

NEW ASH GREEN FOCUS GROUP

Minutes of a meeting of the New Ash Green Focus Group held virtually via Zoom on Monday 17 April 2023 commencing at 4.00pm.

Present: Mr C Clark – New Ash Green Village Association and Chapel Wood Residents Society
Mrs L Bolton – Penenden Residents Society
Cllr Mrs Brammer – Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council
Cllr S Fishenden – Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council
Miss L Manston – Neighbourhood Watch (arrived 4.24pm)
Ms L Moylan – Over Minnis Residents Society
Sgt K Savill – Kent Police
Miss K Webb – Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit
Mrs J West – Community Warden

In Attendance: Mrs A de Jager – Parish Clerk,

In the absence of the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr C Clark chaired the meeting

1. **Apologies for Absence and Introductions**

Cllr M Brown – Chairman, Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council, Mrs P Connell, Manor Forstal Residents Society and Mr M Edwards, Kent Fire & Rescue Services.

2. **Minutes/Actions from of the Meeting of 16 January 2023**

The minutes were received and noted.

3. **Police Update**

Sgt Savill advised that there had been a couple of serious incidents with a motor vehicle involving the same person, but the victim will not come forward. There have been problems on The Row with youths and CCTV is being viewed to see if the young people can be identified. Youths have also been reported accessing an abandoned property on Over Minnis. The property has now been boarded up and made secure. PCSO A Ostridge is off duty due to a long term illness. A date for the meeting with the Police and members of the Residents Societies has not yet been set.

4. **Community & Sevenoaks District Council Update and Local Concerns & Issues**

Kelly Webb advised that the Police have issued letters to some of the young people causing anti-social behaviour in the area. Following the report regarding a vehicle meeting the buses coming into the village with school children and selling nitrous oxide, Police attended but did not find anything. It was previously reported that due to restructuring, the daily tasking meetings would not be continued. The Chief Inspector is liaising with the CSU to work out if the meetings could be held 2 – 3 times a week instead of daily, as the information sharing with partners is valuable. Any Police matters received by the CSU are passed to the Duty Officer. Following continued reports of ASB and windows being shot with catapults, wildlife cameras have been gifted to residents in Lambardes and The Minnis. No further reports have been received. A window at Hanover Place was shot with a ball bearing and it was reported that Over Minnis has had 5 windows smashed in the last 2 weeks. All have been reported to the Police. The son of the owner of the abandoned property has been contacted and Sharon Donald of the Private Sector Housing Team will see

what can be done to stop this property being a target of ASB. Better Together is a risk assessed community focused hub to get information and put information on and is linked to facebook, Instagram and twitter, Details are available on the District Council website. Sevenoaks District Council has a new action plan from 01 April 2023 with seven priorities.

5. **Agency & Resident Society Updates**

Community Warden, Jackie West receives feedback from community based activities she holds in the village and is able to deal with issues raised pro-actively with compassion, sensitivity and to make referrals. A new session will start at The Pavilion in June. This will be an inclusive group meeting once a month. Jackie has helped residents with flooding. Reports of ASB are shared with other agencies.

6. **Other Matters for Discussion**

- ASB – during half-term teens gathered in Capelands using nitrous oxide and this has continued.
- Graffiti – is endemic around the village, in Ayelands and Chapel Wood. All graffiti should be reported to the CSU so that it can be removed as soon as possible. The Direct Services Team dealt with graffiti.
- Parking – the Village Association is trying to deal with the parking on North Ash Road outside the Manor House, where up to 12 cars park and obstruct visibility. The Officers decision on the planning application to convert the Manor House to three residential dwellings was disappointing as parking was not a reason for refusal. Photographs taken in Chapel Wood of parking that would prevent emergency vehicles getting passed were discussed. This is an offence under the Highways or Road Traffic Act and could result in prosecution. Police patrols in the evening would help to deal with inconsiderate parking and issue warning letters in the first instance.
- Youth Provision – Millwall Community Engagement have funded a 12 week football clinic that is held on the Minnis. This has been very successful and additional funding is being sought to continue this work. Unfortunately, empty water bottles and associated litter is being left behind. Miss Webb will speak to the organisers to ask them to clear up at the end of the sessions.
- Neighbourhood Watch – e-Watch has 22 reports of ASB for the parish including the breaking of windows, theft from or of vehicles, attempted burglary.

7. **Other Matters for Discussion**

Sevenoaks District Council has received funding for the provision of shed alarms and an article will be placed in the InShape magazine.,

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for 03 July 2023 at 4pm, via Zoom

The meeting closed at 4.53pm

Signed:

Date: