



## St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm In The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

**Present:** Cllrs D. Divers, L. Ageros, D. Tweedale, M. Lawrance, G. Pugh, E. Dore, M. Fentiman, S. Smyth, A. Andrews  
**Also, Present:** KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, KCC Cllr Linda Wright and Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 0 members of public.

#### 94/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from District Councillor Abi Smith and PC Andy Howe.

#### 95/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

#### 96/24-25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024. These were proposed by Cllr Tweedale, seconded by Cllr Lawrance, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 97/24-25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers expressed his thanks to Peter Radclyffe for organising the lights and installation of the Christmas trees. The Clerk and Chair had attended the Parish Council Forum at TDC which focused primarily on the potential devolution of Unitary Authorities, consultation on the amendments to ward boundaries and polling stations. Cllr Divers congratulated the Clerk on her recent qualification attainment.

#### 98/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised she had received much interest regarding the cleaner vacancy for the Pavilion, however, the hours were not suitable for many of the applicants. The vacancy was discussed further, and it was agreed that a period of cleaning only on a Sunday afternoon would be trialed for a month. The football clubs would be contacted and advised that they would be expected to sweep up following a match, and leave the premises in an adequate state. The Clerk had met online with the representative from the Football Association, regarding the grant funding for pitch maintenance, however, the grant portal was not functioning, therefore, another meeting would be arranged in due course. The plans for the double yellow lines in the Village had been received from KCC and circulated to members. The Clerk would meet with the Community Engagement Officer in January to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan. A representative to collaborate with Acol and Monkton in producing a Community Resilience Plan was welcomed. Cllr Fentiman volunteered to meet and discuss the requirements further.

#### 99/24-25 COUNCILLORS REPORT

**Cllr Fentiman** advised she had been working on a proposal for the Pavilion which had been circulated and would be discussed further under item 103.

**Cllr Pugh** expressed concern regarding the overgrown hedge at Manor Road, which was causing an obstruction on the highway. It was advised he should approach the owners of the hedge in the first instance to request the hedge was trimmed back, and if no satisfactory response was received, the matter could be reported to KCC for action.

**Cllr Tweedale** would be continuing to follow up the traffic safety concerns at the A28 with PC Howe. It was noted that the TDC waste collection vehicle had driven around the grassed area of the Bell Meadow which had caused damage to the grass. The issue would be raised with Matt Elmer.

**Cllr Lawrance** suggested a rota was put together to lock/open the gates at Bell Meadow. It was agreed that a local resident would be approached to enquire of his assistance with the daily opening/closing.

**Cllr Smyth** expressed her disappointment with the village Christmas tree and suggested a potted tree was considered for the next year. Clarification was sought on the remit of the Parish Council when discussing matters relating to private land ownership.

**Cllr Dore** had contacted the footpaths officer to raise concern with regard to the public right of way at Crumps Farm. A fence had been installed which obstructed the footpath. A site visit had been requested, Cllr Dore would continue to monitor the situation.

**Cllr Ageros** noted the significant planning application at Birchington had been approved, and would likely have a subsequently detrimental effect on neighbouring Parishes.

#### **100/24-25 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

No District Councillors present.

#### **101/24-25 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**Cllr Crow-Brown** reported as follows:

Government plans to revolutionise the council structure in Kent have been met with "pragmatic realism" by the county's 14 local authority leaders.

The leaders of the Kent authorities met in Ashford yesterday afternoon to discuss the English Devolution White Paper, unveiled by Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, on Monday. It represents the biggest change to local government in half a century. The mayoral system would be similar to that already in place under Labour's Andy Burnham in Greater Manchester.

Ultimately, the decision on the future direction, under the options set out by the government, will be down to Kent County Council leader, Cllr Roger Gough, and Medway Council leader, Cllr Vince Maple.

The four new authorities would be split down into populations of roughly 500,000. It remains to be seen how this would be shaped. As a result, the expected KCC elections planned for next year could be cancelled. More will be known in the New Year. There is very little detailed how the changes will affect parish councils.

I wish you all a merry Christmas.

**Cllr Linda Wright** advised she had attended the Coundary committee advisory group meeting and would circulate the presentation for information. She had also attended the Climate CAG meeting which noted the approval of the Birchington planning development.

The designated travellers encampment site at Shottendane Road, Margate was noted.

Cllr Wright distributed 20mph wheelie bin stickers which would be made available to residents.

#### **102/24-25 KENT POLICE REPORT**

PC Howe was unable to attend, however, he submitted the following report which had been circulated to members:

Crime statistic for Nov 2024.

As you will see there is nothing that stands out to be concerning but this period is historically a low crime level spell for Policing and historically, we should expect increases across the Christmas period.

We are entering a phase where acquisitive crime is likely to rise and as such, I would ask that you spread the word to be extra vigilant regarding home security and vehicle security.

A few tips are:

- Never leave valuables on show in your vehicle, or through windows in dwellings.
- Ensure that if you have keyless entry/start vehicles, you keep your key fob inside a Faraday pouch to prevent cloning.
- When shopping in busy towns/shopping centres, strap your handbags across your body and keep them closed and don't have mobile phones hanging out of pockets.
- Avoid alcohol when driving, Kent Police will be running an operation for drink drivers, and I have highlighted numerous village locations where this may occur.
- If you are intending to purchase an e scooter for yourselves or a child, remember they are still not legal unless used on private land, Kent Police are likely to seize them, and they will subsequently be crushed.

With regard to St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre:

There were 22 calls to the area across the month of which most were either traffic related or domesticated. We did have a couple of welfare concerns but overall there was nothing for the public to be alerted to. We continue to see low levels of poaching in the area with no calls during this period.

I have had some very good feedback from residents across the villages and Farms with regard to the visibility of Policing and this is mostly due to me having a greater access to the Police Ford Ranger allowing me to access farm tracks and illuminate the surrounding areas with its lighting

Of interest:

You may be aware of a Cannabis Factory that was closed down on Tothill Street Minster in November. Kent Police conducted a warrant (which I was present on) and located a large number of cannabis plants and one male suspect. The Person was arrested and charged with numerous offences relating to the cultivation and sale of a Class B drug. We are very grateful for the assistance of local residents over this matter.

The location was being rented and there is no suspicion that the owner was aware of how it was being used. This is a great example of where the Public and Police work together. If residents suspect criminal activity is occurring in the area, they can either report this on the Kent Police Web Site, report through Crimestoppers or contact me directly.

Over the next Month:  
I will be conducting normal patrols but as you can imagine, I will be asked to assist with some seasonal Police operations such as New Years Eve and Westwood Cross shoplifting tasks.

### 103/24-25 BELL MEADOW REPORT

Cllr Divers advised that major issues with the drainage system at the Pavilion had been experienced. Quotes were being obtained to clear the debris, roots and descaling of the pipes.

Cllr Fentiman circulated a proposal to enhance a safe and inclusive environment for community and sport recreation at the Pavilion. The proposal was welcomed, and thanks expressed to Cllr Fentiman for her contribution. It was discussed at length, and agreed that Cllr Fentiman should progress with forming a Committee to be responsible for the facility. The Clerk would meet with Cllr Fentiman in the New Year to discuss the proposal, suggestions and objectives of the Committee further.

### 104/24-25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

#### a) TPO/TH/24/1333 - 1 The Old Coach House , Sarre Court, Sarre

TH/TPO/8(1996)T1 - T3 - To pollard Willow tree back to sound wood 45 cms past previous pollard points  
*Application noted, agreed to defer to Tree Officer, no objections raised.*

- b) F/TH/24/0998 – Permission Granted  
F/TH/22/0974 – Permission Granted  
F/TH/24/1005 – Permission Granted

### 105/24-25 FINANCE

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for November. (Proposed: Cllr Dore, seconded Cllr Fentiman).**

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

DVLA - Van Tax (Direct Debit)	£335.00
EDF - Electric BMP	£60.58
Staff salaries & expenses	£2850.72
HMRC - PAYE	£323.03
SNS - Domain Hosting	£50.52
Nest DD - Clerk's pension	£70.25
Viking Fireworks	£2,400.00
Lloyds Bank DD - Credit Card	£551.68
Hugofox - Website domain hosting	£11.99
D. Divers - Repayment - Carpet Cleaner BMP	£63.48
EDF - Gas BMP	£122.62
Kompan - Cradle Swing seat	£88.50
RBL - poppy wreath	£57.00
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£6.00

#### Receipts:

BMP - Pitch Hire - Holmans	£60.00
BMP - Pitch Hire - Frames	£60.00
BMP - Pitch Hire - Holmans	£60.00
BMP - Scott Steven	£60.00

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

### 106/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- No members of public present.

**The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:35pm.**