MINUTES OF WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 5th March, 2024 AT 7.30PM WOULDHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Cllr Bell, Cllr Marr, Cllr Yard, Cllr Hopper, Cllr Miles, Cllr Britchfield, Cllr Parris, BCllr Dalton, BCllr Davis, T Miles (Clerk/RFO) 3 Members of Public

1.	APOLOGIES: , BCllr McDermott, Cllr Gray	ACTION
2.	MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on 9th January,	
	2024.	
	The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9 th January, 2024 were proposed	
	by Cllr Britchfield and seconded by Cllr Parris. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman	
3.	MINUTES OF FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on 9 th January, 2024 Cllr Bell noted that Cllr Gray had requested the clause 'at which point Cllr Gray raised her	
	hand to the Clerk to stop further discussion 'in Matters Arising, be removed. He asked if anyone	
	supported this request, no other Councillors did so and with no further comments, Cllr Bell asked if	
	the minutes could be approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Britchfield,	
	Seconded by Clir Yard. All Agreed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES	
	Cllr Bell noted that under point 7.3. S106 requests for Bushy Wood. Councillors were	
	asked to put forward ideas of potential items that would mitigate the impact of the new	
	development. Cllr Bell was disappointed that nothing had been received and reminded	
	councillors of the need to support people in the parish and to optimise opportunities. BCIIr	
	Dalton agreed that it is vital that the parish gets their 'wish list' in, if nothing is submitted,	
	nothing can be considered. Cllr Yard suggested that a separate meeting could be	
	arranged just to discuss this issue. Cllr Bell noted that his suggestions were for a Pelican	
	Crossing and speed indicator signs along Village Road. Cllr Parris asked about parking by	
	the school. Cllr Hopper noted that it is difficult to identify needs before any development	
	begins as specify affects are unknown. Cllr Dalton agreed that it was a 'chicken and egg'	
	situation, but suggestions could be made on a best guess. Cllr Bell added that anything	
	we add can be thrown out, but will not even be considered if they are not there. Cllr Parris	
	suggested that a rep from the PVRA could be invited as they may have ideas which could	
	support infrastructure. BCIIr Davis advised that projects will be focused around Eccles and	
	that a funding criterion is already in place. It would be best to check the conditions on the	Clerk
	planning application. Clerk to arrange a meeting and invite a rep from the Peters Village	
5.	Residents Association. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None	
<u>5.</u> 6.	EXTERNAL REPORTS	
6.1	Borough Council: Report received. BCllr Dalton noted that the council tax can now be	
0.1	paid over 12 months instead of 10 months. This can be done by asking TMBC before the	
	end of March. After March it will go onto the following year. Also, BCIIr Dalton praised the	
	Council for being able to offer a decrease in their part. Cllr Bell noted that there is only one	
	parish precept less than Wouldham which is West Peckham with only 4 parishes paying	
	overall less Council Tax than Wouldham.	
6.2	Community Warden: The Community Warden has reported that he is continuing to	
0.2	support 3 families on a 1:1 basis and that himself and the Police Beat Officer will be	
	holding a monthly surgery in the Community Centre on Friday 29^{th} March from $10 \text{am} - 12$.	
	Clerk noted that, due to increased need in the Parish, the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	
	will be invited to one of the surgeries to offer benefits advice and support. Cllr Parris	
	suggested that an article could go into the newsletter giving contact details. She recently	Clerk
	had a Financial Assessment with CAB over the phone, which she found very useful	CICIK

Date_____

7.	Communi	ty Safety					
7.1	 Police: Received. The local Beat Officer reported that recent issues reported include: 8 off road bikes being driven on pavement on Farleigh Gardens 20/01/2024 Vehicle interference – nothing taken/ no damage Mason Lane 19/01/2024 Nuisance vehicles Wouldham Road 24/01/2024 Nuisance vehicles village road – 12-15 motorbikes 28/01/2024 Romance online scam (involving the purchase of gift cards) 19/02/2024 						
	BCIIr Davis noted that if people are doing wheelies down the road, it's a 999 call as it's a danger to life therefore must be reported. For less urgent issues the 101 service is available for reporting. CIIr Parris noted that there is also an issue with quad bikes. BCIIr Davis advised that the operation carried out on 28 th January included these vehicles. The full Operation Japan report will be on our website.						
7.2	 Cllr Bell noted that most police resources are being put into town centres due to the amount of crime in these areas and into domestic abuse incidents. Neighbourhood Watch: Walter Burk Avenue - Between 7/1/24 and 8/1/24. Somebody tried to break into a garage at a residential property. Laker Road – 6/1/26. Somebody stole multiple boxes of cigarettes from a vehicle parked in a car park. Village Road - 6/1/24. Some young people stole a bicycle from the road. 						
	• Ba	rge Walk – 16/1/24. Somebody tr	ed to steal a vehicle from	n the road.			
7.3			· .				
	Speedwat	ch : Report received, attached to	minutes.				
	Results fro	om the most recent sessions.					
	Date	Site	Total Vehicles	Nos. Speeding			
	10 Jan	Knowle Road	295	40			
	17 Jan	High Street Green	132	6			
	27 Feb	Scarborough Lane	308	9			
	28 Feb	Knowle Road	222	42			
		point of note is that Peters Village am cover the whole parish.	and Wouldham Village I	nave now merged so			
8.		ative and Finance					
8.1	Authorisation of payment request. Cllrs Marr, Hopper, and Bell signed the request. Cllrs Bell and Marr signed pay increase letters for PC staff.						
8.2	Cllr Bell noted that minutes had been circulated regarding the finance meeting. The team agreed to recommend accepting the Vision Statement and Scribe software package.						
	Vision Statement: Proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr Hopper. All agreed. Scribe: Proposed by Cllr Bell, Seconded Cllr Yard. All agreed						
8.3	Audit report: noted – Clerk advised that copy invoices had been forwarded to the Auditor with the exception of Compaid who have stated that as a Service Level Agreement was signed identifying the amount, no invoice should be required. This email has been also forwarded to the Auditor.						
8.4	Grant Pol	icy: Proposed by Cllr Bell Seco	nded by Cllr Parris. All a	greed. Adopted			
8.5/6		code of conduct and standing	•	•			
		of the Public		U			
9.1	MOP1. As the horse amount bo any work r	sked if the Allotment Association a field. Clerk explained that the wa oth parties pay. Cllr Bell advised the needed and forward any material a letter to be sent to the leasehold	ter bill was split as a %, s nat the Allotment Associa expenses to the Parish C	so any leaks affect the ation could undertake Council. Cllr Bell also	Clerk		

9.2 9.3 9.4	 MOP 2. Noted that she has 2 issues. Point 1 - is it possible to add procedure for getting the code for defibrillators to the Parish Council part of the newsletter? (Clerk to action) Point 2 - She circulated photos of damage to the Village Sign and advised that a volunteer has offered to repair it, he will put 4 metal plates on it, but we will have to pay for the materials. All agreed to re-imburse any materials. Cllr Hopper asked whether he would need his own insurance. Clerk advised that he would need to sign the volunteer form, he with then be covered by our insurance. MOP 1 noted that the No Entry sign only says buses are allowed. If there is an accident on a horse or bike, would they be covered by their insurance. Clerk advised the sign indicates that there no vehicular traffic is allowed and the Road Traffic Order exempts peddle bikes. MOP 3 Asked if there was any update regarding the doctors surgery. Cllr Bell advised that the register of the sign the process of the sign of the sign the process of the sign of the same process of the sectors and the same process of the sign the sign of the sectors surgery. Cllr Bell advised the sectors of th	Clerk
	that there had been an application to raise the height of the entrance (23/01847/NMA) which has been refused and there appears to be no other movement.	
10	Planning	
10.1	Planning applications considered and commented upon by the Planning	
10.1	23/03547 Worral Drive, Phase 5. Approval of Reserved Matters relating to appearance,	
	layout, landscaping and scale pursuant to Outline Permission 15/01485/OAEA for	
	development of 10 homes (8 new) and re-orientation of 2 homes already approved under	
	the 3B consent with associated parking and landscaping	
	23/03344 Haymens Wharf, Demolish existing workshop and garage and replace with new	
	double garage with room above.	
	23/03475 29, Gardeners Cottage, Keepers Cottage Lane. Non Material Amendment to	
	planning permission TM/22/02052/FL To create an additional access for 29 Keepers	
	Cottage to form two separate access points to Hall Road	
	24/00021/PA 46, High Street, Part first floor rear extension	
	24/00124/PA Keepers Lodge, Common Road. Demolition of existing buildings and the	
	redevelopment of the Site to provide 3no. residential units 2 x 4-bedroom and 1 x 1	
	bedroom. WPC commented that consideration should be made regarding ANOB and	
	archaeology of the area. Cllr Parris queried whether it was in Burham, Cllr Bell confirmed	
	that it was in Wouldham and that the boundary is a little way from the entrance.	
10.2	Planning Consent Issued: Approved	
10.2	23/01854/AT Unit 3 Tolhurst Close - Retrospective application for signage to front of shop	
10.3	Planning applications refused/withdrawn:	
10.5	23/01847/NMA Village Centre Parcel - Non-Material Amendment to planning permission	
	TM/19/01949/FL to allow amendments to the entrance, landscaping. REFUSED	
11	Roads, Footpaths & Lighting (RFL)	
11.1	Cllr Britchfield reported that the bollards on Hall Road and by the Church have been	
	damaged for quite a while meaning very poor visibility, he will report again. Also, the	DB
	lamppost along Hall Road is bent. Clerk advised that the company who put them in initially	
	said they could not repair it as they did not have the correct permit. However, they have	
	now visited and have decided that they can do it, so we are waiting a quote. Cllr Miles	
	asked if the light not working would be fixed at the same time. Cllr Marr advised that it was	
	a different company who put the LED light in and the original installers could not do it.	Claula
	Clerk to chase.	Clerk
11.2	Cllr Bell presented a list of reports that he has made and had received feedback from the	
	Highways Officer. These include: Heron Place platform damage, School Lane/Pilgrims	
	Way signpost falling over. Potholes on Pilgrims Way, between School Lane and Knowle	
	Road. Give Way sign on Knowle Road, twisted around. Potholes between Winchester	
	House and Ringshill Farm. Cushion edges eroding along Hall Road. Hall Road trench, 1/2	
	way across the road. Pothole near entrance to Knowle Road car park. White triangles on	
	platforms along Village Road and Hall Road. Cllr Bell noted that the response from KCC	
	advised that the cushions will not be repaired in the short term as it would require closing	
	the road and has been risk assessed that if people are travelling at the 20mph limit, there	
	should be no problem. Pothole repairs have been completed at the Knowle Road junction.	
11.3	Cllr Bell noted that Cllr Hopper had asked for a sign at the junction of School Lane and	
	Oldfield to indicate that Oldfield is a no through road. He presented a quote for £45. All	

	agreed to go ahead and Cllr Hopper will arrange for it to be fitted, possibly on the salt bin	EB/PH
11.4	or 1.25m away from the highway on a post. Cllr Hopper noted that since No entry traffic has got better but whenever there is a problem	
	on M20 or M2, people disregard the system. He asked whether the one-way system could be revisited. Cllr Yard advised that there was a vote for a one-way system which the	
	village threw out. Cllr Bell also noted that a band of residents had lobbied against that	
	scheme. Clerk advised that the reason it was not a full one-way system was to spread the traffic flow around the village and took into consideration the previous consultation.	
11.5	School crossing : Cllr Bell reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with the School and D Weller from KCC to discuss a new Cross Patrol Officer. Mr Weller had risk	
	assessed various sites along Worral Drive and advised that the only safe place would be	
	on the island just along from the school. This will also be better for those parents parking at the Co-op/Community Centre and walking along the new path, which comes out near	
	the island. The school will employ a new member of staff, and KCC have offered to provide the uniform and equipment. The school will then invoice the PC.	
11.6	Traffic survey : Cllr Bell presented the quote for traffic surveys. He advised that the company suggested that by having one in Worral Drive, it would give a distorted picture of	
	the levels of traffic due to the school. Therefore, the quote was for 3 or 4. Cllr Parris asked	
	if it covered both ways. It was felt that as the 2 lines go across the road, that it would. However, Cllr Bell will confirm that data is collected from both directions.	
11.7	Cllr Bell proposed to proceed with 3 sites, Seconded by Cllr Britchfield. All agreed. Mobile camera : Cllr Yard reported that she had had a meeting with the camera supplier.	EB
	They have advised that the best approach is to get the police and KCC on board so that fines can be issued. These cameras are mobile, so can be placed around the parish where	
	there are issues, including ASB, drugs etc. Cllr Marr asked if the company do dummy	
	ones, then people would not know which one was recording. Cllr Yard will check. Cllr Bell advised that a meeting is being arranged with Matthew Scott (Police Commissioner) to	тү
	discuss how the system can be linked with the Control Centre to enable efficient enforcement.	
11.8	Cllr Parris noted that the drainage grid by the masonic lodge has dropped causing a	
	'clonking' sound as cars go over it. Cllr Yard advised that she had reported it, but KCC have said that they would not come out unless it has broken, but it will be monitored.	
	Cllr Yard advised that she had chased SE Water again about the pothole at the top of Portland and will continue to insist on its repair.	тү
12.	Open Spaces (OS)	
12.1	Cllr Miles presented the Open Spaces report. The sink hole by river has been reported to	
	TMBC with a request to update on the crack in the river wall. Weather permitting, the Common cleanup and boundary check will be 16 th March from	ALL
	12.30pm. All welcome to support. It has been reported that Ferry Lane footpath (MR5) is overgrown going down to ferry steps and asked Councillors to walk the path to assess its	
	condition. Cllr Yard suggested that this could be arranged when the weather was a bit better. Recreation Ground: A footplate missing on gym equipment and needs replacing.	CLERK
	Clerk to research a replacement. A weld has broken on a piece of equipment alongside	CLERK
	the Tramway and we need to decide whether to repair or remove it. Cllr Hopper will have a look to see if it can be removed and welded. The Council have already agreed to have a	
	work party to carry out general maintenance. Cllr Miles suggested this needs to be done in June before the summer holidays. She will email out suggested dates. 58 High Street, -	10.4
	rubble is still there and the deadline for removal was the end of January. Cllr Britchfield will speak to the occupiers to see if it can be moved before we arrange a contractor to	JM DB
	move it and recharge the costs.	
	Cllr Yard asked for a sign to be put on zip line advising it is not suitable for adult use. Clerk to arrange.	
12.2	Allotments: Cllr Bell thanked the Allotment Association for their report. Clerk has agreed to audit the accounts for presentation at the AGM on 28 th April.	CLERK
12.3	Dog poo: Cllr Parris has produced 3 different signs, passed to Clerk. Cllr Bell will get a	
	nution for E of anoth to be placed at each entire of the Dec. but the observable entire bit (l l
	price for 5 of each to be placed at each entry of the Rec, by the river with some left over to be placed in Peters Village	EB

12.4	 Waste Services: Cllr Bell noted that we have been constantly asked for a bulk collection day. He has spoken to various waste service providers, but none were interested in doing it. A local clearance company quoted £300, but may be more when taking to the tip depending on items. He has also had a quote from RS Skip at £250+vat. Could be in the car park, but would be a full weekend. Suggested that one could be done in May and June. Cllr Parris suggested the metal clearance people could help. Cllr Bell was concerned that the skip could be abused as it wouldn't be there just for a few hours. Cllr Yard was concerned that the people who need to clear their gardens may still not use it. Cllr Marr noted that there were still restrictions on what could be put into a skip and rubbish being left by it or emptied could cause more problems. All Agreed not to proceed and readvertise the waste services already available. Open spaces survey: Cllr Bell advised that he had completed the survey for TMBC. They did not have any of play areas in Peters Village areas and missed some in Wouldham Village. He had photographed each area and updated the information held. 	
13.	Village Hall: Cllr Bell reported that the final accounts for the Charity have been forwarded	
	to trustees and have been approved by 2 of the 3 trustees. Once these have been submitted, the process of closing the Charity will start with the Charity Commission.	
	Fabric: Boiler service and Gas Safety Check has been completed. There is still a small	
	leak in the toilet, it is now minimal, but still there. The contractor is continuing to identify the	
14.	problem. Health & Safety/Risk Management	
14.1	Emergency Plan & Flood Resilience: Cllr Bell noted that we need to progress a plan.	EB
	He will arrange a meeting with Cllrs Parris and Miles to get their input.	
14.2	Defibrillators: Community Centre and Village Hall units are ready for use and the	
	inspection form was passed to Clerk for filing. Cllr Parris asked about the one for the Watermans. Cllr Bell advised that he has looked at	
	the box and will take it off the wall and pass to the landlady, but we have had no response	EB
	from the email to Shepherd and Neame on 29 th January regarding the licence.	
14.3	Lifebuoys: Cllr Miles reported that she had checked the lifebuoys and signed off the form	
15.	General Village Business	
15. 15.1 15.2	General Village Business Project update: Clerk reported that the monitoring had been send to TMBC. To the end of January, there had been 116 people signed up to courses with 109 attending with another 35 attending the Christmas event. Kent Adult Ed are very pleased with the take up so far and have planned for work-based courses to be delivered from the Community Centre. First Aid at Work booked for the 17 th April is already full, with a waiting list, with Food Allergens in June and Food Hygiene at the beginning of July. Cllr Parris noted that she had a new member to the over 60's club who had attended the textile course and found out about all the other things she could get involved with and was very appreciative of the number of courses and activities available. Cllr Hopper asked if there could be some course was put on in the evening, even though many people had registered an interest only 9 people turned up. In comparison a morning course had 17 registered and 19 turned up. Also, the funding is to reduce isolation which is more prevalent with those who are at home all day. Youth Worker: Cllr Bell advised that there has been minimal response to the local job advert and proposed that we sponsor an advert with Indeed Employment Agency, which would incur a cost of around £150, seconded by Cllr Britchfield. All agreed	CLERK
15. 15.1	General Village Business Project update: Clerk reported that the monitoring had been send to TMBC. To the end of January, there had been 116 people signed up to courses with 109 attending with another 35 attending the Christmas event. Kent Adult Ed are very pleased with the take up so far and have planned for work-based courses to be delivered from the Community Centre. First Aid at Work booked for the 17 th April is already full, with a waiting list, with Food Allergens in June and Food Hygiene at the beginning of July. Cllr Parris noted that she had a new member to the over 60's club who had attended the textile course and found out about all the other things she could get involved with and was very appreciative of the number of courses and activities available. Cllr Hopper asked if there could be some courses was put on in the evening, even though many people had registered an interest only 9 people turned up. In comparison a morning course had 17 registered and 19 turned up. Also, the funding is to reduce isolation which is more prevalent with those who are at home all day. Youth Worker: Cllr Bell advised that there has been minimal response to the local job advert and proposed that we sponsor an advert with Indeed Employment Agency, which	CLERK CLERK

15.5	Items for the Newsletter: Advice on how to access defibrillators; contact details for CAB.	
13.5	Any other items to be given to the Clerk by 18 th March	
	TMBC Grant : Cllr Bell advised that KCCllr Kennedy wants to produce a website of local	
15.6	community groups. There are currently around 140 organisations registered where people will be able to find out support is around. It will also be used for social prescribing with the Doctors surgeries. KCCIIr Kennedy would like WPC to apply for the grant and pay for the website design and manage the transactions. Cllr Parris asked why if Aylesford are maintaining it they don't have the money and was concerned that there could be additional monitoring work for the Clerk. All agreed to ask KCCIIr Kennedy why Aylesford do not want to fully manage the project. If it is confirmed that the project work will be undertaken by	CLERK
	others, Clerk will work with KCCIIr Kennedy to apply.	
16.	Correspondence : Clir Bell noted that an email had been received from Starkey Castle RA thanking the PC for highlighting the retrospective planning applications for Gores Farm as it was the first time they had not been informed. They have now sent in their own concerns.	
17.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING All agreed to hold meeting Tuesday 9th April, 2024. 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Clerk to update website.	
18.	QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS, CHAIRPERSON AND CLERK: To be passed to Clerk 7 days before	
	the next meeting	
19.	Meeting Closed: 9.50pm	

Speedwatch Update January - February 2024

for Wouldham Parish Council March Meeting

3 sessions were planned for January, one was cancelled due to bad weather and 2 sessions ran in February, the results are below:

Date	Site	Total Vehicles	Nos. Speeding
10 Jan	Knowle Road	295	40
17 Jan	High Street Green	132	6
27 Feb	Scarborough Lane	308	9
28 Feb	Knowle Road	222	42

<u>Notes</u>

Of the 42 offenders on 28 Feb, 3 offended for the 3rd time and 8 offended for a 2nd time.

<u>Update</u>

- After a review was undertaken of Wouldham Speedwatch members, a number decided not to continue this year and we now have 6 committed volunteers
- The Peters Village Speedwatch group has 6 members, but has not been active. All members have not undertaken practical training but this will happen in due course providing they still wish to participate.
- The Wouldham and Peters Village Speedwatch groups have been merged and this has been reflected on the website.
- 3 new sites have been requested, of which one in Peters Village at the bottom of Scarborough has already completed one session as reported above.
- As the weather improves, we anticipate carrying our more sessions across the Parish.

Signed_

Date_____

Finances up	to February 2023	N	/larch Meet	ng			
Opening Bala	ince Nat West 22/2/23					£	119,467.28
RINGFENCED	TOTALS						
Monies from	car park donations				778		
Monies from	membership grant				1700		
Monies from	Big Lottery				93.99		
KCC Transpor					1 781 0.00		
TMBC Educat	tion Courses S106 funds				14500		
тмвс ү & с у	Worker S106 finds				58203.13		
	lable monies ringfenced			£	93,085.12		
	de up to 22/2/23						
TOTAL INCO						£	9,837.27
KCC Urban C						£	854.32
TMBC S106 (£	8,982.95
Dec Dec	ade up to 22/2/23 SE Water	Allotments					290.5
Feb	Giffgaff	mobile					6.0
Jan	EDF	CCTV					1 8. 0
	Salaries						1495.7
jan	Office						216.6
	Nest	Pensions					48. 3
Jan	Allotment Ass.	PL insurance					275.3
26-Jan	TEEC	Website					28.8
17-Jan	April Skies	Interim internal	audit				385.0
30-Jan	Hadlum	Newsletter					65.0
31-Jan		email					
	Google						5.5
31-Jan	Compaid	Minibus Ins					565.1
Feb	Aldermore	Minibus lease					1128. 0
Feb	Jurni (Bridle)	Minibus maint					6
TOTAL EXPE				~	5 9 49 4 5	£	4,594.12
	P&L for period			£	5,243.15		
	Balance (inc ringfenced) Pending/cleared Giffgaff			£ -£	31,625.31 6.00		
	Closing Bank Balance @ 2	6/2/23		-E	0.00	£1	24,716.43
							24,710.43
<u>Payments to</u>	be agreed at March meetin	<u>e</u>					
	Scribe						1366.8
	Aldermore	Minibus lease					1128.0
	Jurni (Bridle)	Minibus maint					6
	Giffgaff	mobile					6.0
	EDF	CCTV					1 8. 0
	N Power	Street lights					70.3
	Salaries						1495.5
	Office						216.6
	Nest	Pensions					48.3
	Parish Online						96.00
TOTAL COMI	MITTED SPEND @ 26/2					£	
ESTIMATED						-	
	ink total	£ 120,204.70					
Estimated Ba							
RINGFENCED	TOTALS	£ 93,085.12					





Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.policc.uk/report Tak to us on UveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.policc.uk/contact In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999 If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 I you've pre-regulated with the emergency SMS service. www.kent.police.uk



Use these steps to keep yourself, and your loved ones, safe from fraudsters.



Don't rush into an online relationship - get to know the person, not the profile, ensuring you ask plenty of questions. The vast majority of romance fraud is initiated online.



Analyse their profile - protect yourself by confirming their identity. Check the person is genuine by putting the following into your search engine; their name, profile pictures and any repeatedly used phrases, along with the term 'dating scam'. Be mindful that a fraudster could be hiding behind an alias and have changed details connecting them to previous fraudulent activity.



Talk to your friends and family - be wary of anyone who tells you not to tell others about them. Romance fraud involves grooming over a long period of time. Alienating a victim from their friends and family can make up part of that process.



Evade scams - never send money or share your bank details you've been speaking to them or what story they give behind needing the sum.

Stay on the dating site messenger service - fraudsters will often encourage their victims to use different communication channels that are often undetectable. Be confident that you know who you're speaking to, and be wary if they fail to meet you in person.



Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report Talk to us on LixeChat - available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact In an emergency if crime is in progress or life is in danger cal 999 If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000, Or toxt us on 991 / you've pre-registred with the emergency SMS service, www.kent.police.uk