



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Approved Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom, on Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7.30pm.

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

Also, Present: Sara Archer – Clerk, District Cllrs R. Pugh & Trevor Roper plus 2 members of the public.

24/20-21 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.

25/20-21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Fallon, Cllr Cheniston and District Cllrs David Hart & Trevor Roper.

26/20-21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bryant and Cllr Ageros both declared an interest regarding planning application F/TH/20/0573 and would not be taking part in any discussions.

27/20-21 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th June 2020. These were proposed by Cllr Radclyffe, seconded by Cllr North, all present agreed and therefore the minutes would be signed by the Chairman as a correct record when able.

28/20-21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bryant read his report as follows:

'There is so much going on this month, it's difficult to know where to begin. I will start with the negatives and move on to the positives afterwards.

It has been frustrating that The Police have had to be called in on three occasions in my knowledge (it could be more), in the last few months. One of the litter bins in Bell Meadow was moved by a resident causing some minor damage to the footpath. I was told about this by a resident who also identified the culprit. Sara produced an excellent letter that I delivered. The PCSO was also informed and made a visit. The message is that all villagers must go through the proper process for this. You will know that following February's PC meeting, a former Parish Councillor was reported for threatening behaviour. This also will not be tolerated. The third Police action took place following CCTV film of two men trying to enter cars in Bedford Way and Orchard Close. I understand that this is now under investigation.

On to more positive actions – following an email from a resident in Orchard Close, it was felt that urgent action needed to be taken to fell a dead sycamore tree that was in Bell Meadow near to the residents house. After getting three quotes, the work was given to Westgate Tree Services. Upon advice from the principle of this firm the logs and tree trunk remain in place to form 'Insect hotels'. This is good for both the environment and has educational benefits.

The play area in Bell Meadow was opened up at the beginning of this month and I am most grateful to Graham for completing the risk assessment and to Paul Manning for carrying out the deep clean required.

The gates have now gone in at Sarre and we are grateful to Kent Highways for that. More about this later. My thanks to Lisa Fallon for arranging the car park marking in Bell Meadow, if you have seen it, a great job, well done.

As we move forward, the new memorial bench will be arriving on Thursday. I hope that you like it as a lot of thought has gone into this. I have asked Lisa and David to work together on a feasibility study for having more play ground equipment in Bell Meadow and I am grateful to them for agreeing to do this. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Graham who has agreed to look into the possibility of CCTV being placed in Potten Street Road to help us reduce the litter problem in that area. I had an email from The Gardening Club a couple of weeks ago and I am rather disappointed that a number of the saplings that we were granted have died. We need to look at how these can be distributed around the villages and hope that Lee will help us by creating an awareness that these are available and can either be collected from the allotments or, possibly, we can deliver them.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody but especially our handymen that have worked continuously throughout the lockdown and have kept our villages looking good.'

29/20-21 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that permission had been sought for a memorial bench to be placed at the cemetery by the Revill family. All Councillors approved the request with the requirement that it was made secure.

Following recent training held by KALC it was confirmed that all future meetings should continue to be held via zoom.

In view of this advice, the re-opening of Bell Meadow Pavilion was discussed and Councillors agreed for it to remain closed at the moment.

The Clerk had been approached regarding the hire of the Bell Meadow for a Zumba class on a Tuesday evening 7pm. A fee of £15 per session had been suggested, all were in agreement.

Concern regarding the newly erected telegraph posts in Manor Road had been raised by a resident. It was suggested the electricity company were contacted to request further information and clarification whether the posts were a temporary structure. Concern regarding the lack of consultation would be raised with the electricity company.

30/20-21 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Pugh advised that the result of the DCO for Manston Airport had been welcomed and he was thanked for his support.

Play Areas have been gradually re-opening across the area.

TDC are now issuing fines of £400 to flytippers. 23 fines have been issued in the past two weeks. Cllr Pugh confirmed that TDC offer a green waste collection service to all residents for a yearly cost of £52 and KCC have increased the waste site visits to 4 per month which should also help to alleviate the problem.

Missed waste collections have been due to a reduced number of operatives working in order to adhere to social distancing measures, and an increase in waste being produced. Residents were encouraged to contact Cllr Pugh direct and to leave the bins out and they would be collected as soon as it is possible.

The Local Plan was adopted by Council on 9th July and would progress accordingly.

31/20-21 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Liz Hurst confirmed KCC were hoping for more funding from central government towards the unprecedented costs involved due to the coronavirus. Cllr Hurst was applying for PPE equipment such as masks, hand gel for distribution to needy organisations as required.

Complaints regarding speeding have been raised and a more visible presence for speedwatch was suggested to assist with the problem.

32/20-21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Council considered the following application:

F/TH/20/0573 - Land Rear Of Sarre House, Canterbury Road, BIRCHINGTON, Kent

Erection of a two bedroom bungalow

Concern regarding access was raised. Further information was requested from TDC. Cllr Pugh was also contact them on behalf of the PC.

b) None received.

33/20-21 CCTV PROJECT

Cllr North confirmed he had contacted the enforcement officer at TDC to enquire about CCTV cameras and the potential installation at Potten Street Road. Further information would be made available at the next meeting.

Cllr North reported he had recently conducted a risk assessment for the Play Area prior to it's re-opening and posters have been placed accordingly.

34/20-21 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 June. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, seconded Cllr Divers).

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

M. Savage (Handyman's salary & expenses)	329.18
S. Archer (Clerk's salary & expenses)	701.96
J. Read (Asst. Handyman's salary & expenses)	174.66
G. Bryant (Cleaner's salary)	90.10

M. Feelings (Website Administrator salary)	85.07
Lloyds Bank (Credit Card)	470.94
G. Bryant (Cllr Allowance & repayment)	62.96
TDC (Donation towards Covid Fund)	300.00
EDF (Electric at BM)	313.24
Chubb (Alarm service – BM)	180.49
Clerks & Councils Direct (St Johns Green lease)	50.00
Manual Credit handling charge	3.00
Service Charge	24.60

Receipts:

Cemetery fees	860.00
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RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for July (Proposed: Cllr Bryant, Seconded: Cllr North)

(c) The Asset Register 2020/21 had been reviewed and circulated. Cllr Bryant requested the handymen were contacted to clean the defibrillators. It was suggested the furniture and assets at the Pavilion should also now be included on the register. Cllr North would make an inventory for consideration for inclusion. The value of the buildings required updating, Cllr Bryant would arrange for these to be examined accordingly.

(d) Roger Casement had been approached to quote for signs for the new gates which would be brought to the next meeting.

(e) Quotes for the tree works at the Cemetery were discussed. It was proposed that Westgate Tree Services were approached to complete all tree work at the Cemetery.

RESOLVED: To instruct Westgate Tree Services to complete the work at the Cemetery as per their quote. (Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe, Seconded: Cllr Divers)

(f) The new Christmas tree lights for Sarre were discussed. It was approved to purchase the new lights and make enquiries to alter the electricity supply. Cllr Bryant had made investigations with the electricity company and would follow this up at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: To purchase the new Christmas tree lights at a cost of £220 (Proposed Cllr North, Seconded Cllr Ageros)

(g) The employment of a street cleaner had been discussed and agreed to amend the job title to Assistant Handyperson. A contract of 8 hours would be advertised at the same rate as the existing Assistant Handyman.

RESOLVED: To appoint a second Assistant Handyperson at an approximate cost of £4000 p.a. (Proposed: Cllr Bryant, Seconded: Cllr Divers)

35/20-21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- The movement of the waste bin at Bell Meadow by a resident was raised. Concern regarding how the issue was handled was raised.
- Thanks were received regarding the new gates at Sarre. Enquiries regarding the costs were made and it was suggested the trees could be trimmed to maximise visibility of them. Advice would be sought from KCC highways with regard to any further speed awareness projects.
- It was suggested the virtual meetings could be advertised more widely.
- The position of the Bell Meadow Committee was queried. The Pavilion was currently closed and consideration was being made with regard to how to progress the future of the Pavilion.
- It was requested the new Assistant Handyperson prioritised work at Sarre which had been discussed previously and agreed by the Parish Council.
- The memorial bench at Sarre required maintenance, the handyman would be approached to carry this out.
- It was acknowledged the Memorial bench for Ken Gregory had been grant funded by KCC and would be added to the Asset Register notes.

The meeting was concluded by The Chairman at 8:54pm.