



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



### Draft Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom, on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.30pm.

**Present: Councillors G. Bryant (Chairman), L. Ageros, L. Fallon, D. Divers, G. Goy**

**Also, Present: Sara Archer – Clerk, District Cllrs R. Pugh & T. Roper plus 1 member of the public.**

At the beginning of the meeting the Chairman made the sad announcement that fellow Councillor, Ticia Cheniston died 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Ticia was a challenging individual who was passionate about animals and the environment. She often wrote to the Chair expressing her views. Cllr Bryant recalled Ticia telling him that her parents brought her to St Nicholas as a child and she had always liked the village since then. She was certainly a well-known village character and very loyal to those that she could see were contributing positively to our community. Details of the funeral are to be confirmed and it is believed that her death was COVID-19 related.

A minutes silence was held for reflection and respect.

#### **98/20-21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Radclyffe who was unable to connect to the meeting, District Cllr Hart and KCC Cllr Hurst.

#### **99/20-21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

#### **100/20-21 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held via zoom on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**

**These were proposed by Cllr Fallon, seconded by Cllr Divers, all present agreed and therefore the minutes would be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

#### **101/20-21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Bryant read his report as follows:

I can report that the four new planters for the village have been ordered. One for Sarre has not yet been ordered as I looked at the current planter under the village sign and there seems to be no reason to replace it now. The St Nicholas potato boxes are coming to the end of their useful life but the Sarre box still has plenty of life in it. We should look at this again when it is needed. The aerial runner in the playground has been ordered and a deposit has been authorised for payment.

I chaired my first and (hopefully) last Pavilion sub-committee meeting the other week and would like to thank the volunteers that have agreed to push forward as when we are able to re-open it. I am conscious that this group is newly formed and would like to see it succeed without too much intervention. I would however remind all that the pavilion was built as a sports facility and we must remember that this is the main source of income. As part of this heritage, I picked up the framed football shirt last week and this will be put on the bar wall by the handymen. I hope that you will all agree that it is quite impressive.

My thanks to Peter and other residents for erecting the Christmas trees. I must be honest and say that the trees do not appear to be as good as previous years and perhaps we need to look at another supplier in the future. I am aware of some concerns over the lighting of the Sarre tree and we will need to revisit this as we go forward.

In the new year we will be looking at the 2021/22 budget, if any Councillor has any requests, will they please put them in writing to Sara so that they can be considered. For this budget, I will, once again, be coming from the perspective of having a zero increase in household precept. This will be the fourth year running. This is possible through the number of new houses bringing in extra revenue and allowing us to function. I am also aware that household incomes have been reduced this year and therefore it seems the right thing to keep the Parish Precept as low as we possibly can. Through prudent housekeeping this Parish Council has managed to achieve much during this difficult period, including the following:

- New parking lines in The Pavilion car park
- Cemetery tree clearing and generally much improved

- New memorial benches opposite the church
- Donation to Thanet Community Fund
- Successful fight against The Traveller's encampment
- New gates in Sarre

I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to the future of The Parish Council as we consider further improvements in 2021 when we should have:

- A new aerial flyer in The Bell Meadow play area
- New long-lasting planters around the village
- Still negotiating land purchase in Sarre
- Signage on gates in Sarre
- New lighting in Bell Meadow
- Transfer of the freehold of Bell Meadow from TDC to The Parish Council.

And an end to Covid-19 restrictions!

### **102/20-21 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised she had contacted the representative for the Church Commission regarding the transfer of the flagpole however there was no further update.

The Clerk had been liaising with Colin Bridge, the Ramblers' Footpaths Officer for North Thanet, regarding the public footpaths in the Parish, particularly TE5B. Mr Bridge had kindly agreed to assist the Parish Council with the clearance and re-opening of the footpath and is also the Countryside Access Warden for KCC. The Chair advised he had invited Mr Bridge to speak at a meeting in the new year to discuss the potential progress that can be made.

The Clerk reported she had finally managed to speak with Kompan regarding the damaged ariel runway equipment. The engineer would be attending the site on 15<sup>th</sup> December to replace the rubber bumper, carriage and handle and would be meeting with the handyman.

NALC have launched a new guide on Community Businesses, further information is available on their website.

KCC have issued a cold weather warning, level 2 alert in the South East until 10<sup>th</sup> December. More information and advice can be found on their website including travel and traffic alerts.

The deadline for submission of comments on the KCC Minerals and Waste Consultation has been extended until 29<sup>th</sup> January.

The Clerk advised that an unexpected issue had arisen with the power supply for the Christmas Tree lights at Sarre. A meeting had been arranged with an electrician and it is hoped the problem would be resolved promptly. Suggestions for alternative decorations were discussed, the Clerk would make enquiries to ensure the tree is decorated.

### **103/20-21 COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Ageros advised that he had made enquiries for quotes for the memorial bench which would be available at the next meeting.

### **104/20-21 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Cllr Roper reminded everyone to be vigilant as the number of cases of covid in this area remained high. The budget for TDC was now balanced. The changes in the planning system had been discussed in a TDC briefing which were available on the website. A report had been carried out in Thanet regarding fuel poverty, information on grants available from Home Energy was also on the TDC website.

The DCO for Manston Airport has been stopped and the implications of this action was awaited. Operation Brock at the Airport was being prepared. TDC were not in support of the scheme due to the disruption to the area. Spitfire Way westbound will be closed for the movement of the lorries. Air pollution, Covid-19 and increase in traffic were all concerns.

Cllr Pugh confirmed he had been in touch with the Parish council regarding the eco-bus shelter bee friendly roof for the damaged bus shelter on the A28 and would pass on the details in due course. It is hoped Cllr Hurst will be in a position to assist with funding for the project.

Cllr Pugh had spoken to the Assistant Director with regards to the transfer of Bell Meadow to the Parish Council, no further update was available, however, he would continue to work on this on behalf of the PC.

The discontinuation of Manston Airport DCO was disappointing, however, the reasons for needing the airport would be resubmitted. It was confirmed the Airport site being used for Operation Brock was temporary and everything would be removed from site by the end of June 2021.

### **105/20-21 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Liz Hurst was not in attendance; however, a report had been made available which the Clerk read as follows:

Kent had been allocated £4.5 million for the winter emergency fund grant to help those in need and the homeless with food vouchers for eligible low income families this Christmas. Anyone in need is advised to contact 03000419292, [www.kent.gov.uk/kenttogether](http://www.kent.gov.uk/kenttogether) which is a service available 24/7.

The winter plan is in place to help safeguard elderly and vulnerable people. 'Knock & Check' is a KCC initiative to check on neighbours whilst keeping a safe distance.

Kent is working closely with the NHS and contacting vulnerable people daily and assisting with care homes needs.

KARA, video phones is an initiative to help vulnerable people keep in touch with family, carers, GPs etc. Over 90000 minutes of calls have been used since it was set up. 40 phones a week have been distributed throughout Kent so far.

KCC Plan Bee – Inspire and engage Kent residents in the plight of pollinators.

Unfortunately, we are having to adhere to Covid-19 restrictions in Tier 3. A shop in Birchington had been subject to an attack with shelves being swiped and threatening behaviour. This is completely unacceptable and the wearing of face masks or shields is so important. Concern was raised at a meeting of the potential for major issues following the relaxing of restrictions for the Christmas period, plans to mitigate the issues were being explored as much as possible.

Kent is working hard to ensure smooth running of Operation Brock. Manston will be a last resort but an agreement is in place for short term use.

#### **106/20-21 BELL MEADOW PAVILION COMMITTEE**

Cllr Bryant chaired the inaugural meeting of the Bell Meadow Pavilion Committee. Cllr Ageros, the Parish Council representative was in attendance and confirmed the Chair, Sue Irving was elected and the Secretary, Tina Raven had also been approved.

Seven Committee members had been appointed at the meeting. Suggestions for events had been discussed for both when the Pavilion re-opens and also the use of the Bell Meadow. A boot fair safari was being explored, along with an event for Pancake Day. Another meeting would be organised in due course.

The minutes for this meeting had been circulated by the Clerk to the Committee members. Cllr Bryant, as Chair for the first meeting, had suggested an amendment to the minutes to make it clear that he referred to The Wantsum Sports & Community Association running some highly successful Boot Fairs between 1994-2010, rather than it's success overall because he felt the last couple of years had been mismanaged by the WSCA. This would be forwarded to the Committee for their approval at their next meeting.

#### **107/20-21 MANOR ROAD PAVEMENT**

Concern had been raised by a resident regarding the narrowing of Manor Road and the installation of the dropped kerb on the footpath at the bend of the road. Cllr Bryant had made enquiries with regard to the plans with KCC who advised that the dropped kerb was to service the drainage soakaway at this location and a wooden bollard had been installed to prevent drivers from mounting the footpath. Cllr Pugh agreed to visit the site and express the significant concerns of the residents and Parish Council to KCC.

#### **108/20-21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) Council considered the following applications:

**F/TH/20/1475 - Land North Side Of, Down Barton Road, BIRCHINGTON, Kent**

Erection of 1No single storey 3 bedroom dwelling

*Objection to the application on the grounds of overdevelopment in this area, inadequate road structure, access concerns and increase in traffic. Previous application had also been refused by TDC.*

**FH/TH/20/1278 - 5 St Nicholas Lodge, Manor Road, St Nicholas At Wade**

Erection of a single storey outbuilding to rear of dwelling

*No objections raised.*

b) F/TH/20/1186 – Permission Granted.

#### **109/20-21 BUS SHELTER – A28 CANTERBURY ROAD**

Cllr Fallon advised that enquiries had been made regarding a potential repair to the roof of the bus shelter. Cllr Pugh would forward the details regarding the eco bee-friendly roof for further investigation. Cllr Ageros warned of the potential toxicity of 5G and LED lighting to bees.

#### **110/20-21 FINANCE**

(a) The Clerk presented the monthly bank reconciliation between the cash book and bank accounts. This had been sent to Cllr Radclyffe for inspection prior to the meeting.

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

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

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| M. Savage (Handyman's salary & expenses)     | 170.13 |
| S. Archer (Clerk's salary & expenses)        | 757.21 |
| J. Read (Asst. Handyman's salary & expenses) | 140.48 |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| George Bryant (Cleaner's salary)                 | 107.59 |
| N. Sangster (Asst. Hnadyman's salary & expenses) | 76.83  |
| Lloyds Bank (Credit Card)                        | 179.16 |
| M. Feekings (Website Admin)                      | 138.91 |
| Safelincs Ltd (Defib pads)                       | 238.79 |

**Receipts:**

Cemetery fees 100.00

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

**111/20-21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- The progress on the signage for the Bell Meadow Pavilion was queried. Cllr Bryant advised the quotes would be obtained via the Parish Council in due course.
- It was confirmed the minutes of the recent Bell Meadow Committee Meeting and any subsequent amendment made would be considered and approved by the Committee at their next meeting.

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