



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Approved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas-at-Wade on Tuesday 10th December 2019 at 7.20pm.

Present: Councillors G. Bryant (Chairman), L. Ageros, G. North, P. Radclyffe, L. Fallon, D. Divers

Also, Present: Sara Archer – Clerk, District Cllr T. Roper plus 7 members of the public.

111/19-20 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public will be excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during the period 7:20pm – 7:30pm.

112/19-20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Cheniston, KCC Cllr Liz Hurst, District Cllr David Hart, PCSO Forsyth & Community Warden Tony Gander.

113/19-20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

114/19-20 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2019 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 23rd November 2019. These were proposed by Cllr Radclyffe, seconded by Cllr Divers, all present agreed and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

115/19-20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bryant read his report as follows:

As we approach the Christmas season, I am beginning to feel a bit like Santa Claus with many offerings this evening. First, I would like to thank all the Councillors that have distributed Christmas cards to all the houses in both villages. I would also like to thank the residents that erected and dressed the Christmas trees in both villages.

You may recall that back in September, I stated that St Nicholas at Wade had been placed fifth in a national coastal walk feature in The Times. The walk began and finished at The Bell Inn. In honour of this, we agreed to have the article framed and I now have pleasure in presenting Sarah, the new landlady of The Bell with a copy. The other copy will be placed on the wall, here, in the pavilion.

I recently visited some of the farmers in our village to discuss the contribution that the litter squad make to our village. James Lamont from Crumps Farm, St Nicholas Court Farm and one other, who have all contributed to a small fund to allow the litter squad to have refreshments from The Sun Inn in 2020. I know that Wendy has very kindly given us sustenance free of charge over the last two years but it is not fair to continue to burden her with this and therefore I would like to present a cheque for £120 to help with this with the compliments of the farmers.

As you know, a public meeting was held in The Village Hall on Saturday, 23rd November to gauge opinion on the proposed temporary travellers site identified for Potten Street Road. Sixty-two members of the public turned out and there was clearly a strong feeling against this proposal. It was most disappointing that, although invited, none of the district or county councillors appeared. The proposal has been postponed (not cancelled) whilst public consultation takes place. Because of the emotive topic of this meeting, I felt it sensible to ask Kent Police to have an officer in attendance. This measure ensured that the meeting did not become over-heated and was conducted in an orderly fashion. My thanks to Kent Police for providing this protection.

The outcome of the meeting was that residents were encouraged to write to their MP, District and County Councillors to campaign against the proposed site. Email addresses have been put on the Parish Council website to aid this. The second measure agreed was a petition to The Leader of Thanet District Council laying out the reasons for rejecting this proposal. The petition is available to sign in The Post Office, The Bell Inn and The Sun Inn.

I was approached last weekend by a resident who wanted over-hanging branches removed from trees in Bell Meadow. These were removed from the gardens in The Finches by Martin, James and me over a three-day period. Another resident asked me

about the parking of cars by contractors in Manor Road. I approached the site manager at Heritage Fields who told me that he had already asked contractors to use the car park that they have now provided in phase 3 of the development. Rather despairingly, he asked me to write to the Construction Director. Through a contact, I was able to get the email address of Paul Ley, The Operations Director. His reply was as follows (read email).

My final present for the evening is that Kent Highways have agreed that we can have bollards placed in The Oaks to stop pavement parking and that we can have the memorial garden opposite the church covered to provide a more even surface. Both matters have a financial consequence and will be discussed under the finance section.

116/19-20 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the main activities carried out by the Handymen since the last meeting which included grounds maintenance at Bell Meadow, St Johns Green, Manor Road, the cemetery and allotments.

An email had been received from a resident regarding an incident at the fireworks event which had been responded to. The resignation of the website administrator had been acknowledged. The vacancy would be advertised in due course.

It was noted that the website was required to comply to the new accessibility legislation which would take effect in September 2020. Councillors were advised this would have budget implications and various options would be explored with regard to hosting the site.

117/19-20 VILLAGE REPORTS.

Councillor Radclyffe reported that he had assisted with the erection of the Christmas trees in the villages and requested new lights were purchased for the tree at Sarre. Cllr Radclyffe was asked to obtain three quotes for the electrical power supply to be installed in order for the new lights to function.

The drain at Ostlers Lane was clogged and needed clearing by KCC.

Cllr Radclyffe had been approached regarding the bin at the bus stop which appeared to obstruct buggy's. Sonya Smyth had been working on the issues of the bins and would update later in the meeting.

The road sweeper was requested to clear the remainder of the fallen leaves and prevent them filling the drains.

Councillor Ageros reported that the bin had been replaced on the forecourt at Sarre and thanked Sonya Smyth for organizing this.

Cllr Ageros had attended the recent KALC AGM which discussed issues surrounding the Travellers, Planning and the review of the Electoral process.

Sonya Smyth was invited to update the members regarding the progress with the drainage situation, village gates and bins in Sarre and submitted a report which has been amended for the minutes as follows, full report available upon request:

SARRE DRAINS:

Working with a local landowner and Kent County Council, we have been trying to solve the flash flooding and drainage problems in the village of Sarre.

The roadside ditches have been cleared and excavated down to the Sarre Penn. Village drains have been cleared and gullies blown clean. And, recently a through CCTV investigation of the system was completed, determining that only minor repairs are needed. With the main ditch cleared and regular cleaning of the drains, we hope this problem has been solved. Many thanks to Ian Day and his team at KCC.

VILLAGE LITTER BINS:

Regarding the removal of a number of litter and dog bins in the two villages, back in April this year. No progress had been made, therefore the newly elected Cabinet member was contacted who later did a site visit.

In Sarre, we managed to get our forecourt litter bin returned and had our 'huge' bin relocated to beside the bus stop, where two bins had been removed. Residents and dog walkers of the village have given positive feedback.

St. Nicholas at Wade, in Bell Meadow, I got the Manor Road end of footpath bin reinstated. They wouldn't put one up in the other corner because of the bin on the side of the shelter. I asked for a larger and conservation style litter bin for the forecourt of the village shop, which was done. And, lastly the huge bin in Bell Meadow, was causing the most problems. During the summer it had a gut-wrenching smell which the neighbouring residents and passer-by's had to endure, because the huge bins did not have 'smart sensors' as promised. Rather it (and the one in Sarre) would be full and over-flowing for days on end. We agreed to move the said huge bin to beside the tennis court, thereby in a central position and away from any vulnerable elderly residents' properties and the car park. The Parish Council subsequently decided against the initial agreed location and instructed the TDC team to relocate the bin a couple of meters opposite its original location. Unfortunately, this location does not remedy the problems. Thanks to the TDC staff members for their work.

SARRE VILLAGE TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT:

After a number of councillors working on this problem, since December 2016. Earlier this year, we were informed by Kent County Council that the village did not have any appropriate sites for a speed sign. Since, then I have been liaising with Kent County Council and researching other traffic calming strategies. I have kept the Parish Council up to date and am presently completing a HIP (Highway Improvement Plan). I presented some past financial facts, the Chair asked for a traffic survey and public consultation. I have reassured the PC that such requirements will be fulfilled and should be done for all Parish Council projects forthwith. I reminded the PC that KCC had previously relayed a report to us, that such signage was not viable.

Again, thank you to the officers concerned for their information, views and patience.

Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Sonya Smyth (Chairperson)

R.O.S.S.A. Residents of St. Nicholas at Wade & Sarre Association

Can be contacted regarding any of these issues by email: rossact7@outlook.com

Cllr Bryant confirmed he had met with TDC regarding the bins at Bell Meadow.

118/19-20 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Roper confirmed TDC had managed to offset a shortfall of £1.5 million to balance this years budget, further cuts were inevitable.

The costs for the proposed Parkway Station had trebled and therefore KCC had made the decision to carry out a further public consultation.

Planning had been refused for the Manston Raceway, however, the applicants may appeal the decision.

Cllr Roper offered his apologies for his non-attendance at the recent extraordinary meeting to discuss the proposed travellers site at Potten Street. He explained that the recommendation from the Overview & Scrutiny panel was to take the proposal to public consultation. The provision of a site for the Travelling community was a legal obligation. The three sites would be used on a rotational basis and would have water, waste removal and toilets on site.

Residents would be encouraged to submit their comments on the proposal appropriately in due course.

119/19-20 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Liz Hurst offered her apologies, no report was available.

120/19-20 KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN & KENT POLICE PCSO's REPORT

PCSO Forsyth offered her apologies and no report was available.

Community Warden Tony Gander offered his apologies and no report was available.

121/19-20 PAVILION SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr Graham North advised it was anticipated that the quiz would be well attended. Enquiries were being made with regard to the provision of disable facilities at the Pavilion. Advice from KALC had been received and determined that adequate facilities should be provided, however, the interpretation of the legislation was unclear. Cllr Bryant would research the matter further.

122/19-20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Council considered the following applications:

F/TH/19/1496 – 9 Chantry Park, Sarre, BIRCHINGTON, Kent

Change of Use of single storey garage to 1No 3 bed dwelling together with the erection of a single storey side and rear extension and 2No dormer windows to side elevation

- *No objections raised.*

L/TH/19/1538 - Bell Inn, The Street, St Nicholas At Wade, BIRCHINGTON

Application for Listed Building Consent for internal alteration to include widening of the bar servery.

- *No objections raised.*

TCA/TH/19/1663 - 2 Court Cottages, Ramsgate Road, Sarre, Birchington

1No Holm Oak - Fell

- *Refer to Tree Officer at TDC.*

b) None received.

123/19-20 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 Radclyffe Seconded: Cllr Fallon).

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

M. Savage (Handyman's salary & expenses)	279.85
S. Archer (Clerk's salary & expenses)	762.70

J.Read (Asst Handyman's salary & expenses)	264.05
G. Bryant (Bell Meadow Cleaner)	107.59
M. Feekings (Website Admin)	76.06
HMRC (Employee PAYE)	410.40
Ewart Clough (Christmas Trees)	396.00
EDF (Electricity BMP)	156.28
G. Bryant (Cllr Allowance)	75.00
Lloyds Bank (Credit card fee)	3.00
R. Wade (Clerk cover)	50.00
David Ogilvie (Memorial Planters)	2997.60
M. Hollman (Christmas Cards)	65.00
A. Edwards (Flowers for planters)	141.22
S. Searle (Flowers for planters)	49.96
Business Stream (Water at Pavilion)	42.35
Greenbarnes (Noticeboard – Potten St)	1560.01

Receipts:

BMP Hire fee	340.64
BMP Hire fee/bar takings	141.00
Herne Bay Harriers	120.00
Van Orsouw	80.00
Enve Canine	125.00
SNCF Litter Pick donation	40.00

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

(c) The proposal to install fencing along the front of the allotments, tidy the chicken wire between each plot and install boarding along the paths to enable the handymen to maintain the pathways easier was discussed. It was agreed that a fence with total height of 3ft max. should be installed.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of fencing for the allotments, quotes to be obtained. (Proposed: Cllr Fallon, Seconded: Cllr Ageros). A vote was taken, and the motion was carried (4 in favour, 2 abstention)

(d) Three quotes were circulated for the playground safety sign to be installed on the gate of the play area. Cllr North recommended Henwood Signs to be used.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of the safety signs from Henwood Signs - £265 + VAT. (Proposed: Cllr Bryant, Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe). A vote was taken, and the motion was carried (4 in favour, 2 against)

(e) Cllr Bryant presented the proposal to resurface the memorial garden courtyard. KCC had given permission for the area to be resurfaced and made more level for a cost of £500.

RESOLVED: To approve the quote from KCC to resurface the memorial garden courtyard, £500. (Proposed: Cllr Fallon, Seconded: Cllr North). A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

(f) Cllr Bryant presented the proposal to install bollards on the footpath at The Oaks. Paul Valek, KCC Highways, supported the request to assist with the prevention of vehicles parking inappropriately and damaging the footpath. Eight bollards were recommended, each costing £100.

RESOLVED: To approve the installation of eight bollards at The Oaks, £800. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr North). A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

124/19-20 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Clerk advised two options for the progression of the Bell Meadow Committee had been circulated to Councillors for consideration. One option was to continue to progress with the Bell Meadow Community Partnership, a community led initiative overviewed by the Parish Council but registered as a Community Led Committee. The second, to progress as a sub-committee of the Parish Council, led by the Parish Council with full responsibility for events, finance and maintenance. The options would be discussed further at the next meeting and a decision to be made on the preferred option.

125/19-20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- It was noted that Bell Meadow was extremely dark in the evenings. Bollard lighting would be installed and the electrics to the floodlights investigated at the same time.

-It was suggested the new memorial planters could be rearranged when the resurfacing takes place, to make the area more aesthetically pleasing.

- It was noted some theft had taken place at the allotments, residents to be vigilant.

- The hire of the jet washer at Sarre was queried. It was felt unnecessary at this time. Cllr Bryant advised he would contact TDC to address the problem and also request the road sweeper to attend.
- It was suggested the surplus noticeboard could be offered to the Church. Cllr Bryant advised the suggestion would be considered if approached by representatives of the church.
- Extra security at Bell Meadow was discussed.

The meeting was concluded by The Chairman at 9:11pm.