



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 7.30pm In The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Cllrs D. Divers, L. Ageros, D. Tweeddale, M. Lawrance, G. Pugh, E. Dore, M. Fentiman, S. Smyth, A. Andrews
Also, Present: KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, KCC Cllr Linda Wright, PC Andy Howe and Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 2 members of public.

120/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor Abi Smith

121/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

122/24-25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2025. These were proposed by Cllr Tweeddale, seconded by Cllr Lawrance, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

123/24-25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers advised that everything he had been dealing with would be discussed during the main business of the agenda.

124/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed she had contacted Matt Elmer at TDC with regard to the request to install a bin at the Manor Road/A28 junction. This had been passed to his street cleaning team and a further response was awaited.

The funding for the yellow lines TRO had been transferred to KCC, a date for start of works would be received in due course. Cllr Lawrance would be contacting the owner of the hives adjacent to the allotment plots, and raising concerns about the proximity to the allotments.

The Clerk had met Gary Groombridge who had recently been appointed as the Community Warden for the Villages. He was currently undergoing training, but would be invited to attend meetings once his position had been finalised.

An incident involving a lone female in the village had been reported to PC Howe who had noted the concerns and would be patrolling the area more visibly.

125/24-25 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Fentiman had attended the TRRG meeting which had primarily focused on the Community Resilience Plans. Public involvement with the development of the plan was encouraged. Further information would be available following the next meeting.

Cllr Pugh expressed his thanks to the volunteers who had cleaned and looked after the Pavilion in recent weeks.

Cllr Tweeddale had been litter picking in the village, particularly through Stuart Lane towards Minnis Bay.

Cllr Lawrance had also been litter picking, and had met the Community Warden. Cllr Lawrance advised he had been appointed on the Parochial Church Council.

Cllr Ageros had noted a reduction in the amount of dog fouling in the village. He thanked Peter Radclyffe for removing and replacing the flag at Sarre. It was noted that new fencing had been erected on the land adjacent to public footpath TE10.

126/24-25 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith was unable to attend the meeting, however, she submitted the following report which was noted:

- **Devolution & Local Govt Reform:** TDC councillors were briefed on Monday 27th January by the Leader and CEO, but the Minister announced last week that Kent will NOT be in first wave, so the KCC elections are back ON. We should assume that Kent's reorganisation will happen in the next two years.

- **KCC Consultation: Local Nature Recovery Strategy** www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk Online briefings for community groups and members of the public, drop in events, where people can find out about the strategy, and speak to members of KCCs Making Space for Nature team. The next drop-in event is at Broadstairs Library, The Broadway, Broadstairs CT10 2BS tomorrow, Wednesday 12 February, from 10am also Cliftonville Farmers' Market, date TBC. Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway website: <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk>.
- **Draft TDC budget and consultation** <https://yourvoice.thanet.gov.uk/en-GB/projects> Overall, the council is proposing to spend £27.5m in 2025/26 to fund services and running costs. This is an increase of £4m compared to 2024/25 but it's largely due to inflation, rising costs such as salaries and contributions, temporary accommodation and housing benefit administration. A **consultation** is open to all residents on Your Voice Thanet – an opportunity for local people to comment on proposals in the budget draft. This follows the annual Residents' Survey which asked for more general feedback on top priorities for key council services. Link & details of closing date will be In the Loop (Your Voice Thanet?).

In happier news, Minster PC was delighted to hear that the Foxborough Lane **planning appeal was dismissed** this week! This offers hope that sometimes developers *can* be defeated when a plan is inappropriate and threatens harm to the community.

127/24-25 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

Devolution

Kent has missed out being part of the government fast-tracked devolution programme.

The sweeping change to local government, the biggest in half a century, would have seen the abolition of all 14 councils in Kent and the creation of a directly elected mayor. As a result, the local elections will take place in May.

Kent County Council (KCC) and Medway Council leaders, Roger Gough (Con) and Vince Maple (Lab) were hopeful to be put on the government's "devolution priority programme" (DPP) as it may have resulted in more powers and better financial rewards for the county.

We felt we had a very strong case to offer and had unanimous support across all 14 councils for our proposal and had made it clear to government that we were ready and willing to meet its ambitious timeline and work towards a mayoral election in Kent in 2026.

Many of us feel the rationale for the decision by government needs further explanation and clarity.

Cllr Linda Wright echoed the disappointing news that Kent was not chosen to be included in the devolution process at this time.

128/24-25 KENT POLICE REPORT

PC Andy Howe reported as follows:

Thanet Villages stats:

The rolling year shows that the two areas of concern would be the sexual offences and the violence against the person. I have dug into both statistics and as I may have communicated before, the sexual offences were attributable to some accosting incidents that have been dealt with and some historical reports.

The VAP (Violence Against the Person) seems to be a trend though and whilst most are domesticated incidents, it is something that I will monitor over the next few months. Unfortunately, VAP in the home is very difficult to reduce as you can imagine. I will see if there is any Domestic Violence/VAWG related media (violence against women and girls) that we can put out to the residents.

St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre related calls:

There have been 15 calls to the area since the start of the year with only 2 being crime related.

I have stopped numerous vehicles in the Potten Street Road area over this period, and have affixed further signs up at the car park area. I have been given permission to affix additional signs warning of unmarked Police cars and plain clothes Officers working in the area. I will be conducting plain clothes work in this area over the next month or two to gauge the problem. I have also conducted stops of vehicles on the A28 for speeding offences between St Nich's and Sarre. I have also undertaken a static speed check at Sarre.

I have also been on operational work for the District and have been assisting with numerous emergency calls.

You may be aware of a high-profile arrest of a male hare coursing around the Netherhale Farm area. My colleague Police Constable England (Birchington) detained and arrested the male with myself assisting. This offence is very difficult to prove and prosecute, so we are very pleased that we have done the hard work.

Over the next month, I will be undertaking taskings relating to the remainder of the hare coursing season and traffic work around the Villages.

129/24-25 BELL MEADOW REPORT

Cllr Fentiman advised that the Managers of the Football Teams had been approached and it had been insisted that boots are removed before entering the Pavilion building.

A flyer had been put together and circulated through the Parish which had been received positively.

The potential of opening the building as a warm hub for two afternoons per week was explored, Cllr Fentiman would raise this

with the working group to discuss further.

Other event suggestions had been considered, a St Georges Day celebration was being planned on 23rd April, and a family picnic/fun day was being organised for 13th July. Volunteers to help with the events would be welcomed.

Quotes for the resurfacing of the tennis courts had been received, however, this would require grant funding and further enquiries to be made.

The installation of a defibrillator from the Heart Foundation, who supply and maintain the defibrillator free of charge, was considered and approved.

Discussion took place regarding the football pitch hire. Currently, the costs of maintaining the pitch and Pavilion, outweigh the hire fees received. It was noted that none of the teams using the facilities were local to the Parish. The benefits and disadvantages of hosting football at the Bell Meadow would be considered further and in more detail following this season.

130/24-25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) TCA/TH/25/0053 - Wayside Cottage , The Street, St Nicholas At Wade

1No Sycamore - Crown reduce by a third

To be referred to the Tree Officer

FH/TH/25/0041 - Warehorn Cottage, Potten Street Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Erection of two storey and single storey extensions following demolition of existing extensions, together with alterations to dormers and materials

Application discussed, vote taken 5 support, 2 object, 2 abstain

Suggested a condition is imposed that the building could not be divided and sold as a separate unit in future.

b) No results reported.

131/24-25 FINANCE

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

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for January. (Proposed: Cllr Pugh, seconded Cllr Dore).

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

SNS - Domain Hosting	£113.52
EDF - Electric BMP	£62.42
Zurich Insurance	£951.01
EDF - Gas BMP	£208.83
Staff salary & expenses	£1,689.90
Lloyds Bank DD - Credit Card	£290.25
Hugofox - Website hosting	£11.99
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£6.00
HMRC - PAYE	£126.18
Nest DD - Clerk's pension	
Ewart Clough - Christmas Trees	£309.60
Business Stream - Water BMP	£186.10
EDF - Gas BMP	£259.68
S. Archer - Repayment - Bin BMP	£59.99

Receipts:

BMP - Pitch Hire - Frames	£60.00
TDC - Fireworks land deposit return	£250.00
BMP - Pitch Hire - Frames	£60.00
BMP - Pitch Hire - Holmans	£60.00

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for February. (Proposed: Cllr Dore, Seconded: Cllr Pugh)

c) The salary increase for the Clerk in recognition of the recent qualification was noted and approved.

RESOLVED: To approve the proposed salary increase for the Clerk. (Proposed: Cllr Andrews, Seconded: Cllr Pugh)

d) Cllr Divers advised of the recent offer that had been received for the purchase of the pitch roller. This was considered and approved to sell the machine. Cllr Divers would confirm arrangements with the purchaser.

RESOLVED: To approve the sale of the pitch roller as outlined in the discussion. (Proposed: Cllr Andrews, Seconded: Cllr Tweedale).

132/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A schedule of works for the installation of the double yellow lines was queried, however, no timescale had been received to date. Concern was also raised regarding the speed of traffic travelling along the A28, which was noted and included on the HIP.

- A resident volunteered to join the BMP working Group which was warmly welcomed.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:45pm.