

Meeting on Tuesday 28th November 2017 at Kent Police Headquarters in Maidstone

Notes by: Sue Ferguson

Present:

Matthew Scott (Kent Police & Crime Commissioner)

Neil Parker (Detective Chief Inspector - Force Liaison Officer to the Police & Crime Commissioner)

Adrian Lidgett, Neighbourhood Watch Biddenden

Richard Wayre, Biddenden Parish Councillor

Marcia Mitchell, High Halden Parish Councillor

Sue Ferguson, Tenterden Town Councillor

Subject of meeting: Anti-social behaviour and crime in Biddenden, Tenterden and the local area, and the lack of PCSO cover. The meeting was instigated by Adrian Lidgett who reported that Biddenden had not seen a PCSO for months.

DISCUSSION

Budget/Resources/Priorities!!! As we know Biddenden and Tenterden are considered low level crime areas so a tough one to crack

PCSO changes – over the past few months some PCSOs have been in training programmes to enable them to move into specialist roles and other PCSOs have had to cover for them, perhaps the reason why PCSOs have been a bit thin on the ground recently. So, it appears that PCSOs are “dividing”, some will be specialist PCSOs and some will be local area PCSOs (non-specialist PCSOs). In the future specialist PCSOs will cover one item events such as missing persons, freeing up time a local area PCSO would have had to spend on the case. It is hoped this will result in local area PCSOs having more time available in their own areas. Matthew Scott also seemed to expect that local PCs would also be more available under this new system.

Ashford Borough Police Cadets (13-17 year olds) a certain proportion of those taken on will be “troubled kids”. 30 cadets will be assigned to each area i.e. the Ashford Borough will get 30. The Police Cadets will cover community events, local events, stewarding, drills, exercise. Medway, Canterbury and Tonbridge have already been rolled out and Dover, Maidstone and Gravesend followed on. Other areas including Ashford are to roll out at some point.

Public Space Protection Orders – we could consider introducing this, via ABC, on St Michaels and Tenterden Recreation Grounds to deter antisocial behaviour. However careful consideration would have to be given as to how this would impact regular events on the Recreation Grounds

Safer Kent, the Safer Kent charity (formerly Kent People's Trust) gives active support, funding and expertise to local projects who are working to reduce crime or improve community safety. In the last 15 years, the trust has given more than £800,000 to local projects including walking buses, safer shopping schemes, community clean ups and activities for young people. Who can apply for funding: any community group (you don't need to be a registered charity), anyone with a proposed project that will help fight or prevent crime, reduce antisocial behaviour or improve community safety. A board of trustees meet every 3 months to consider applications.

Further meetings - Adrian Lidgett is keen to get some dialogue going between the Kent Police and relevant parties, to help improve local antisocial behaviour and crime, and understand why it happens. He will be following up with:

Inspector Andrew (Andy) Bidmead - Community Safety Unit (CSU), Kent Police, and his team
Sergeant Jasmine Bloomfield csu.ashford@kent.pnn.police.uk

Social Scientist - Dr Steve Tong, Reader in Policing and Criminal Justice, School of Law, Criminal Justice and Computing, Canterbury Christ Church University

Finally: Matthew Scott reported that he had some budget of his own to help local initiatives in crime reduction. All we need are ideas to put forward!

Town Council – 11th December 2017

Casual Vacancy

Agenda Item 10

Following an automatic disqualification on the grounds of non-attendance at meetings, a casual vacancy has arisen within the council.

The vacancy has been advertised by ABC and if South Ward electors should request an election, that will take place early in the new year. If this should not be the case, a co-option will take place and the post will be filled by selection through council.

I attach a copy of the vacancy notification and a letter from ex-Councillor Thorpe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Burgess', with a stylized, cursive script.

Phil Burgess
Town Clerk

Electoral Services

Ask For: Electoral Services
Email: vote@ashford.gov.uk
Direct Line: 01233 330402
Date: 05 December 2017



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Civic Centre
Tannery Lane
Ashford
Kent TN23 1PL
01233 331111

www.ashford.gov.uk



@ashfordcouncil



AshfordBoroughCouncil

Mr P Burgess
Tenterden Town Council
Town Hall
Tenterden
Kent
TN30 6AN

Dear Mr Burgess

**Vacancy in the office of Town Councillor
Parish of Tenterden (Tenterden South Town Ward)**

I enclose the Notice of Vacancy as requested.

I will write to you again after 19 December 2017 to let you know if an election has been requested, or whether the Town Council may co-opt to fill the vacancy.

If you require any further information or assistance with this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Electoral Services using the details given at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Terence Mortimer
Returning Officer



NOTICE OF VACANCY IN OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR

PARISH OF TENTERDEN (TENTERDEN SOUTH TOWN WARD)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that due to the non attendance of Terry Thorpe, a vacancy has arisen in the Office of Councillor for the Town Council within the above ward.

If by 19 December, 2017 (14 days* after the date of this notice) a request for an election to fill the said vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer at the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent , TN23 1PL by TEN electors within the above town ward of the said Parish, an election will be held to fill the said vacancy, otherwise the vacancy must be filled by co-option.

If an election is called, it will take place not later than 23 February, 2018.

Dated 29 November, 2017

Clerk to the Parish Council
Mr P Burgess
Tenterden Town Council
Town Hall
Tenterden
Kent
TN30 6AN

* In computing any period of time for this purpose, a Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday, a bank holiday or day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning must be disregarded.



Mr P Burgess (Town Clerk)
Tenterden Town Council
Town Hall
24 High Street
Tenterden
TN30 6AN



4 Leslie Crescent
St Michaels
Tenterden
Kent
TN30 6BX

23rd November 2017

Dear Phil,

Thank you for your letter of the 17th.

It has been a difficult year on many fronts with health and other issues. Unfortunately my focus has been on non-council matters, this has restricted my attendance at meetings. I now am informed that I have transgressed the Local Government Act 1972 section 85 paragraph 1, which results in disqualification from being a councillor.

In many ways this has come as somewhat of a relief to me, I was finding it difficult to give my support to some decisions made by the Council this year.

I thank you for your support and guidance during my term serving with the Council, and please convey my best wishes to all the staff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Thorpe".

Terry Thorpe