



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, D. Tweedale, G. Pugh, A. Andrews, M. Fentiman, E. Dore
Also, Present: District Cllr Abi Smith, Derek Crow-Brown, Amanda Lynch – St Nicholas Church Warden,
Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 0 members of public.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR FOR 2025/2026

Cllr Divers was nominated for Chair, this was proposed by Cllr Dore and seconded by Cllr Smyth.

RESOLVED: Cllr Divers to be re-elected as Chair for 2025-26.

Cllr Ageros was nominated for Vice-Chair, this was proposed by Cllr Pugh and seconded by Cllr Andrews.

RESOLVED: Cllr Ageros to be re-elected as Vice-Chair for 2025-26.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Mark Lawrance (Holiday) and PC Andy Howe.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ageros declared a significant interest in item 3/25-26 of the Annual Parish Council meeting, as he would be mentioning a neighbouring property.

4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 8th April 2025 and Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2024. These were proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Fentiman, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

Unfortunately, no representative was available to attend the meeting, however, the following report was submitted on behalf of the Village Hall Committee:

Annual Report for 2024/25

Two of our long-standing committee members retired during the last year, namely, Mr Chris Cole and Mr Roy Fairbrass. Both had served on the committee for many years giving up their valuable time and without them the hall would not be what it is today. The new Chair, Mr Douglas Beake, was elected following the AGM.

Hire income improved over the year and the main sources of our income remain dance and childcare. There have been no large items of expenditure, so the current balance is good.

A number of improvements were carried out over the course of the year including interior decorating and the provision of a community 'book library' outside. The latter is very well used! We intend to continue with repairs and improvements and the next big item scheduled is to complete the repointing of the side/front walls and this will be carried out in the early Summer.

A successful Christmas fair was again held raising over £1,000. The Hoodening evening was also very successful, attracting a record number of attendees. These events are considered to be an important part of the calendar, inasmuch as they are free, traditional events which bring together the village communities of St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre.

Annette Paul
Secretary

6 BELL MEADOW PAVILION REPORT

Cllr Fentiman advised that the St Georges Day event was very well attended and positively received.

The Pavilion would be opened during the Open Gardens weekend to provide refreshments. Volunteers to help would

be welcomed.

The working group were currently looking into obtaining quotes to upgrade the tennis court facility, renew the path lighting and repair the basketball court, plus include a shelter to provide shade in the play area. Additional gym equipment was also being explored. The works to be funded by the Section 106 monies.

Opening the Pavilion for use of the toilets was discussed, however, if unattended, it was felt this would be complicated by safeguarding issues and would therefore not be possible.

It was suggested and agreed that wherever possible, local companies would be approached to quote for works.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Divers thanked the Working Group for all they had done since being appointed.

7 ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

It was disappointing to note that no response or report had been received for the third year.

8 ST NICHOLAS CHURCH REPORT

Amanda Lynch, Church Warden reported on behalf of the Church, as follows:

It has been an interesting year for the church, we have a new sound system and have changed to LED lighting. The wall and pathway are almost finished, we have run concerts and eaten cake and the Kitchen Café, under Vanessa's patient leadership has gone from strength to strength. The kitchen still need more volunteers though if you have got a couple of hours on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Our Benefice Lead Team have met regularly and through cooperation, collaboration and greater understanding of what each church in the benefice is up against has built a stronger thriving team. With this in mind at our last meeting the PCC we voted to set up a Wantsum Benefice Joint Council which would replace the Benefice Lead Team and taken responsibility for ministry and mission across the benefice, hopefully reducing the workload of each parish whilst strengthening the church.

The church is aiming to get its bronze Eco Church award in the near future, and is looking to install solar panels on the church roof. This will also include purchasing a new boiler so fundraising will be important. We are having our Quinquennial report in the next couple of months so may have further work to ensure that the church is a safe space. 2024 was good year for The Friends Of St Nicholas Church. Over £7,000 was raised between the Craft Fair, Past and Present and various donations during the year. Open Gardens will be run in the village 14th/15th June with 10 gardens opening, a craft fair in the village hall, lunches, cream teas and a flower display in the church. As always we hope that this will bring significant funds into The Friends account to help with repairs and building works needed for the church. The Bell Ringers have been amazing this year, practising Wednesday evenings and ringing for special services and occasions. Anyone interested in joining us please get in touch, you do not have to read music just be able to count!

9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

An opportunity for members of the public to discuss local Parish matters with Councillors or those who have spoken during the meeting – No representations made.

Meeting Closed 8:05pm

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1/25-26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers opened the meeting by offering his sincerest thanks to Derek Crow-Brown, for his support to the Parish Council and residents during his time as Kent County Councillor. His knowledge, expertise and experience will be missed. Grateful thanks were also extended to Linda Wright, in her absence, for her unwavering support.

2/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed the play equipment safety inspection had been booked and would be taking place in July at a discounted rate.

A resident had enquired about a missing road sign at Paddock Way, The Length. The Clerk had been in contact with the relevant department at TDC who had advised that the road may not have yet been adopted by KCC. The Clerk would follow this up with Steven Noad.

3/25-26 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Pugh echoed the expression of thanks to Derek Crow-Brown for his assistance to the Parish Council.

Issues regarding the incompleteness of the highways etc...at Parish Close were gradually being addressed and it had been noted that the overgrown hedge encroaching on the highway at Manor Road had been trimmed back.

Cllr Tweedale advised he had been approached regarding the unkempt state of The Forge at Manor Road. Cllr Abi Smith would make enquiries with the planning officers at TDC with regard to any breach of regulations.

Cllr Dore had been litter picking along the footpath between Frost Farm and Shuart Lane. He had been approached regarding opening the toilet facilities at the Pavilion, which had been previously discussed.

Cllr Andrews discussed the parking of the vehicle on the bend at Manor Road which was considered hazardous. She would approach the owners and ask that the car is parked in a safer manner.

Cllr Smyth advised that the previous complaint from a resident at Sarre, regarding the narrowing of the access to TE10, was unsubstantiated as the footpath was in fact narrower at the 'kissing gate'. This was discussed and Cllr Ageros confirmed he had met with the KCC Footpaths Officer – Heather Waller.

Cllr Ageros reported that Heather Waller suggested the 'kissing gate' would be removed, as it no longer met the regulations for adequate disabled access. Guidance dictated that a minimum provision of 1.2m width is required for suitable access. The footpath would also be resurfaced and repaired accordingly. Cllr Ageros had been maintaining the village planters and flagpole garden. It was pleasing to note that the drains had recently been cleared by KCC.

4/25-26 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith advised she had attended the opening of the Veteran's sensory garden in Birchington.

She had also attended the planning committee meeting to speak against the expansion of Preston Park Caravan Site at Manston, which had subsequently been refused.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau Outreach Surgery at Minster Library would be held on 20th May. The service also offers home visits for anyone unable to attend the drop-in session at the Library.

Cllr Smith had joined a presentation regarding a local exchange trading scheme, which is currently in its embryonic stage, however, it is potentially being launched in Cliftonville and would offer an online mechanism to exchange services between residents.

Cllr Smith was encouraged after visiting the Manston Reception Centre, which presented as a professional and well run establishment. The facility would benefit from works to upgrade the provision, however, it was a successful processing centre with most people being administered within 24 hours.

The Planning Inspectorate has accepted National Grid's application for development consent for Sea Link, a proposed electricity connection between Kent and Suffolk designed to strengthen the UK's energy network.

The Planning Inspectorate will manage the examination stage, with members of the public able to have a say on the plans directly to the Inspectorate.

Residents were advised they can register as an Interested Party to take part in the process on the dedicated Sea Link page of the Planning Inspectorate website.

5/25-26 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor not in attendance, no report submitted.

6/25-26 KENT POLICE REPORT

PC Andy Howe was unable to attend the meeting, however, he submitted the following report which was circulated to the Parish Council:

The increases in Robbery, Sexual Offences and Drugs are as previously communicated, historic, not ongoing and resolved.

The slight rise in public order is negligible and we will often see small spikes in these types of offences as they can be influenced purely by such things as good weather conditions.

Regarding crime across the Thanet Villages, we have had two instances of Burglary (one being an attempt) at The Monkton Nature Reserve. Images have been obtained of the suspects who are all white male juveniles. We are circulating these images to Police across the District and we hope to get some names. Only food items were stolen but the second attempt was very likely made to look for more valuable items.

We also had some theft instances from vehicles at the Hedgend Industrial Estate and I have been conducting additional patrols in those areas.

There were 17 calls to the Police from St Nicholas At Wade and Sarre over the last month with most being traffic related and some information based.

I have been attending the Bell Meadow area due to a report of an accosting of some school girls by a drunken male. Whilst I cannot disclose too much information about the male, what I can tell you is that he is well known to me as an alcoholic and he is not known for any sexual offences so please do not jump to any conclusions about him. I have spoken to him at length, and he was very upset that people may believe that his behaviour was in any way linked to any unlawful intent. I have described the incident back to him and he understands that his actions on that day were not acceptable and may have caused the girls to feel afraid. I have advised him not to frequent the park area albeit this cannot be enforced. If I do get any further reports of drunkenness or public order issues from him, I will take further action but at present, he has not committed any recordable offences.

I continue to attend Potten Street Road and will be replacing some Anti Social Behaviour signs in the area.

I had located a stolen motorcycle in Potten Street Rd which was recovered and I have been trying to arrange the removal of suspected abandoned vehicles in the area.

Other than these minor issues, it has been reasonably quiet across the Villages.

7/25-26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) FH/TH/25/0041& L/TH/25/0042 Warehorn Cottage, Potten Street Road, St Nicholas at Wade

Cllr Smith to raise concerns with regard to unauthorised alterations made to a listed property, with the Conservation Officer.

b) None noted.

8/25-26 FINANCE

a) The Clerk presented the monthly bank reconciliation between the cash book and bank accounts.

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for April. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, seconded Cllr Andrews).

b) The Clerk presented the monthly payment schedule which included the following payments:

EDF - Electric BMP	£38.35
Employee salaries & expenses	£2481.71
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£57.07
SNS - Email hosting fee	£60.51
Business Stream - Water BMP	£39.79
Maytree Nursery - Village planter flowers	£99.00
Lloyds DD - Credit Card	£508.81
N. Buchanan - Repayment decorating supplies BMP	£312.40
H. Paul - Repayment - printing costs	£15.00
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
S. Archer - Repayment - Bar Stock	£249.57
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£6.00

Receipts:

A. Woollcott - BMP Hire	£64.00
WS Cole - Plot 92	£485.00
M. Savage - BMP Hire	£19.50
APO?	£30.00
Allotment Plot 5	£60.00
TDC - Precept & Agency payment	£19,042.00
Allotment Plot 3b & 4a	£60.00
Allotment Plot 2b	£30.00
WS Cole - Plot	£485.00
Allotment - Plot 2a	£60.00
SumUp - BMP sales	£5.91
T. Newsome - BMP Hire	£41.25
SumUp - BMP sales	£205.96
E. Dore - BMP Hire	£51.00
BMP Sales (Event)	£323.00
T. Newsome - BMP Hire	£6.50
M. Savage - BMP Hire	£78.00
Pitch Hire - Holmans	£60.00
E. McElwain - BMP Hire	£91.00
E. McElwain - BMP Hire	£26.00

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for May.

(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Fentiman)

c) The Clerk presented the accounts and annual return for 2025-26. No comments were made, therefore it was approved to sign Sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR form accordingly.

RESOLVED: To approve Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Return for 2025-26. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Smyth)

d) It was discussed and agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

e) The Clerk had been approached by the handyperson team who were in need of a replacement battery for the mower. The higher amp battery was preferable at an approx. cost of £440. It was discussed and agreed to go ahead with the purchase as a matter of necessity.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of the replacement battery for the mower, with a budget of £450.

(Proposed: Cllr Andrews, Seconded: Cllr Dore)

9/25-26 ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk presented the bank signatory and bank checking arrangements for 2025-26.

All Councillors were in agreement to proceed with Cllrs Divers, Ageros, Lawrance & Dore as signatories, and Cllrs Andrews, Ageros, Tweedale and Lawrance were appointed to check the payments and reconciliation accordingly.

10/25-26 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following policies and procedures had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Risk Management Statement, Standing Orders, Internal Controls Statement

No matters of concern were raised, therefore the review was approved accordingly.

(Proposed: Cllr Fentiman, Seconded: Cllr Tweedale)

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:50pm.