



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers (Chairman), P. Radclyffe, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, D. Tweedale, M. Lawrance, E. Dore
Also, Present: KCC Cllrs Linda Wright and Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus two members of public.

74/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Parish Cllrs Lisa Fallon and Lee Terry, Community Warden Alison Ring, District Cllr Reece Pugh.

75/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interest declared.

76/22-23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 11th October 2022. These were proposed by Cllr Radclyffe, seconded by Cllr Lawrance, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record. Item 64, it was noted Cllr Tweedale had cleared the footpath adjacent to the A299 leading to Frost Farm, rather than Court Rd.

77/22-23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers extended his thanks to the volunteers, Parish Councillors and Clerk, who helped to make the fireworks evening such a success. Positive comments had been received and the evening was enjoyed by all that attended.

78/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised the Christmas trees had been ordered and were due to be delivered on 30th November 2022. The defibrillators in St Nicholas and Sarre required new pads and batteries, once these had been received and fitted, they would be updated on the national database. The representative from Strutt & Parker had been chased to arrange a site meeting regarding the trees to be surveyed at Sarre. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted the insurance company who confirmed the repairs to the bus shelter were covered and the claim was in progress. An email had been received thanking the handymen for their hard work in clearing the weeds and verges along the Canterbury Road.

Notification had been received regarding the Remembrance Service at Ramsgate. Cllr Tweedale volunteered to attend to represent St Nicholas and Sarre.

The Clerk welcomed and introduced Mrs Balwin who had approached the Parish Council for a letter of support as part of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, with regard to the restoration of Sarre Windmill.

Mrs Baldwin's family has recently acquired the old windmill at Sarre and it is their intention to return it to full working order and open it to the public, free of charge.

The mill which currently stands at Sarre dates from 1820, although a mill is known to have stood at this locations for centuries previous to this. It was built by the famous local millwright John Holman of Canterbury, one of his very earliest commissions. The mill was worked continually until around 1940, after which date it briefly became a look out post during WWII (graffiti from soldiers stationed there can still be seen in the cap!) before gradually falling into a state of disrepair.

The derelict mill was bought by Hobbs' family in the 1980s, who over several years, returned it to full commercial working order. The family opened the site to the public and the mill itself was the last commercially operated windmill in Kent, up until its closure in 2010. Since this date, the mill again, sadly, fell into a state of external disrepair, with the sweeps being lost.

While hundreds of windmills have stood in the County over the centuries, Sarre mill is now one of only around a dozen windmills left in Kent, and of one of only a few of these which has all the internal machinery still intact. It is a rare and precious piece of our industrial and cultural heritage, which the family intend to restore.

As part of their Heritage grant application, they have been asked to demonstrate that the local community would be supportive of the proposed restoration of the mill and, thus have approached the Parish Council for support.

Following lengthy discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would support the restoration project.

Subject to conditions, it was also suggested the family could apply for a grant from the Parish Council towards the restoration project. The Clerk would forward further information regarding this.

RESOLVED: To approve a letter of support for the restoration project of Sarre Windmill. Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Lawrance.

79/22-23 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Dore reported he had attended the Age UK group in St Nicholas and resident's had raised concerns regarding the school time parking. One resident had been obstructed and unable to attend an important appointment. It was confirmed that the issues had been taken on board and this area had been included in the Highways Improvement Plan. The proprietor of The Bell had offered the car park for use during drop off/collection times.

Speeding issues were also raised. The speedwatch initiative required volunteers, but was now active once again. A traffic survey would be implemented once the housing developments had been completed, which would ensure a more accurate picture of the traffic flow in the Village.

Cllr Tweedale echoed the thanks to the handymen for their work in clearing the A28 and requested the road sweeper now attended to clear the roadside gullies. The damaged 40mph sign at the Orchard would be reported online. Cllr Tweedale confirmed he had contacted the PCSO to no avail as he had not received a response.

It was suggested a Committee was formed to consider the planning for the fireworks event for next year.

The antisocial motorcycling across the fields had appeared to have stopped, however, if anyone witnessed it, they were asked to contact Cllr Tweedale.

Policing concerns surrounding the immigration centre at Manston were discussed. It was considered that more control was needed, however, the area was being closely monitored by the authorities.

Cllr Lawrance confirmed that the school time parking remained an issue. A resident confirmed that the School were actively reminding parents to park considerately. The road sweeper was considered urgent to ensure the leaves and detritus did not block the drains.

Cllr Smyth offered her apologies at not being able to assist at the fireworks evening. She thanked everyone involved with the organisation of the event, and the Clerk for the considerable work behind the scenes, in making the event such a success. The roads at Sarre had been swept, however, the speeding issues remained a concern, particularly at the roundabout.

Cllr Ageros wanted to make residents aware that a petition had been submitted to Parliament requesting a public enquiry due to evidence that there had been a significant increase in heart attacks following the covid vaccination programme. This had been rejected by Government, however, it was noted that it supported the necessity for defibrillator accessibility and training.

Cllr Radclyffe reported he had litter picked in Sarre. The drains still required cleaning in preparation for the winter months. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted KCC and requested the grit bins to be re-filled. The Clerk was asked to order two new starter cables for the Christmas tree lights.

80/22-23 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Reece Pugh was unable to attend the meeting, however, he submitted the following report:

Investment Zones - TDC has submitted 3 sites that we hope will be designated as investment zones by DHLUC: Port of Ramsgate, Dreamland, and Manston Airport and wider area (which includes China Gateway and business parks around the airport). The investment zones may lead to a reduction in business rates to encourage more businesses to set up in the district and we will wait to see if we have been successful for any of these sites. It's our understanding that the investment zones are not an excuse to build more housing.

Manston Detention Centre - Sir Roger Gale MP has been dealing with this directly and the issues of overcrowding should reduce over the coming days.

Bell Meadow - I know that the Parish Council were keen some time ago to potentially take ownership of Bell Meadow and I am happy to start up this conversation with the property team at TDC again to see if we can come to an agreement. Please let me know if you would like me to do this.

Following discussion, it was agreed to ask Cllr Pugh to progress with the transfer. Further information regarding potential costs and legal fees would be requested.

81/22-23 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Derek Crow-Brown advised that soaring inflation and increasing demand pressures are affecting KCC's delivery, from home care to road maintenance, waste disposal to home to school transport. Increased energy and fuel costs are hitting frontline services, from staff travelling to provide domiciliary care to increased energy prices in social care settings.

Around £1.3billion of KCC's annual budget is subject to inflationary pressures. KCC is seeing the same level of increase on our costs as residents, and we are currently experiencing £70m of unbudgeted inflationary and demand-led pressures this year alone. KCC capital programme is also severely impacted with materials and building costs rocketing by over 30% and the increasing interest rates impacting on any required borrowing.

KCC constantly strive to make the most efficient use of taxpayers' money to provide the services our residents need most and, since 2010, we have achieved savings in excess of £820 million as we responded to cuts in government funding, coupled with an increase in demand and complexity for many of our services.

However, presenting a balanced budget is getting harder every year and tough calls are inevitable now.

Cllr Linda Wright explained the position of the County with regard to unaccompanied immigrant children. Services were at breaking point, therefore, unaccompanied children under 18yrs were being transferred to other Counties for their care. Unpaid social care fees which have accumulated following the death of a person in care, have been considered by KCC who approved the decision to waive the debt.

82/22-23 PCSO/COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

No report submitted by the PCSO.

Community Warden Alison Ring was not in attendance, however, she reported she had begun to get to know some of the residents by attending groups in the Village. If the Parish Council, or anybody, is concerned about someone in the village struggling to cope, they are encouraged to let Alison know and she will be happy to contact them.

83/22-23 BELL MEADOW

Nothing further to add from previous discussions. Volunteers were welcomed to join a working party to promote the use of the facilities.

84/22-23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) F/TH/22/1371 - Thanet Earth, Barrow Man Road, Birchington

Erection of single storey building for storage of box trays

No objections. Vote unanimous.

F/TH/22/1400 - Gooseberry Farm, Down Barton Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Change of use of existing barn to two storey 2 bedroom holiday let

Following discussion, concern was raised that the units were not mobile, environmental issues and the required details of the cess pit were absent. Vote 5 object, 1 abstain, 1 support
Objections would be noted.

b) No decisions to report.

85/22-23 FINANCE

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

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

b) The Clerk presented the monthly payment schedules for September and October which included the following invoices:

AIG - Insurance	£2,149.39
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,109.85
E. Harvey-Burgess - Website Admin salary	£98.70
J. Read - Handyman's salary & expenses	£42.60
N. Sangster - Handyman's salary & expenses	£394.61
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£191.20
CS Heating - Boilerfault BMP	£184.00
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£247.97
T. Oliver - Handyman's salary & expenses	£62.80
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£63.60
EDF - Gas BMP	£136.91
EDF - Electricity BMP	£196.36
Country Mowers - Service Cadet mower	£676.44
Lloyds Bank CC	£186.81
J. Perfect - Repayment for fuel	£70.00
TDC - Fireworks event fee	£75.00
TDC - Land hire fireworks event fee	£301.00

Receipts:

T. Feekings - BMP Private Hire	£60.75
Cemetery fee - GOR Plot18	£105.00
D. Kirby - BMP Hire: Coffee Morning	£26.00

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

(Proposed: Cllr Lawrance, Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe)

c) The Clerk presented the budget which had been circulated to the Councillors for consideration. It was noted that an overspend on street furniture had occurred. This was due to the purchase of the new bus shelter on A28. However, a grant of £4000 had been received to offset part of this expenditure. No further comments were made.

RESOLVED: To approve the quarterly budget report. Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe.

86/22-23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Speeding traffic in the villages had been noted. Although the road layout acted as traffic calming measures in Manor Road and were effective to a degree, they were not ideal. The width of the pavement was highlighted as an issue, and confirmed this would be addressed in due course by KCC.
- Tributes were paid to the Cinque Ports Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Boyce, following his death aged 79.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:55pm.