



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



### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm In The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

**Present: Councillors D. Divers, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, D. Tweedale, Eric Dore, Glenn Pugh**

**Also, Present: KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 1 member of public.**

#### **10/24-25 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public were excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during the period 7:15pm – 7:30pm.

**RESOLVED: To increase the Clerk's weekly hours to 18 per week. This was Proposed by Cllr Divers and seconded by Cllr Dore.**

**RESOLVED: To award a salary increase to the handymen, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. This was proposed by Cllr Divers and seconded by Cllr Tweedale.**

#### **11/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted from Cllr Mark Lawrance (Holiday) and PC Andy Howe.

#### **12/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations made.

#### **13/24-25 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024. These were proposed by Cllr Divers, seconded by Cllr Dore, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

#### **14/24-25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Divers confirmed that the new ride-on mower had been received and was working well. The rubbish left near to the rear of the Pavilion building by a neighboring property had been cleared with the exception of a mattress which had been noted and removal was in hand.

#### **15/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised she had reported the latest incident of flytipping to TDC for action. The alarm service for the Pavilion had been completed. An enquiry from Birchington PC regarding the purchase of the roller had been received. The relevant details of the equipment had been forwarded to the Clerk of the Council who would be in contact with a decision once it had been considered by their Councillors.

The Clerk had attended the Parish Council Forum at TDC. It was proposed to structure the meetings to be held quarterly at TDC. The Clerk and Chair would be invited to future meetings.

Correspondence regarding the lack of grass cutting and maintenance at The Paddocks had been received. Concern was raised that the area was looking unkempt and untidy. It was discussed and ascertained that the maintenance of the communal areas at each development were the responsibility of the homeowners management committee. As this had not yet been established, it therefore fell to the receivers who had contracted out the maintenance work. Contact details of the company taking over responsibility for the grass maintenance would be established and they would be advised of the concerns accordingly.

#### **16/24-25 COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**Cllr Tweedale** advised he had been approached regarding the large white van which is parked on the pavement at Manor Road, causing an obstruction, and the foreign number plated Mondeo estate which is parked at The Length. The relevant details of both vehicles would be passed to PC Howe for investigation.

Cllr Tweedale would report the overgrown footpaths TE2 and TE10 to KCC for maintenance.

**Cllr Ageros** had been maintaining the village planters, and worked on footpath TE10 to clear some of the overgrowth. It was suggested that KCC were approached with a proposal to contract the maintenance of the footpaths in the Village to the handymen with sufficient remuneration to cover the additional expense this would incur.

**Cllr Lawrance** was not in attendance, however, he submitted the following report which was read by the Clerk:

Over the last month I have done an amount of litter picking, continuing with maintenance in the church and church grounds. Myself and Dave Tweedale are regularly walking our local footpaths to ensure that they are passable and are in good order. I've also helped out with some local leaflet drops.

Cllr Lawrance also introduced and recommended resident Ann Andrews to be considered for co-option to fill the vacancy of Councillor for St Nicholas.

#### **17/24-25 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Cllr Abi Smith advised of the following:

The BESS battery storage facility planned for Minster Marshes is causing increasing concern, after details of this 100MW installation have emerged. More research is needed as it is five times the size of the facility which exploded recently in Liverpool, and could cause a 'toxic plume' with unknown consequences for Minster, Cliffs End and surrounding areas.

It was suggested that the Home Energy Advice service were invited to present at a future meeting. The Clerk would make arrangements for the next meeting in July. This would be of particular interest to residents, especially anyone on a lower income or who wishes to make their homes more energy efficient. Many government grants are still available.

Citizens Advice Better Lives Thanet Outreach Project drop-in surgery at Minster Library, 0930-1230, first Tuesday of each month: Citizens Advice Thanet have received some funding from the National Lottery to enable us to provide an outreach service in the community. The aim is to offer free, confidential, impartial and independent advice to members of the community who might not otherwise be able to access Citizens Advice Thanet.

The advice areas covered are: Housing, Benefits, Debt and Money, Family and Relationships, Work, Consumer & Immigration.

#### **18/24-25 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Crow-Brown confirmed he had contacted Heather Waller – KCC footpaths officer, on behalf of the Parish Council, and was pleased to note a response.

In addition to dealing with numerous highway issues, Cllr Crow-Brown had recently had the honour of attending the Kimberley Care Home to meet D-Day veteran John Manicom.

#### **19/24-25 KENT POLICE REPORT**

PC Andy Howe was unable to attend the meeting, however, he submitted the following report which was circulated to the Parish Council:

As you will see, May was an average crime month for the Villages, except in relation to sexual offences and criminal damage, the sexual offences being mostly historical reports and the damage consisting of some domesticated incidents. The rolling year data shows that our main spikes in offences for burglary business and vehicle crime during November and December have returned to normal levels.

There has been a poaching incident in which a dark grey Ford Transit (flatbed) was used by two males with lurcher type dogs to Hare Course. I can only tell you that it is a 2019 model due to data protection. We are aware of these persons and the full registration which has now been placed onto our ANPR system (Automatic Number Plate Reader) so our control will be alerted if it enters our area again. Unfortunately, we do have to catch these people red handed as such, in order to seize vehicles, dogs and to prosecute them. Please report any sightings to Kent Police. The Rural Task Force have the investigation.

Minster had two unrelated incidents of "Accosting's" where vehicles have pulled up along side young females with one being asked if should would like to go for a drive. CRIME REDUCTION ADVICE to all ladies/girls: keep walking, do not engage, call 999, seek shelter in an occupied dwelling or business, ask other members of public for help. Once safe, please try to record the registration and descriptions of occupants (by mobile phone if possible), but only when safe to do so. If you can't record this, the Police call taker will prompt you for this information, follow their advice.

St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre:

There was a theft of number plates from a vehicle in the car park at the Crown Inn, Sarre. These were likely stolen for cloning purposes, Kent Police will automatically place these onto our ANPR system for any vehicles using the registration to be stopped. There was also a theft of metal from the front driveway to a property in St Nicholas. This was likely to be scrap metal dealers who will enter premise to remove metal items left out on display. By law they must ask the owners permission to remove metals, but they can raise a defence by stating that they believed it was left on display for collection (implied consent). Obviously this would not cover garden furniture or ornaments. My advice would be that if you are leaving metal items outside for any reasons, you should place a note on them as "not for scrap or collection", again, you shouldn't have to do this for obvious garden items.

Over May I have been undertaking general patrols of the villages and farming areas including checking on Farm Plant equipment overnight. I have attended a number of Road Traffic Crashes and break downs and been despatched to numerous calls in the Thanet Towns including the Policing of Dreamland Events.

Due to the summer season being upon us, our call demand is greater and the demands upon our Response Officers is extreme, this means that Beat Officers will be used to support those officers at peak times.

Please invite Kent Police to any events you have planned, these can be placed onto our event calendar and if I am unable to attend, we have Police Community Support Officers and other Beat Officers who may be available on the day.

#### **20/24-25 BELL MEADOW REPORT**

Cllr Divers advised there had been interest expressed regarding a ladies football team hiring the facilities. The proposal would be discussed with the handymen to ensure the pitch would remain in good condition, however, the suggestion was supported in principle.

#### **21/24-25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

##### **a) F/TH/24/0606 – Land adjacent Little Orchard, Canterbury Road, St Nicholas at Wade**

*Retrospective application noted. Application received on day of meeting, therefore Councillors approved the decision to consider the application and submit comments to the Clerk via email.*

##### **b) L/TH/24/0324 & L/TH/24/0325 – PERMISSION GRANTED**

#### **22/24-25 FINANCE**

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

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

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

SNS - Domain Hosting	£50.52
Business Stream - Water BMP	£72.72
D. McDade - Handyman's salary	£665.88
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary	£790.04
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,362.43
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£443.28
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£575.15
PPL PRS - Entertainment Licenses	£162.00
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£40.75
Lloyds Bank DD - Credit Card	£643.73
Nest DD - Clerk's pension	£51.33
Country Mowers - Ariens Zenith Mower	£7,900.00
KCS - BMP Boiler service - Half payment	£307.20
Strutt & Parker - Sarre Flagpole lease	£1.00
Hugofox - Website Hosting fee	£11.99
Maytree Nursery - Planter flowers	£52.00

#### **Receipts**

WS Cole - Cemetery fees	£485.00
Cemetery fees	£1,270.00
HMRC - VAT Reclaim	£3,371.83
A. Ling - BMP Hire	£50.00
WS Cole - Cemetery fees	£540.00
WS Cole - Cemetery fees	£485.00

**RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for June.**

**(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Dore)**

#### **23/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No concerns raised.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:05pm.