



**An Ordinary meeting of the above Council, was held on
Wednesday, 12 February 2025 starting at 6.30pm,
in St Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road.**

17/25 To note those, present and record any apologies.

Present: Cllr Alan Cooper (Chair), Cllr Matthew Bridger (Vice-Chair), Cllr John Seaton, Cllr Chacko Jacob, Cllr Shafi Khan, Cllr Chris Morley, Cllr Payal Khandaker, Cllr Paul Bartlett, Cllr Brian Varney

Apologies: Health –Cllr Trish Cornish, Work – Cllr Jac Wood, Cllr Greg Faulkner and Cllr Charles Ellis

Not Present: Cllr Nathan Iliffe

Also Present: 1 member of the public, The Clerk and Peter New Neighbourhood Watch

Resolved: Agreed by all present to accept the apologies that were sent and received prior to the meeting.

Action: Agreed Clerk to send out an email to all to look at best dates for future meetings to be considered whether to change at annual meeting.

18/25 To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI's) or a Voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.

Received and noted: Voluntary Interests declared by Cllr Alan Cooper, Cllr Chacko Jacob and Cllr Chris Morley re agenda item 30/25.

19/25 To consider and adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13 November 2024

Noted: By all present these minutes were previously agreed at the January Council meeting.

20/25 To consider and adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 December 2024

Noted: By all present these minutes were previously agreed at the January Council meeting.

21/25 To consider and adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 08 January 2025

Resolved: Agreed the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 08th January 2025 as were accepted as a true record.

Action: Agreed Clerk to publish signed minutes on the website.

22/25 Public Open Session (This item included reports from Peter New, Neighbourhood Watch)

Noted: Ashford United Homelands Community Engagement event, that Neighbourhood Watch were not invited to attend. Agreed that if Community Events seen in other areas that we let them know about Peter New and the works he does for Neighbourhood Watch.

Noted: And thanks from Kennington Community Council re the work from Peter new re motion 26.25 which will be considered together at this agenda item.

23/25 Finance Payments

1) Council to authorise and note expenditure and payments for December expenditure to be made as per documents circulated.



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.

2) Bank Reconciliation - Council to note draft bank reconciliation

Noted: By all present bank positions of account held

3) Receipts and Payments - Council to note receipts and payments as at 31st December

Noted: By all present receipt and payments as circulated.

24/25 Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England : Council is invited to consider and agree the consolidated response for approval and submitting from January Council draft and feedback received.

Resolved: Agreed by all present on the revised response and for the Clerk to submit our consolidated response.

25/25 Kennington Community Strategy Session: Council to consider summary and agree further actions to take.

Noted: Summaries noted by all those present.

Resolved: Agreed Cllr Seaton, Cllr Matthew Bridger and Cllr Chacko Jacob to look at community engagement and report back to next suitable Council meeting.

Noted: Welcome letter currently being developed by Clerk and Cllr Trish Cornish and will bring to next suitable Council for comment.

26/25 A28, Canterbury Rd bridge over the M20: Council is concerned at the alarming frequency with which people have used the road and foot bridges across the M20 to end their lives;

- 1) calls on Kent Highways Department and National Highways Department to introduce measures to make access from the bridges in this area of the M20 far more difficult;**
- 2) requests the MP for Ashford to urge the Secretary of State for Transport to consider amendments to the national standards for bridge building across motorways and dual carriageways;**
- 3) notes that the advent of the Aldi supermarket adjacent to the M20 and A28 will increase footfall in this zone and invites Ashford Borough Council to discuss with Aldi a codicil to the s106 agreement to address residents' concerns about safety of life on the A28/M20 bridge.**

Resolved: Agreed by all present that the motions be changed as detailed below:
Council is concerned at the alarming frequency with which people have used the road and foot bridges across the M20 to end their lives;

- 1) calls on Kent Highways Department and National Highways Department to introduce measures to make access from the bridges in this area of the M20 far more difficult, for example by adapting the railings to the height on newer bridges installed across the M20 such as Eureka Skybridge;**

Resolved: Agreed for an email to be sent by the Clerk on behalf of Kennington Community Council be sent to Kent and National Highways. Any response to be circulated to Councillor upon receipt.



- 2) **requests the MP for Ashford to urge the Secretary of State for Transport to consider amendments to the national standards for bridge building across motorways and dual carriageways, and for a programme of retroactive adaptation;**

Resolved: Agreed for an email to be sent by the Clerk on behalf of Kennington Community Council be sent to Sojan Joseph. Any response to be circulated to Councillor upon receipt.

Noted: Councillor Ellie Crook would also be meeting with Sojan Joseph and will send a summary of the meeting to all Councillors post meeting.

- 3) **notes that the advent of the Aldi supermarket adjacent to the M20 and A28 will increase footfall in this zone and invites Ashford Borough Council to discuss with Aldi a codicil to the s106 agreement to address residents' concerns about safety of life on the A28/M20 bridge;**

Resolved: Agreed for an email to be sent by the Clerk on behalf of Kennington Community Council be sent to Tracy Kerly, ABC. Any response to be circulated to Councillor upon receipt.

- 4) **invites Kent & Medway NHS to advise the Council of the number of trained mental health first aiders in the Kennington, Wye and Willesborough area and whether this number has increased in proportion to the growth of population over the past 5 years;**

Resolved: Agreed for an email to be sent by the Clerk on behalf of Kennington Community Council be sent to await Cllr Morley's suggestion. Any response to be circulated to Councillor upon receipt.

- 5) **agrees to make an application to Round 3 of the Kent County Council Parish Council Suicide Grant Scheme**

Resolved: Agreed for the Clerk on behalf of Kennington Community Council to make a request to the grant scheme.

Resolved: Agreed Clerk to write to Samaritans about the notices currently on the bridge and as to whether any additional signage would be beneficial

Resolved: Agreed for a press release to be drafted by Cllr Alan Cooper and sent by the Clerk to Kent Online to raise awareness and urge for development of the bridge to dissuade reoccurrences.

Resolved: Agreed to write to schools re alternative route planning to home in case of future major incident circumstances.

Resolved: Agreed to leave as a standing item on the agenda until a decision is made to remove.

- 27/25 Garden of Remembrance: Council to consider and agree the proposal for planting the borders at the remembrance garden.**

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Chris Morley, seconded and **agreed** by all present to the delegation of planting and purchase of plants to the Clerk, however Cllr Chris Morley to advise pre ordering on some of the plant choices and some additional recommendations.

- 28/25 Community Allotment Plot: Council to consider and agree the recommendations for the plot and equipment to enable this to be advertised and be ready for a date in the very near future.**

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Chris Morley and seconded by Cllr Ellie Crook and agreed by all with the exception of 1 abstention, Cllr Alan Cooper, to the expenditure for the Community plot and the delegation of this to the Clerk.



29/25 Pilgrims Hospice Grant: Council to consider whether to agree the Community grant application

Resolved: Agreed by all present to the grant application and delegated to the Clerk to advise Pilgrims and arrange for grant to be sent.

The meeting then moved to agenda item 38.25 at 8.00pm

The meeting returned to item 30.25 at 8.10pm following the discussion of item 38.25.

30/25 Kennington Summer Fayre: Council to consider

- a) **whether to take stalls at the 2025, agree how many and how we will advertise and promote for any additional stalls we order ;**

Resolved: Agreed to take 2 stalls, with one being available to a new or a non funded group.

- b) **invite the KSFA to advise us on costings in order to consider whether to fund the provision of portable toilets in 2025 as was done in 2024**

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Paul Bartlett and seconded by Cllr Matthew Bridger and **agreed** by all with the exception of Cllr Alan Cooper, Cllr Chris Morley and Cllr Chacko Jacob who all abstained, that the cost of the portable toilets be again be met by Kennington Community Council.

Action: Agreed Clerk to write to the Kennington Summer Fayre secretary reference payment being met.

Cllr Chacko Jacob left the meeting at 8.15pm

31/25 Promoting community groups across Kennington: Council to consider and agree

- a) to issue an invitation for proposals for the role of Community Mobiliser for Kennington Community Council and

- b) to amend the First Hire Scheme

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Alan Cooper and **seconded** by Cllr Matthew Bridger and **agreed** in principal by all Councillors remaining.

Action: Agreed Clerk to look for suggestions from Great Chart and Singleton Parish Council.

32/25 Planning applications: Council to

- 1) **consider** and **agree** to any comments or actions, on any applications received that need a response before the next Planning committee meeting is held.

110 Canterbury Road – Resolved: Agreed by all with the exception 1 abstention Cllr Paul Bartlett, to support the inline extension modification to previously submitted plans.

- 2) **consider** and **agree** to make comments on any developments in the area that may have an impact on our community.

Resolved: Agreed by all present that the Council speak at the Kingsland Green Estate ABC planning meeting and this be delegated to the Planning committee both for the speech and speaker, drawing on comments previously circulated and discussed at Council.

Action: Agreed Clerk to ensure taken back to Planning committee for speech to be written in preparation of the ABC meeting.

33/25 Devolution: Council to receive an oral update from Cllr Chris Morley and **agree** any next step/actions.

Noted: By all present current position.

Resolved: Agreed to leave as a standing item on the agenda until a decision is made to remove.



34/25 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: By all present Correspondence received detailed by Clerk. No action/s required.

2) Clerk update on ongoing projects

Noted: By all present updates on Projects progressed in the last month as detailed by Clerk. No action/s required.

3) Ward Councillor Reports

Noted: By all present circulated reports from Cllr Diccon Spain and Cllr Paul Bartlett. No further reports received No action/s required.

Cllr Paul Bartlett left the meeting at 8.45pm

4) KALC Ashford

Noted: KALC Ashford will be discussing devolution and updates will be provided by Kennington representatives to Council at next suitable meeting.

5) Councillors Training / Training attended (see also item 35/25)

Noted: Cllr Chacko Jacob and Cllr Alan Cooper have attended flood warden training and are now the flood representatives for Kennington.

ABC Planning Enforcement Training 05th March at the Civic centre – Resolved: Agreed Cllr John Seaton and Cllr Shafi to attend on our behalf and feedback at the next meeting of the Council and Planning committee.

6) Health and Wellbeing

Noted: No further update given at this meeting.

35/25 Sponsoring a Community Warden : Council to **note** report circulated, consider and agree any further actions.

Noted: By all Councillors remaining, no further actions agreed at this moment.

36/25 Action log: Council to **review** action log, to **discuss** developments for items to then to be considered for motion for the next or future meeting or to **note** and be **recorded** as complete.

Noted: By all present.

37/25 Items for inclusion on the forthcoming agenda/s.

Resolved: Agreed that Devolution and the A28/M20 Bridge until such a time Councillors decide otherwise to remain a standing item on the agenda.

38/25 Village Sign: Council to **discuss** and **consider** proposal re a village sign which includes total cost from design to installation and maintenance costing plan for future budget setting.

The meeting moved to this agenda item at 8.00pm.

Resolved: Agreed by all present that the style be black silhouette, gold lettering and name clear on both sides.

Resolved: Agreed Clerk to chase Kent County Council for a response and report back at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting returned to item 30.25 at 8.15pm



- 39/25 Microsoft Licenses and Accounts:** Council to **discuss** and **consider recommendations** re retaining our current accounts and licenses and **agree** to delegate this action to the Clerk.
Resolved: Agreed to consider after exclusion of the public.
- 40/25 Bybrook-Bockhanger Community Facility:** Council to **consider** the quotations received from architect firms and decide with which one to proceed for outline design and plans.
Resolved: Agreed to consider after exclusion of the public.
- 41/25 Allotment Maintenance: Council** to **discuss** and **agree** the annual maintenance costings for the Bybrook and Burton Allotment sites.
Resolved: Agreed to consider after exclusion of the public.
- 42/25 To exclude the public under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 and sections 100 & 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.**
Members of the public were excluded at 9.00pm
- 1) **Village sign (38/25)**
Resolved: Agreed by all Councillors remaining, to wait to hear back from Kent County Council and then add to next available Council meeting.
 - 2) **Microsoft Licensing and Accounts (39/25)**
Resolved: Agreed by all present to delegate transfer on a monthly subscription to the recommended supplier to the Clerk at the earliest convenience.
 - 3) **Bybrook Bockhanger Community Facility (40/25)**
Resolved: Agreed by all remaining present, as per recommendation, with Clerk to discuss to see if there is any negotiation opportunity on prices received.
- Cllr John Seaton left the meeting at 9.12pm.*
- 4) **Allotment Maintenance (41/25)**
Resolved: Agreed by all Councillors remaining to continue with our current provider an additional year.
- 43/25 Date of next meeting.**
Resolved: Agreed by all remaining Councillors that the next meeting be held on 12th March at 6.30pm in the St Marys Community Centre, Rylands Road
- 44/25 Close of meeting.**
The meeting closed at 9.20pm