

Minutes of the “virtual” Barham Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 01 April 2021 at 7.30pm.

Background to this “virtual” meeting:

Regulations enabling town and parish councils to lawfully conduct virtual meetings by video and telephone conferencing until 07 May 2021 have been published. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 legislation came into force on 4 April 2020 and allows for virtual meetings to 07 May 2021.

This meeting was held using Zoom as a virtual hosting platform. Agendas were posted on the village noticeboards as usual and also to the parish council's website. This clearly explained that members of the public are still able “attend” a parish council meeting and provided the details of the meeting link or phone number and the PIN code for access to enter.

Present:

Parish Councillors: David Wood (Chairman), Liz Minter (vice chairman), John Brooks, Andreas Tatt, Stuart Eccles, Diane Tatt, Gary Graham and Carolyn Hunt.

Kent County Cllr, Cllr Michael Northey

Clerk to the Council, Amanda Sparkes and Clerk designate Joanne Pannell.

There were no members of the public present.

1. The Chairman's opening remarks and apologies for absence

Cllr Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Joanne as the new Clerk designate replacing the current Clerk Amanda Sparkes from 1st June 2021. Apologies were received from Canterbury City Councillor Mike Sole and belated apologies from Parish Councillor Ernie Mullett (on leave).

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Deed of Gift and retained right of way/access

It was minuted at the last (March) meeting that legal advice had been sought by Cllr Eccles. However, Cllr Eccles has since clarified that this was not technically legal advice but rather an informal opinion.

With that amendment, Cllr Brooks proposed, and Cllr Minter seconded, and all councillors agreed that the Minutes of the last meeting held 04 March 2020 were a true record of the meeting. (NOTED that these will be sent to the Chairman by post to be signed.)

Cllr Minter asked who decided what content went into the Parish Magazine? Cllr Wood confirmed that the Clerk sends a summary of the minutes and the Magazine decides what to use as content and to fit their available space. Cllr Minter thought that residents in the Village may have been interested in the village green right of access by the Goombridges that had been discussed at previous meetings. Cllr Minter advised that the information is available in the full Minutes on the parish council's website and residents should be directed to the website to read the minutes and to find out about any other village issues of interest.

4. Use of S101 delegation to the Clerk since the last meeting:

- i) The maps noticeboard on the village green at the entrance to The Street was very wobbly with one of the upright poles found to be sheared off at ground level. The Clerk sought S101 authority from more than two councillors by email and has instructed a contractor to replace the posts.
- ii) NOTED that the Clerk has submitted evidence to the Government after they called for this to be provided outlining the benefits of virtual meetings, and whether they will consider new primary legislation allowing virtual meetings to continue as an option.

5. Adjournment of the meeting for parishioners' questions and comments.

As there were no residents present there was no adjournment.

The meeting continued.

6. Resident report for cycle path improvements

A resident's report and proposal for cycle path improvements between Kingston and Barham was presented at the November 2020 parish council meeting. Cllr Minter commented that there was now a need to seek financial assistance from the county councillor to apply to move the paths across the fields. KCC Cllr Northey advised the parish council that it should approach the new KCC Councillor from the May 2021 elections who may choose to use some of their KCC Member grant. RESOLVED to approach the new County Councillor for financial assistance for cycle path improvements after the forthcoming May 2021 elections. Cllr Brooks proposed and Cllr A Tatt seconded, all Cllrs present agreed.

7. KCC Cllr Michael Northey report

KCC Cllr Northey paid tribute to the current Clerk thanking her for her support over the last number of years noting that she had been brilliant in all the time he'd worked alongside her and she will be missed.

He also commented that he was pleased to see Joanne Pannell as the new Clerk. Joanne had previously worked alongside KCC Members and Cllr Northey commented that in that role she had been superlative.

Cllr Northey explained he was giving a factual statement, not electioneering, that he had thought this would be his last Barham meeting, but in fact the KCC conservative candidate for the ward in the May 2021 KCC elections, had stood down for personal reasons, and that he had been selected as the candidate. So depending on the election outcome this might not be his last meeting at Barham. Cllr Northey's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

KENT MILESTONE REACHED ON ROAD OUT OF LOCKDOWN

Half a million symptom free COVID-19 tests have now been carried out at sites across Kent. Symptom free tests are a vital part of the county's route out of lockdown as around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have any symptoms. This means they could be spreading the virus without knowing it.

Out of 500 thousand tests now completed 2,686 positive cases have so far been identified in Kent. These people have been able to act quickly to self-isolate and prevent passing the virus on to others.

Symptom free testing provision will remain across the county until at least the end of June. And, as cases in Kent show a slight increase, it is also advised that everyone who lives and works in the county should now be tested twice a week, whether or not they have been vaccinated against COVID-19. This will help to drive down cases and save lives.

"To reach the milestone of testing half a million people in the county is a testament to the amazing staff who run the testing centres, but also to the people of Kent who have so enthusiastically taken part in this testing programme," said Director of Public Health for Kent, Andrew Scott-Clark.

"COVID-19 has not gone away and remains a very real threat, with an increase in cases in the county this week. Now more than ever, as we are finally allowed to meet family and friends outside and start to enjoy more freedom from lockdown restrictions, twice -weekly symptom free testing continues to be a vital tool in keeping infection rates low.

"I strongly advise that everyone who leaves home for work, and now to socialise outdoors, should take a test twice a week. We still need to monitor cases closely and isolate anyone who is carrying the virus without knowing it.

"I also implore everyone in Kent to be extra vigilant over the Easter weekend. Stick to the guidelines and remember 'Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air' at all times.

"I want to thank everyone who has and continues to be tested in Kent, but now is not the time to be complacent or careless. We need to keep going to ensure we can reduce coronavirus infection rates if we are to see restrictions eased further by 12th April."

As there will be some changes to testing site locations and operating hours in the next few weeks, KCC is advising people to check details carefully before booking a symptom free test.

All sites are closed on Good Friday, Easter Day and Easter Monday but will be open on Easter Saturday.

You can book a symptom free test quickly and easily by visiting <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/symptom-free-testing>

If you are experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms – high temperature, a new or continuous cough, a loss or change in taste or smell – you should NOT visit a symptom free testing site and continue to self-isolate.

People who have symptoms of the virus should book a test by visiting the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test-or-by-calling-119>.

Meanwhile KCC is running regular surveys to gather feedback from Kent residents as we move into the next phase of the roadmap restrictions. Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/coronavirus and tell us your views.

Cllr Wood queried the statistics in the above report and wondered what time period they went up to and whether the impact of schools returning had/would make a difference.

8. **Canterbury City Councillor Mike Sole's report**

Cllr Sole had sent the following report for April 2021, which was circulated to parish Cllrs prior to the meeting:

Parish Council Report – April 2021

There are still some regular waste collection issues in specific roads/properties, but things do now seem to have settled down a bit, although in my experience they are not yet below the pre-Canenco levels. Problems with overflowing public bins and dog waste bins also seem to be improving although there are some “hotspots” such as in the centre of Bridge. Whilst Highways England and KCC continue to dispute who owns the lay-by on the Adisham Road, at least some steps are being taken to tidy it up. The burnt-out lorry will shortly be gone, if it hasn't already. KCC have also agreed to provide traffic management so that CCC can clear the litter. This should happen shortly. I am informed that both KCC and HE are keen to resolve the ownership and once done, two possible options are being considered. The first, that I favour, is to repair the surface, erect a wire fence to restrict litter in the undergrowth, and install a large bin that will be regularly emptied. The lay-by would also then be cleaned along with other lay-bys too. The other option, which I do not favour, is to block off the lay-by. The final decision though is not something that I would have any say in. Other lay-bys are being cleaned, but I am told that it could still be a number of months before CCC get around to clearing the ever growing amount of litter from the A2. I find this quite unbelievable as the state of this road, and others in the district, distract so much from our countryside, in an AONB when we locally look towards tourism as the main economic driver. The City Council has recently given almost £32,000 in grants to a number of organisations supporting services to boost people's mental health across the district which we know has suffered so much during the last year. Although I haven't tested it myself, I understand that free Wifi is now available across Canterbury City Centre.

Canterbury City Councillor, Cllr Mike Sole

9. **Financial matters**

- The cheque payments since the last meeting were noted.
- RESOLVED that the Barham Parish Council pay the £410.00 fee for the new Clerk to register on the latest CILCA training course starting in April 2021, with a deadline for completion by March 2023. Cllr L Minter proposed, and Cllr A Tatt seconded, all Cllrs present agreed.
- NOTED that on March 16th the Clerk submitted a VAT refund claim for £383.97 for the period 1st October 2020 to 28 February 2021.
- NOTED that on 20 March 2021 the Clerk sent Barham Allotments Association an invoice for the peppercorn rent due for the year March 2021 to 28 February 2022. Amount payable £52.00.
- RESOLVED a change to the bank mandate to arrange a change of address for bank statements and correspondence to the new Clerks address. Cllr Hunt proposed and Cllr D Tatt seconded.

- NOTED that the KCC Pension team had advised that the new KCC pension pay bands for this financial year had been issued. On checking the bands, the Clerks' employee contribution pension rate remains unchanged at 5.5%.

Flint wall between the Churchyard and The Spinney

Cllr Brooks explained that he had come to a dead end with his enquiry about ownership of the wall despite many phone calls and meetings, noting that churches don't have deeds and that we may have to look at The Spinney and neighbouring properties deeds to find ownership. Cllr Wood thought that the Flint wall maybe owned as part of the Grade 1 listed building. It was agreed that prior to getting a survey carried out on the wall or spending any money we should contact the Land Registry to define ownership of the walls in relation to the surrounding properties in the vicinity. The Clerk designate will contact the Land Registry to see if we can obtain this information. Cllr D Tatt advised has a Land Registry account if that is helpful.

A capital grant to CCC for 2021-2022

The Clerk explained that she had drafted the application form for a replacement village sign on the village green and circulated to Cllrs for agreement. Cllr Hunt asked if the Parish Council were reliant on securing this grant for the work to proceed, as out of courtesy she would like to go back to the contractor that submitted a quote to her for the work. Cllr Wood noted that this had previously been budgeted for in the budget for 2021-2022. The Clerk clarified that up to £4,000 had been set aside for this work based on an earlier quotation, so work could go ahead if the grant application were to be unsuccessful, however it could not go ahead retrospectively. The outcome of the grant should be known after the Canterbury City Council committee meets in mid-June to make a decision.

Cllr Minter gave a brief history of the sign noting that a resident had confirmed the original design was created circa 1600. The current sign was donated by a Parish Councillor and local farmer named Mr Ross in 1958. Mr Ross's daughter, who lives in the Village recalls the erection of the sign. Cllr Minter and Cllr Hunt had been researching the old sign with the bears, which they are keen to keep on the new sign.

Further discussion took place about the intricate gold detail on the sign and whether this should be in gold leaf or gold paint. Cllr Hunt thought that if gold leaf were to be used this could be supplied at cost, but an estimate would need to be asked for. Cllr Wood asked for views about using gold leaf or gold paint. Cllr D Tatt noted that gold leaf with a sealant over would last longer than gold paint. Cllr Hunt will seek further clarification about the costs, when the contractor can start the work and how long it will take to make.

Cllr Hunt explained that there is a need to finalise the artistry for the design and she will share a document of various bears design. It was AGREED that further details of the sign would be undertaken by Cllr Hunt and Cllr Minter.

The deadline for submitting the grant form is 26 April 2021. The Clerk will submit the completed grant application form to Canterbury City Council with final figures prior to that deadline.

Cllr Hunt had researched the Repair Shop application form to apply to have the original old Barham Village wooden sign restored. There is an opportunity to create a story, with the history of the sign which you can video and upload to their site. This could be an opportunity to showcase the special meaning of the sign to residents of the Village. Work on both signs will be taken forward by Cllr Hunt and Cllr Minter.

The future of Concurrent Function Funding

There is no update yet on the audit CCC will undertake to determine the current levels of provision in parishes compared to urban areas and subsequently consider the funding options for 2023/24.

Cllr Wood has signed the Canterbury City Council Concurrent Functions Funding Agreement for 2021 to 2023 and posted back to the Clerk designate to return to CCC.

Red BT box on village green in front of The Red House

Cllrs were asked to consider whether to explore approaching BT under their 'adopt a box' scheme for £1 for the red box on the village green in front of the Red House. Cllr Minter explained that this was a working phone box so maintenance would fall to the Parish Council to uphold. The Clerk informed the meeting that if the Parish Council decides to buy the phone box BT would de-commission the phone.

Cllr A. Tatt thought that it was a good offer at just £1 and Cllr D. Tatt felt that maintenance should not be that costly and that there are opportunities for other uses. It would not house the defibrillator as this is situated in the village hall. Cllr D. Tatt noted that if we do hear from the Elham Valley Walkers it could house their map stock and village history leaflets, whilst also making a nice focal point for the village. We should look on the BT website to see if there is power to the box. If there is power would BT keep it on or would the Parish Council be able to? The Clerk questioned whether BT would allow us to adopt a listed phone box, and advised that there would also have to be a planning application made for any change of use. It was agreed that Cllr Wood would identify the telephone number in the phone box and the Clerk designate would find out from BT Payphones how many calls are made from the facility before any firm decision on decommissioning it and adopting it be made.

10. **Publicity & Communications including website**

Cllr A. Tatt advised that there was nothing significant on social media since the last meeting. He has posted the Minutes on the parish council Facebook page.

11. **Highways**

Highways Improvement Template

The Clerk explained that the parish council's desire to explore some 20mph speed limit reductions would now be added to the Highways Improvement Template. There is a process to follow including active consultation with residents and the need to secure a sponsor for the scheme, usually the Kent County Councillor. This will therefore be picked up after the May 2021 KCC elections.

The Highways Steward has also suggested a review of the Highways Improvement Template and this will be conducted by the new Clerk in due course.

Annual Parking Review 2019

The Causeway & Railway Hill: Double yellow lines at the junction

Public consultation about the above proposal is now completed, and there were 7 objections to the proposal were received. These objections have now been considered by the Joint Transportation Board at their meeting on 18 March 2021 and their decision is to proceed with implementation of this proposal, but to leave a short length outside Lochee Villas as originally requested by the parish council. CCC hope that it will be possible to bring the changes into effect during April.

12. **Open Spaces**

Coronavirus risk assessments

NOTED that the Clerk has updated the risk assessment documents to log actions taken since April.

Playground inspection

Cllr A. Tatt and Cllr Hunt carried out the visual six-monthly playground inspection during March. TO NOTE the cradle swings have yet to be renewed. The A frame on the small swing area and parallel bars are showing signs of rust, these need to be rubbed down and re-painted. There are also some bolt caps missing on some equipment, these will need to be replaced. Cllr A. Tatt will provide the written notes to the Clerk, and this can then be RESOLVED at the next meeting.

Order for a new Zip wire

The order has been placed, but it has yet to be installed, the Clerk will chase to see when this may take place.

UKPN pole replacement at Brickfield Recreation Ground

The Clerk has heard from the UKPN contractor advising that the pole should be replaced towards to end of April. The Clerk designate will be advised of the date for this work to be carried out so that the Football Club may be advised and also to ensure that there are no sheep grazing on the date. Either Cllr Wood or Cllr Mullett can unlock the padlock the gate to allow access to the field.

Replacement of cradle swings seats

NOTED the order was placed and paid for the replacement of the two swing cradle seats at the Old Valley Road play area but installation has again been rescheduled by the play company.

Self-closing new gate in line of fencing at Brickfield Recreation ground

Budget provision post 01 April 2021 has been made for a new self-closing gate in the line of fencing at Brickfield recreation ground. The Clerk explained that a quote to install a self-closing gate had been received. Cllr Wood thought that given the amount of money involved two other quotes should be sought. Cllr Eccles suggested the local handy person. He will find out his contact details to see if he would be prepared to submit a quote. Cllr Hunt noted that the work carried out on the allotment fence had been done to a good standard. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that the gate needed to be a self-closing one. Cllr Hunt will find the contact details of the contractor who carried out the work on the allotment fence. The Clerk will add this to the May Agenda.

13. Footpaths & Rights of Way

As reported to the February 2021 meeting:

The Elham Valley Walkers Group

The Elham Valley Walkers Group comprises of 7 members living in the valley. They organise an Annual Walking festival and monthly walks in the countryside stretching from Canterbury to Folkestone and encompassing the North Downs and areas of special interest.

The group is supported by the "Walkers are Welcome" organisation and the village of Elham is a member. They have links to local walking associations, Ramblers, North Downs Way and other walking festivals in the south east.

They have recently produced a "Village Map" of walks in and around Elham and this is displayed in a waterproof noticeboard in the village square with downloadable walks for use by the public free of charge. Downloadable at <https://elhamvalleywalkers.co.uk/elham-walks/>

They are keen to encourage all the villages in the valley to support this initiative and to that end would be willing to create the walks and maps for display through the whole valley and wondered if this is of interest to Barham Parish Council.

Barham councillors liked this idea but wondered if there are any costs involved. It was agreed that if there are no costs that The Elham Valley Walkers Group should be asked to move forward with this. If there are costs associated then this item will be brought back to the next meeting.

The Clerk explained that she had emailed after the March meeting and this was acknowledged with a comment that it would be discussed by the committee. The Clerk chased for information in time for this April meeting but has not heard anything.

Cllr Wood advised he had recently spoken to a member of the walking group who apologised for the delay, citing that no committee meetings had taken place recently. He will chase the group and respond to the Clerk designate.

14. Village organisations

Barham Football Club

Cllr D. Tatt confirmed that the football club met for the first time this year on Wednesday 31 March 2021. She noted that other football clubs have closed and Barham is picking up new members and there isn't enough space at The Bear Trap to create another full-size pitch. She enquired if there was any further space at the recreation ground to create another full-size pitch? Cllr Wood asked Cllr D. Tatt when she would need an answer by? Cllr D. Tate replied not until late September when it would be known if another pitch is required to avoid match clashes.

Cllr Hunt commented that it is a recreation ground for recreational purposes and felt the football club should be supported. However parking may become a consideration going forward. Cllr D Tatt confirmed that, as with the other new pitch at the bottom of the rec, a second one would also be available to anyone to use when there are no matches on.

Cllr A Tatt explained that the picnic section of the rec is being called and used as a dog paddock. Cllr Minter called again for a designated fenced off section for dogs to keep dog mess off the football pitch. The area behind the tennis courts with the old bonfire patch would work with a bin. The more the rec is used the better from a security point of view. Cllr Wood explained that getting agreement from CCC to collect from a new bin off road could be problematic.

This item would go on a future agenda if required.

Barham Allotments Association

The Chairman of BAA has commented that the water bill for 2020 was significantly higher than 2019 and wondered if the leak could have contributed to that and asked if some compensation could be offered by the parish council. The Clerk has looked back at historic costs for 2018, 2019 and 2020. The next water bill has now been received but unhelpfully this time it used an estimated reading. The Chairman kindly read the water meters and the Clerk has contacted Castle Water and requested a revised bill. This will provide detail on the extent of the leak. The Clerk was encouraged by the advisor to submit a claim for a water leak to be considered by Castle Water and she sent this on 25 March 2021. This item was therefore deferred to another agenda.

It was confirmed that the leak has been repaired and the water switched back on in March 2021.

15. External organisations

NOTED that the Chairman, Clerk and Clerk designate attended the virtual meeting of the Canterbury District Police Parish Forum on 10 March 2021. The Clerk's write-up of that forum is attached to these Minutes as an appendix.

The Clerk and Clerk designate also attended the Pollinators Workshop, facilitated by Canterbury City Council. There is nothing of significance to report at this time. The CCC document is still very much in embryonic stage.

16. Clerk report

Items are incorporated elsewhere in these Minutes.

17. Planning applications

New planning applications since the last meeting:	
19.	CA/21/00457 - Tirril, Church Lane, Barham, CT4 6PB Replacement of 05 no. windows from wooden single glazed to replica wooden double-glazed windows.
20.	CA/21/00595 – Albion Works, Church Lane, Barham CT4 6QS Application for a lawful development certificate for existing replacement of a Biomass Heat System and associated equipment with a new higher efficiency system.
You can view and comment on applications online at https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planningsearch	
Notifications:	
CA/20/01190 – Broome Park Hotel, Canterbury Road, Barham CT4 6QX Conversion of existing building to holiday accommodation with associated parking, landscaping, fencing and air source heat pump.	
CA/20/01191 - Broome Park Hotel, Canterbury Road, Barham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6QX Listed building consent for internal/external alterations including internal renovation and alterations to allow the conversion of the building to holiday accommodation.	
CA/21/00080 – Barham Crematorium, Canterbury Road, Barham TPO no 1 1953 Beech (T23) – reduce crown in height by 2m, reduce the radial spread by 1-1.5m, remove major deadwood greater than 50mm in diameter - GRANTED	

18. Other planning matters

Enforcement Case – On 20 March 2021 a mobile home was sited on land at Derringstone Hill Farm, Derringstone Hill. The Chairman explained that the over-sized load caused blocking of Gravel Castle Road for some hours. The Clerk has looked at previous planning applications on this site and there does not appear to be authorisation for the siting of a caravan. The Clerk therefore requested that Canterbury City Council enforcement team investigate this possible breach of planning.

19. Councillors items

Cllr Wood commented that normally when a parish council meeting clashes with an election the date is changed but this year it was agreed to continue with the 06 May date. This will be the Annual Parish Council meeting with the first order of business to elect a Chairman for 2021-2022.

20. Zoom Subscription and future Parish Council meetings

The Pro-Zoom account expires on 30 April 2021. Cllr A. Tatt and Cllr D. Tatt explained they both had Microsoft Teams accounts and this might be used as an alternative virtual platform.

Cllr Wood explained that using the holding of virtual meetings after 6 May 2021 would not be allowed following the recent Government debate on extending The Local Authorities and Police and Crime

Panels (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020. This means that face to face meetings may be a reality going forward. However, face to face meetings in the village hall will be limited to a maximum of 22 people for social distancing needs to be adhered to. Cllr Wood explained that he was going to write to Robert Jenrick MP and ask which legislation takes precedent – the requirement to allow all members of the public wishing to attend a meeting or the social distancing requirement. He asked the council if it would like this correspondence to be written on behalf of the parish council and Cllrs agreed to this. Cllr Graham and Cllr Minter advised that they may not attend in-person meetings in the immediate future.

21. Date of next meeting

The date of the next full parish council meeting will be 06 May 2021 at 7.30pm and will use the Zoom virtual platform again.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:
Chairman, Cllr David Wood

Date:

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting

Future meeting dates in person are ON HOLD due to coronavirus:

Provisional dates for Full Council: 06 May, 03 June, 01 July, no meeting in August, 02 September, 07 October, 04 November, 02 December 2021.

And F&GP meeting dates *should these be required*: 21 April, 19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November and 15 December 2021.

APPENDIX – Write-up of the Canterbury District Police Parish Forum held 10 March 2021

Canterbury District Police Parish Forum held virtually on 10 March 2021

Hosted by Guy Thompson, Community Safety Inspector and Mark Hedges, Chief Inspector and Commander for Canterbury.

Key points of information presented:

The Local Policing Teams respond to 999 calls, investigate crimes, arrest and interview suspects, and prepare case files for court.

The Community Safety Unit (led by Guy Thompson) is the community side of policing and comprises 3 sergeants, 12 PCs and 21 PCSOs.

Priorities in the Kent Control Strategy for 2020-2021:

- Child centred policing
- Exploitation
- Serious violence, knife crime, robberies
- Abuse/Domestic abuse
- High Harm crime including cyber/hate crime
- Counter Terrorism

Crime figures

Graphs for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 were presented.

All areas – Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone and Thanet are all down in 2020-2021 from 2019-2020.

Most wards in the Canterbury district have under 500 recorded crimes, except the high retail urban wards such as Westgate.

COVID-19 has definitely had an effect:

- At March 2020, with the first lockdown, shoplifting was significantly down
- Violence against person (non injury) was down, although violence against person (injury) went up
- then in July 2020 theft and shoplifting went up again.
- There was a 34% reduction in burglaries in the last year.
- Anti-social behaviour was up – for breaches of covid lockdown reports/nuisance gatherings in March/April/May 2020.

What's been done in the last year:

- Policing through COVID-19 – beaches, student parties
- Closures of the French borders/EU exit in December 2020
- Dealing with nuisance vehicles, Rural Task Force drones
- “Op Pledge” – this focuses on road safety – areas targeted for speeding enforcement are often from reports by parish councils
- “Op Eminent” – for knife crime – stop and search, possession, thefts, and there has been an increase in late teens/young adult children on parents in the home
- Tackling Drug Dealing – a reminder that people can report instances to the Police directly or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or by using the anonymous online form at crimestoppers-uk.org

The next 12 months:

- 36,000 students come to Canterbury in September – Kent Police is to have new Schools and Uni Police officers.
- New Community Safety Engagement Forums – Police to visit Canterbury, Herne Bay, Whitstable and the rural areas in open forum to ask questions about residents' concerns.
- Post-Covid engagement – with PCSOs and PCs resuming face to face interaction
- “Staycation” work – in partnership with the community safety unit at CCC and The Bid – looking at events, such as the concerts at Canterbury Cricket ground, the Sandwich golf Open, and coastal beaches use. Nationally events are being shifted to later in the year – and this will impact on Police resources.
- Coming out of lockdown the key dates being planned for are 12 April and 21 June
- Expecting another year of policing like no other

Further into the Future:

- New developments and larger plans – the police advise developers on how to design out crime
- Still going to have County lines
- Evolution of Town Centres post covid with several closed shops now
- Universities and further education establishments have planned growth in Canterbury
- A different demand – demand is growing for mental health; vulnerable persons, and an ageing population.
- By the middle of 2022 there will be more police officers than ever before – the biggest recruitment of PCs is occurring in Kent now – but it takes two years to train them.
- There is no funding for any additional PCSOs.

Website www.kent.police.uk

- For statistics and prevention advice – residents can enter their postcode and see the top crimes for their area.

Parked up lorries - Parked up lorries may be reported using the Country Eye app on a mobile.

The next Parish Council police forum will be offered in September 2021 – either virtually or face to face or both.