



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



### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

**Present: Councillors D. Divers – Chairman, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, M. Lawrance, D. Tweedale, G. Pugh**

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

#### **147/23-24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Dore – Illness.

#### **148/23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests declared.

#### **149/23-24 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

#### **150/23-24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Divers advised that following the last meeting, he had contacted Steven Noad - KCC, to follow up the queries raised previously. He thanked Cllr Crow-Brown for his support with these issues. The response from Steven Noad is attached for information (Appendix 1). Cllr Divers would write to Iain Livingstone, Manager - Planning Department TDC, with regard to the highway construction issues, as indicated by Steven Noad.

It was noted from a news article, that the Director of Sunningdale Housing Developments had been responsible for a number of bankrupt companies in previous years.

#### **151/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed receipt of the official King's Portrait which would be displayed in the Pavilion.

The Clerk thanked Cllrs Tweedale, Lawrance, Divers and Val Divers for delivering the yellow-line survey throughout the Village. There had been a number of responses received regarding the survey. The results would be collated, shared with KCC and actioned as appropriate. The Clerk would update on the progress at the next meeting.

Reports of anti-social behaviour in Potten Street and Shuart Lane had been received and forwarded to the ward Police Officer, who had advised he was patrolling the areas and any ASB observed would be dealt with accordingly.

Two enquiries had been received with regard to the availability of trees. Cllr Ageros confirmed there were a few remaining saplings left. The Clerk would forward details to the residents who were welcome to rehome the trees.

KCC had advised they had opened a consultation on their planning strategy. The Clerk had forwarded details of the consultation to the Councillors. It had been suggested that a collective response from all Parishes should be put together and submitted to KCC. The matter would be discussed further at the next TAC meeting.

#### **152/23-24 COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**Cllr Tweedale** advised he had been approached by a concerned resident, to install a traffic safety mirror on Manor Road, sited opposite Parish Close, to improve the sight lines when exiting the road. The suggestion was discussed, and agreed that for health & safety reasons, Cllr Tweedale would approach Steven Noad, KCC, for permission to erect the mirror.

Cllr Tweedale expressed concern regarding the unclean condition of the Pavilion kitchen. This would be addressed accordingly.

**Cllr Lawrance** had been approached with regard to concerns about the telegraph pole which is sited in the middle of the pedestrian footpath on Manor Road, forcing wheelchairs, pushchairs and prams to have to pass in the road. Cllr Lawrance would continue to follow this up with KCC.

A latch on the gate of the play area was still required. The Clerk confirmed she had raised this with the handymen who were investigating options to secure a suitable mechanism for the closure.

The handyman team were thanked for their efforts in maintaining the public spaces in the Villages and ensuring they are well kept.

**Cllr Pugh** confirmed he would be representing the Parish Council at the next Thanet Area Committee meeting.

A plastic picnic bench had been placed in the Play Area which was not secured to the ground. It was discussed and agreed that as this had not been placed by the Parish Council and for health & safety reasons, the bench should be removed. It was suggested it was replaced with a more suitable bench in due course.

**Cllr Smyth** noted the land in Sarre had been sold for a much higher sum than the predicted auction estimate. Congratulations were expressed to the landlady of The Crown Inn for her success since taking on the premises.

**Cllr Ageros** had continued to maintain the garden at the flagpole, TE10 footpath, and village planters and noted the improvements at the allotments since new tenants had taken responsibility of the plots.

#### **153/23-24 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**Cllr Abi Smith** had followed up the concerns raised with regard to the potential use of Potten Street for an encampment site and confirmed this was not currently an option being considered.

Cllr Smith had attended a presentation from the Home Energy Advice Service. Funding had been secured for the service, which was considered to be a welcome initiative in the area. Funding streams available, and energy efficiency advice would be offered. The maximum penalty for fly-tipping had been increased to £1000, hopefully being a suitable deterrent to prevent incidences. TDC have confirmed they have reached half-way on their commitment to provide 400 affordable homes in the district.

**Cllr Reece Pugh** advised that Cllr Bambridge was unable to attend the meeting herself. He noted the absence of Cllr Abi-Leigh Barlow at Parish Council meetings, and offered his assistance with any issues or concerns that might arise. Cllr Pugh confirmed that a proposal had been put forward for a traveller encampment site at Shottendane Road. This was being considered, however, a larger consultation on multiple sites may go ahead at a later date, in which case, Potten Street may be reassessed. Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework were taking place. As a result of this, TDC were reviewing the Local Plan to evaluate the housing requirements.

#### **154/23-24 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**Cllr Linda Wright** reported she had raised concerns with regard to the lack of disabled access points at both Minster and Birchington Railway stations with the CEO of Southern Rail. Permission needs to be sought by the rail service from central government and an estimated cost to improve the facility was in the region of £5m.

**Cllr Crow-Brown** advised of the following:

He had followed up the concerns regarding the highways issues at the Sunningdale Developments with Steven Noad on behalf of the Parish Council, and issued a corporate compliment with regard to the prompt responses from the Highways Team.

Cllr Brown has been involved in responding to the public's queries, regarding the numerous road closures in the local area, including arranging for highways inspectors to visit areas with inappropriate diversion signage and ensuring utilities companies install better barriers to prevent drivers moving bollards.

We also had a few issues with the temporary traffic light system in Tothill Street, Minster, hopefully now resolved.

Detailed below is the Pothole Blitz in the county. In terms of temporary patches, highways will soon be spraying the letter T on the repair so everyone is aware.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/roads/potholes/pothole-blitz#:~:text=We%20will%20be%20delivering%20a,will%20continue%20until%20autumn%202024.>

#### **155/23-24 KENT POLICE REPORT**

**PC Andy Howe** submitted the following report and was available to answer any queries.

Crime over the last month remains very low in the villages with the largest amount being attributable to domesticated incidents. We have had a couple of burglaries with one being an ongoing investigation (which I won't comment upon) and the other relating to youths entering a barn they thought to be derelict and causing damage within. One of the youths was detained and will be spoken to about the incident.

I have been asked by some residents to keep an eye upon the Hedgend cottaging area and dogging locations close to Shuart Lane and the parking areas. I have red routed and parked in these areas, hopefully this additional presence has reduced those issues.

We have had only one poaching call which I attended, the only persons located were confirmed to be dog walkers and not hare coursers. I continue to attend these hot spots and check all parked vehicles to see if they have links to poaching.

Residents were asked to be vigilant, particularly for a silver range rover, suspected for poaching incidents, and to report to the Police if seen in the area.

PC Howe had been conducting pop-up speed checks and identified an issue particularly along the A28 in both Sarre and St Nicholas.

#### **156/23-24 BELL MEADOW REPORT**

Regular pitch hire by three football teams was encouraging. Grant funding would be discussed further under item 158.

An engineer had been arranged to look at the heating and service the boiler accordingly.

The untidy and unclean condition of the kitchen had been noted.

#### **157/23-24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) ) L/TH/24/0324 - Old Kent Barn, Court Road, St Nicholas

Application for Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing 3-pane timber framed window with wider 5-pane timber framed window

**L/TH/24/0325 – Old Kent Barn, Court Road, St Nicholas**

Application for Listed Building Consent to increase the height of the existing 1.65m high north western boundary wall and brick pier to 2.22m using reclaimed brick on edge capping to match existing, and erection of 3 no. adjoining 2.2m high walls using reclaimed brick to create enclosed garden area, with 2 no. sets of ornamental metal gates and 1 no. bulls eye window

*No objections raised for either of the above applications. Vote taken – unanimous support.*

b) **FH/TH/23/1302** – Barn Oak, Down Barton Rd, St Nicholas – *PERMISSION GRANTED*

**158/23-24 FINANCE**

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for March. (Proposed: Cllr Lawrance, seconded Cllr Tweedale).**

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

Clerks & Councils Direct Mag renewal	£15.50
Chubb - Fire Equipment Service	£109.94
SNS - Domain Hosting	£48.09
EDF - Gas BMP	£771.49
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£349.80
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,135.63
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£721.20
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£603.75
D. McDade - Handyman's salary & expenses	£448.31
Nest - Clerks pension DD	£82.85
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Lloyds Bank CC	£321.04
EDF - Electric BMP	£249.84
Business Stream - Water BMP	£53.57
Unity Trust - Service fee	£18.00

**Receipts:**

BMP - Pitch Hire	£90.00
Plot 73 - Headstone	£70.00
Plot 711 - Headstone	£95.00
Allotment Plot 2a	£30.00
Allotment Plot 2b	£30.00
Allotment Plot 5	£60.00
Allotment Plot 4b	£24.00
BMP Hire - Green	£44.50
Allotment Plot 3a & 4a	£60.00
Allotment Plot 1b	£30.00
BMP - Pitch hire - Holmans	£60.00
Nationwide - Bank Interest	£1,746.56

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

c) The Clerk advised the Parish Council had been approached by Holmans Carpentry regarding an application for grant funding from the Football Foundation to be used for pitch maintenance. This was a grant that had previously been explored by the Parish Council. The Clerk would meet with Minster Parish Clerk to discuss the process further, as they had recently been successful with an application. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

**159/23-24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- No issues were raised.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:45pm.