



**An Ordinary Meeting of the above Council
on Wednesday 14 August starting at 6.30pm,
in the St Marys Community Centre**

- 136/24 To note those, present and record apologies and those not present.**
Present: Cllr Alan Cooper (Chair), Cllr Chris Morley, Cllr Paul Bartlett, Cllr John Seaton, Cllr Shafi Khan, Cllr Chacko Jacob, Cllr Jac Wood, Cllr Matt Bridger, Cllr Ellie Crook and Cllr Greg Faulkner
Also Present: The Clerk, Peter New Neighbourhood Watch, 3 Representatives from Freedom and Ashford Borough Council (Nick Shaw Freedom Leisure Kent General Manager, Steven Bartholomew ABC Client Officer) and one member of the public.
Apologies: Work - Cllr Nathan Iliffe, Cllr Charles Ellis, Health - Cllr Trish Cornish Cllr Brian Varney and PC Adam Staughton.
Resolved: **Agreed** by those present to accept apologies received.
- 137/24 To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI's) or a Voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.**
Declared : Cllr Bartlett and Cllr Morley declared a voluntary interest in item 143/24.
- 138/24 To consider and adopt the Minutes of the July 10th meeting.**
Resolved: **Agreed** the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on July 10th 2024 were accepted as a true record.
Action: **Agreed** Clerk to publish signed minutes on the website..
- 139/24 Public Open Session (This item will included reports and presentations from**
- 1) Ashford Borough Council and Freedom Leisure re Tennis at Spearpoint.**
- Noted:**
- two main reasons for the charges: costs of maintaining and replacing the playing surface and concern that as many as 7 tennis coaches were taking about 25 per cent of the booking.
 - A survey was carried out with those who had booked courts with a 10 per cent response rate.
 - The consultation had led to a decision for a charge of £6 per court per hour with no limit on booking initially. There will be an Annual Pass costing £150 a year for up to 5 hours a week usage.
 - For Special Educational Needs users, there will be a limited amount of targeted weekly hours free of charge and limited targeted discounted annual passes.
 - Residents living within a half mile radius will also have access to free booking slots at certain times of the week.
 - Freedom Leisure estimate that the courts cost just under £7,000 per year to operate and that resurfacing will cost £30,000 every three to five years.
- Concerns raised:**
- Councillors questioned the maintenance costs, which appeared to assume that the company's contract with ABC did not include any staff time.
 - that reference the 'sinking fund' for resurfacing what would happen if Freedom Leisure were to go into liquidation, would this be protected?
 - the half mile radius in one direction covered little more than the rest of the playing fields.
 - that free access would be at inconvenient times.
- 2) Peter New, Neighbourhood Watch and the Police (if available).**
- Concerns** noted that Conningbrook and Crown Hill View residents are not necessarily aware they are in Kennington
- 140/24 Presentations and reports received: Council to consider presentations and reports in turn and agree any next step actions.**



1) Ashford Borough Council and Freedom Leisure re Tennis at Spearpoint.

Agreed Actions:

Agreed: Freedom Leisure agreed to consider a proposal from councillors to extend the area allowing residents free use, including assessing whether this could be granted for all residents in Kennington Parish.

Agreed: ABC representative Steven Bartholomew ABC Client Officer agreed to provide the Council with a copy of Freedom Leisure's contract, subject to commercially confidential information being redacted.

Cllr Chacko Jacob left the meeting at 19.20

2) Peter New, Neighbourhood Watch and the Police (if available).

Action: Agreed By all present that a welcome letter and details on Kennington needs exploring for both the Conningbrook Estates and Crown Hill View.

Action: Agreed Clerk to arrange a Communications and Events Committee Working Group to consider this.

Cllr Chacko Jacob returned to the meeting at 19.30

141/24 Finance Payments - Council to authorise and note expenditure and payments to be made as per document circulated.

Resolved Agreed the Clerk to write to HR services provider for their scope, what advice and service package we are currently on.

Action: Agreed Clerk to write to HR services and report to Personnel and Development committee.

Resolved: Agreed by all present payments noted and verified already agreed and paid under delegated authority. All additional payments were also agreed and sanctioned for the Clerk to make payment.

Action: Agreed Clerk to make payments as soon as possible.

142/24 Committee Membership: Council to elect additional members to Committees

1) Environment and Places (2 vacancies).

2) Planning (2 vacancies).

Resolved: Agreed to be left from the agenda for 2 to 3 months.

The item was taken after agenda item 15/124 at 20:40, with the agenda moving initially on to 144/24.

143/24 Conduct of Councillors: Council to (This motion was proposed by Cllr Alan Cooper and seconded by Cllr Matthew Bridger)

1) note the Monitoring Officer's Decision Notice of 22 July 2024 and the attached redacted report of the Investigating Officer into alleged breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct by the former member of Council Ms Jane Martin and the recommendations therein that this Council: review its Code of Conduct; consider adopting a Member/Officer Protocol; and sign up to the NALC/SLCC Civility and Respect Pledge.

Noted: By all present

2) agree to follow the guidance of the Local Government Association that such reports should be published by any authority affected and place the report without comment on the Community Council's website.

Action: Agreed to publish on website without comment.

3) note that any copies of the unredacted report remain confidential and must not be shared.

Noted: By all present.

4) adopt the draft Councillor-Officer Protocol circulated with this agenda.

Action: Agreed to adopt and publish on website.

5) agree in principle that Council intends to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge no later than at its October meeting after receiving a report from the Clerk that each point within the Pledge has been satisfied.

Action: Agreed the Council should sign up and the Clerk to add to Octobers Council and confirm that each point has been satisfied.

6) request the Finance and General Policies Committee to review the Council's Code of Conduct and make recommendations.



Action: Agreed this be delegated to the Finance and General Polices committee and in doing so consider any new text.

144/24 Bockhanger Community Facility: Council to

- 1) **receive a report of the Chair of the Environment and Spaces Committee.**
- 2) **note the list of architects to be engaged to produce an outline scheme or schemes (list circulated).**
- 3) **discuss and agree any additional suggestions reference next steps.**

Noted: By all present.

Action: Agreed the Chair of the Environment and Spaces Committee to report ongoing update at next Council and continue to be on all Environment and Places agendas.

145/24 Kingsland Green Estate: Council to

- 1) **review, amend as necessary and vote on the circulated text as the Council's submission to ABC;**
and if approved
- 2) **authorise the Clerk to send a copy of the submission to other local councils on the urban fringe of Ashford town with a suggestion that they might consider joining this Council's position in view of the implications which the case could have for development proposals in their own area which were not in the Local Plan 2030.**

Action: Agreed Clerk to invite North Willesborough forum to next Planning meeting.

Action: Agreed Clerk to send a copy of the submission to other local councils on the urban fringe of Ashford town with a suggestion that they might consider joining this Council's position in view of the implications which the case could have for development proposals in their own area which were not in the Local Plan 2030.

146/24 Crime: Council to receive an update reference Crime and Business in Kennington and agree any next step /actions.

Noted: A report by the Clerk re all the businesses contacted in Kennington and feedback received.

Agreed: That until businesses want to explore different avenues re crime prevention and joining the linked in approach then this action remain on hold for time being.

147/24 Speedwatch Community Event: Council to receive an update reference the Speedwatch Community event and agree any next step /actions.

Noted: Community Speedwatch Event Wednesday 18th September, St Marys Community Hall just off Rylands Road for more information on Community Speedwatch.

Action: Agreed Councillors to support by promoting and attending the event where possible .

Action: Agreed Clerk to send round posters and push in social media.

148/24 20-is-Plenty: Council to consider results of survey for Ulley Road, Nettlefield and surrounding roads and agree the recommendations of the Environment and Places Committee.

Resolved: Agreed that this be agreed and adopted and sent to KCC with covering letter of explanation

Action: Agreed Cllr Morley to draft letter to Kent County Council and Clerk to send for consideration and then comment by them on whether the scheme can be implemented.

149/24 Planning applications: Council to consider and agree to any comments or actions, on any applications received that need a response before the next Planning committee meeting is held.

150/24 Village Hall Sign: Council to consider a village sign and **agree** any next step /actions.

Noted that this leads to potential 3 proposals 1) Elaborate sign with community engagement 2) Signs placed at all entrance to Kennington and 3) Point to Kennington signs.

Action: Agreed Councillor Chacko Jacob and Cllr John Seaton to explore the three options and for three quotes where possible on each of the three options and bring back to suitable Council via Environment and Places committee and Clerk for committee to consider and recommend to Council.

151/24 Parking on the Ridge: Council to consider a proposal re parking concerns on the Ridge and **agree** any next step /actions.

Action: Agreed that this be delegated to the Environment and Places committee for inclusion on the Highway Improvement Plan.



Noted: Ashford Borough Council have just secured funding to improve the additional overflow parking car park and will come to us with a proposal for us to consider as soon as possible.

Item 143/24 was taken next.

Cllr Paul Bartlett left the meeting at 20:40

- 152/24 Action log: Council to review of action log, to discuss developments for items to then be considered for motion for next or future meeting or to note and be recorded as complete.**
Agreed: Action Clerk to chase up position of AU17 and AU22
- 153/24 Reports: Council to consider/note information received relevant to the Council and agree to any action/s then necessary.**
- 1) **Correspondences received and sent**
Noted: Kennington Coffee and Chat, third Monday monthly, next 19th August 1030-1230 at the Spearpoint Pavilion on the Ridge 1030 to 1230
Noted: Position on Self Defence events
Noted: Position of Community Speedwatch 18th September 2022 at 7pm
 - 2) **Clerk update on ongoing projects**
Noted: By all present
 - 3) **Ward Councillor Reports**
Action: Agreed Clerk to ask Cllr Paul Bartlett for terms of reference for the Health Alliance that I can circulate that can be circulated to all Councillors.
 - 4) **KALC Ashford**
Action: Agreed Clerk to circulate the Teams meeting details for the Ashford Local Plan meeting.
 - 5) **Councillors Training / Training attended**
Noted: Clerk to continue to circulate all training as made known.
 - 6) **Health and Wellbeing**
Noted: Still looking to raise a question for the Integrated Care Board once agenda has been published.
Action: Agreed Cllr Cooper with the help of Cllr Morley and the Clerk to help with notification of agenda and then Cllr Cooper to submit question and attend.
- 154/24 Items for inclusion on the next agenda.**
Resolved: Agreed Councillors to advise the Clerk by 4th September.
- 155/24 Date of next meeting.**
Resolved: Agreed the next meeting date 11th September with agenda motions by 4th September and papers by 6th.
- 156/24 To exclude the public under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 and sections 100 & 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.**
This item was not required.
- 157/24 Close of Meeting.**
The meeting closed at 21:10.