



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



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

Present: Cllr L. Ageros, D. Tweedale, G. Pugh, S. Smyth, A. Andrews

Also, Present: KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith PC Andy Howe and Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 0 members of public.

Cllr Ageros chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Divers.

133/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Parish Councillors – Dave Divers (Operation), Mark Lawrance (Away), Mo Fentiman (Unwell), Eric Dore (Away)

134/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

135/24-25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 11th February 2025. These were proposed by Cllr Andrews, seconded by Cllr Pugh, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman of the meeting, as a correct record.

136/24-25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nothing specific to report, all items to be discussed during the main business of the agenda.

137/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised she had received notification from KCC that the notices regarding the double yellow lines would be posted within the next week, and once this stage had been completed, the works would be scheduled to take place.

The Clerk had been contacted by a concerned resident regarding a welfare issue. Details were passed to PC Howe accordingly who advised the matter had been dealt with.

Jane Scott – Finns, had confirmed that the planning application for the campsite had been prepared and was ready for submission to TDC. The Clerk would circulate the email to members for information.

In view of the pending resignation of the handyman, it was agreed to advertise the vacancy. The Clerk was pleased to report, that following the advertisement, an applicant had been interviewed and offered the position.

138/24-25 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Smyth reported she had cleaned the telephone/defibrillator box, and noted it was in need to repainting. The Clerk advised that this had been raised with the handyperson team and would be scheduled into their work plan.

Cllr Andrews had been approached with regard to the unmaintained footpath at Phase 3 of the Manor Road development. The street furniture was still obstructing the pathway and the uneven surface required completion. KCC were aware of the situation and Cllr Divers would continue to follow up the concerns.

Cllr Pugh noted the dog waste bag dispensers needed to be refilled. This was in hand, and residents were encouraged to use the dispensers considerably.

Cllr Tweedale advised of a missing road sign at Sandlewood Drive. This would be reported to TDC accordingly. The increase in mud and chaff being left on the roads from the tractors was of concern. This could be reported to KCC using the online portal, and requested that the roads were cleaned as soon as possible.

Concern had been raised with regard to the removal of ancient hedgerow along A299, near Frost Farm.

Cllr Tweedale and Cllr Lawrance had approached a resident regarding the unattended burning of potentially toxic materials at Down Barton Road. Any future incidents would be reported to the emergency services for action.

Cllr Ageros had received a complaint regarding drifting at the mini-roundabout at Sarre. The incident had been reported, however, the offenders had left the area by the time the Police attended. Residents are advised to report incidents of this nature as soon as possible in order for the Police to take immediate action.

139/24-25 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith offered her assistance with any TDC related issues. She advised that a Full Council meeting had been arranged for 13th March, for members to receive an update regarding the devolution and local government reorganisation.

Cllr Smith had received an invitation to the Immigration Reception Centre to hear an update on the future plans for the Centre. TDC had been shortlisted for a Local Government Award for the most improved Council. Positive changes had been witnessed since the appointment of the Interim CEO, who had agreed to remain in post until 2026.

140/24-25 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

Farming

Last week at the KCC Economic growth meeting, we had two passionate speakers from the farming community, emphasising the importance of farming for the Kent economy.. The speakers mentioned the best and most versatile farmland in Thanet. I spoke that the government-imposed figure of 17,140 dwellings up to 2031 was scandalous, given we sit on a tight peninsula with few A roads. I was recently leaflet dropping in Valley Road Lydden near Westwood Cross last week and couldn't help noticing the new housing in Westwood on the horizon. I mentioned this at the meeting that developers are offering big sums of money to build on farmland. Fortunately, some of our farmers locally are passionate about their occupation, refusing to sell.

Highways

At KCC Cabinet recently, Neil Baker, Cabinet member for Highways announced that the Pothole Blitz fund for 2025 will be £14.5million DfT can withhold money if we don't spend it, however we will.

This is an increase of about 68% from the £8.6million Pothole Blitz 2024.

As those of you who are signed up to One.Network updates, as we move into March the amount of patching and other maintenance/repair work is escalating.

Overall spend on highways assets (pavements, lights, bridges, drains, etc) is set to be more than £80million - Pothole Blitz forms just part of that.

141/24-25 KENT POLICE REPORT

PC Andy Howe reported as follows:

As you will see, we have many types of crime showing reductions over the rolling year with only two types standing out as having risen. The robbery does not concern me as it is an increase from 1 to 2 offences.

The sexual offences relate to the accosting's which I have previously briefed on resulting in the Community Protection Warning being issued to a male, and an incident at St Nicholas generating 4 crime reports and resulting in two arrests.. The more recent reports relate to stalking incidents that are not related to each other. So we are across these issues and have in the main dealt with them.

Overall, we are very pleased with crime levels in the villages.

St Nicholas At Wade and Sarre:

We have had 2 calls relating to Poaching around St Nicholas, one of these was a confirmed report of two males with dogs and a confirmed kill of a hare. Unfortunately, we failed to catch them and we have no vehicle linked to them. The second call may have been unrelated, but a white mini van was seen in the area. Please report any suspicious persons with hunting dogs (Lurcher type dogs)

We have also had reports of cars drifting near the St Nicholas roundabout, the calls made to us were 1 hour old and on attending we have not located any nuisance vehicles, I will be paying attention to the road for nuisance drivers over the next month.

Police were called to an Air B&B in Shuart Lane relating to young persons smashing bottles. This seems to have been a party arranged by school leavers that has caused a disturbance. Police attended and the party was shut down with parents attending to collect their youngsters. No arrests were required.

Collectively there were 16 calls to Police over the month with none resulting in a crime being recorded.

I will be conducting continued patrols around St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre including more speed checks along the A28.

I have posted further notices at the Potten Street Rd car park warning of Police unmarked patrols in the area, which I will be conducting over the next month.

Nine new Officers would be appointed for the Communities in due course.

142/24-25 BELL MEADOW REPORT

Cllr Fentiman was unable to attend the meeting. A meeting of the Working Group had been arranged for 17th March, 7:30pm.

143/24-25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) TPO/TH/25/0227 14 Cleven Lodge , Sarre Court, Sarre

TH/TPO/16(1978)A1 - (T1) Lime - Small stem to remove. (T2)Lime Tree - 6-8metres off the top, 2-3 metres from sides. (T3) Holm Oak - reduce to old points about 2-3 metres. (T4) Holm Oak - Remove stem going over listed wall. (T5) Sycamore - Remove 6m from top and 3m from side.

Refer to Tree Officer.

OL/TH/25/0180 - Prospect Place , Down Barton Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Outline application for the erection of 4No 2-bed terraced dwellings with all matters reserved.

Concerns raised regarding the infrastructure and single track highway. Sight lines inadequate.

Vote taken – 2 support, 1 objection, 2 abstention

Support the application in principle.

b) No results reported.

144/24-25 FINANCE

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

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

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

KCC - TRO payment - yellow lines	£3,000.00
EDF - Electric BMP	£87.29
HMRC - PAYE	£126.18
SNS - Domain Hosting	£50.52
Employee salary's & expenses	£1,464.65
Cartridge People - Cllr Dore printer inks	£34.90
Nest DD - Clerk's pension	
D. Divers - Repayment Cleaning materials	£52.54
EDF - Electric BMP	£87.29
CPRE - Subscription renewal	£60.00
Lloyds Bank DD - Credit Card	£230.95
Hugofox - website hosting fee	£11.99
EDF - Gas - BMP	£281.15
Unity Trust - Service fee	£6.00

Receipts:

E. McElwain - BMP Hire	£39.00
BMP - Pitch Hire - Holmans	£60.00
BMP - Pitch Hire - Blean	£480.00
BMP - Hire - Choir	£39.00
BMP - Hire - Band	£71.50
P. Baker – Equipment purchase	£470.00

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

145/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- No public in attendance.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:25pm.