parochial Church Council under these Regulations may be delegated by that Council to a person or persons deputed to care for the day to day upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard.
- (b) No scheme for the removal of gravestones or monuments or other alterations of the churchyard may be undertaken neither may individual stones be removed without the authority of the faculty from the Chancellor. Subject thereto, the churchyard should be kept so far as possible level and free from grave mounds so that the grass can be mown by machine. The Parochial Church Council may, at their discretion, level any mound 12 months after the latest interment in the grave.
- (c) Bulbs and small plants may be planted in the soil of a grave and plants and flowers may be placed in a removable sunken container, but unless they are kept tidy, the Parochial Church Council may treat the grave as part of the turf and mow over it.
- (d) Wreaths or cut flowers may be laid directly on any grave or placed in any vase authorised by these Regulations but the Parochial Church Council may remove them when they appear to be withered. If a built-in vase container ceases to be used for a period of 12 months or more, the Parochial Church Council may insert a stone stopper in the vase hole.