



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



**Approved minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Pavilion, Bell Meadow,
St Nicholas-at-Wade on Tuesday 12th February 2019 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Gordon Bryant (Chair), Rob Searle (Vice-Chair), Sonya Smyth, Peter Radclyffe, David Divers, Peter Evans, Graham North, Paticia Cheniston & Lee Ageros

Also present: Sara Archer (Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer), KCC Cllr Liz Hurst plus 8 members of the public.

152/18-19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from District Cllrs Reece Pugh & Derek Crow-Brown, PCSO Deborah Forsyth & Community Warden Tony Gander

153/18-19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No items declared.

154/18-19 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: It was resolved to approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 8th January 2019 subject to the amendment below. These were proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Cheniston, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Item 141/18-19 'responsibility of land owner' removed.

155/18-19 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported it has been a fairly quiet month with the exception of continuously hounding AA Fencing to get the money refunded on the fencing that was returned several weeks ago. It eventually took the threat of County Court action before the money was received on 16th January.

Cllr Bryant advised he was pleased with the progress that The Pavilion committee is making. The Pavilion is now fully compliant with fire measures and a full 'on-licence' has been applied for the use of the bar. It is important that the refurbishment of The Pavilion is progressed. The reports received regarding the electricals and plumbing have been quite alarming and it is vital that decisions are made to ensure that the public are kept safe and that this community hub is to the best standard possible.

Cllr Bryant expressed his delight to see that The Friends of The Church are engaging with the Parish Council and he offered full support for The Open Gardens on 1st and 2nd June. More details of this will follow.

Thanks were extended for the work that has been put in by The Emergency Plan committee. Over 600 letters have gone out to residents for their input and the outcome of that is awaited. Cllr Bryant advised he had been approached about the membership of this committee and confirmed it was his opinion that once the plan is in place, the committee would not have to meet more than, perhaps, twice a year to ensure that all the resources are in place and that no changes are required. However, anyone that can provide a positive input to this group would be welcomed.

Cllr Bryant visited the Sunningdale housing development site following the extended electricity outage the other week. The developers took full responsibility for cutting through a cable that took half the villages electricity out for up to ten hours. This was an unfortunate accident. Cllr Bryant took the opportunity to discuss the mud on Manor Road and was assured that they are making all possible efforts to keep it clean. He was shown the large cleaning lorry that is used daily when the ground is wet to ensure that the road is swept. He also took the opportunity to chase up the s106 money that is due to The Parish Council on this phase 2 development.

156/18-19 CLERK'S REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the main activities carried out by herself and the Handymen since the last meeting which included grounds maintenance at St Johns Green, Manor Road, repairing the broken tap at the cemetery and allotments, installing the fire safety bars at the Pavilion and erecting the new noticeboards.

Correspondence had been received regarding the Community Led Housing Survey from TDC, KALC Planning Conference and election material, the KCC Kent Bus Feedback Portal plus the Clerk reported that 'Action with Communities in Rural Kent' would be visiting Bell Meadow once a month during the summer with their 'Coffee Caravan' providing coffee and cake. The aim of the project is to tackle loneliness and isolation. More information will be posted on the noticeboards in due course.

157/18-19 VILLAGE REPORTS

Cllr Radclyffe notified the meeting that he had been litter picking within the village and enquired about the flashing speed sign as the lamppost had now been replaced. Cllr Searle confirmed the location of the sign was under discussion and he would liaise with the Highways Department to chase the matter.

Cllr Radclyffe advised that the funeral of Mr Rodney Tapp would be held at the church on 19th February, therefore, some traffic disruption may be expected.

The Open Gardens event was being held in June, Cllr Radclyffe requested the benches were maintained prior to this. Cllr Bryant confirmed he had been in discussion with the handyman who suggested the benches were replaced with recycled plastic furniture. All Councillors were in agreement with the suggestion and the handyman would be advised to get costings.

Cllr Ageros confirmed the litter in the area remained low. He reported that one of the bollards which protects the flagpole area had been damaged by a vehicle on a few occasions. He had been in contact with TDC in order to obtain some stronger material to replace the bollard.

Cllr Ageros advised the meeting of the recent death of former resident of both Sarre and St Nicholas, Ms Irene Scott, 97 years old. He shared a story told by Ms Scott, remembered from the war. A minute's silence was held in respect of Ms Scott whose funeral was being held in the church, St Nicholas-at-Wade.

Draft examples of the sign to be installed at Sarre were circulated and shown on screen, for comment. A few amendments were suggested regarding the background colour and content, discussion particularly surrounding the Sarre brooch. Copies of the examples would be circulated to the resident's of Sarre for consultation. The images would also be placed on the website inviting comments/suggestions.

Councillors were asked their preference from the options available for the sign, however, a decision would be made at the next meeting after all comments had been considered.

Cllr Bryant advised he had recently entered in to an email exchange about the historic emergency maternity hospital in the village as someone is trying to locate this. Cllr Bryant explained that information is available regarding the children's hospital that existed during WWII in Sun Lane however, enquiries were being made to find anyone that might know about the temporary maternity facility. On a birth certificate it specifies 'Emergency Maternity Home, The Hall, St Nicholas at Wade'. There is of course the possibility that The Village Hall was made in to an annex of the children's hospital as it is so close. Other possibilities are Sandalwood Lodge or perhaps something to do with Hall Farm in Down Barton Road or even the old school hall. Anyone with any further information should contact the Chairman or Clerk who would pass on the details accordingly.

158/18-19 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Derek Crow-Brown was not present; however, he had offered his apologies and submitted the following report which was read by the Clerk:

TDC Budget

Last Thursday TDC postponed a decision on whether to ditch £500,000 funding to keep the port of Ramsgate in readiness for a ferry operation and axe a further £130,000, totalling £630,000 (or £730,000 in a full year) from its 2019/20 budget.

A report to Cabinet members at a meeting last month said Thanet council would be "at significant risk of overspending the proposed budget," unless the action was taken.

The government has cut a further £1.3 million from TDC's 2019/20 budget and needs further savings of £1.8 million in order to balance the books. The Port of Ramsgate is its biggest expense.

You will be aware that since last Thursday the £13.8 million government contract with Seaborne Freight to provide extra ferry capacity in the event of a no deal Brexit on March 29 has been terminated. We await further guidance from the government as to the future of an operational ferry service and how this will impact on the council's precarious budget.

Cllr Reece Pugh was not present; however, he had offered his apologies and submitted a report which was read by the Clerk as follows:

I'm afraid that I do not have much to report other than I continue to liaise with UK Power Networks about the power cuts that villagers have been experiencing, not least the considerable outage a few weeks ago (which has been confirmed to me was the fault of a third-party operator in the village).

Also, I have requested a copy of TDCs Emergency Plan which I would be more than happy to share with the Parish Council for them to use as guidance for putting together their plan - as Monkton plan to do.

159/18-19 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

KCC Cllr Liz Hurst welcomed more information regarding the Sarre Brooch as her parents were previous residents of the Parish. An online portal had been set up for feedback regarding the Big Conversation Bus Service Review. Public were encouraged to submit comments.

Cllr Hurst praised the first aid/defibrillator training session at St Nicholas Primary School which she had attended with the Community Wardens.

As a member of the Loneliness and Isolation Committee, Cllr Hurst encouraged residents to monitor and support their elderly/vulnerable neighbours.

It was confirmed there had been £3 million set aside for pothole repairs therefore it was important to keep reporting issues. The area at Sarre roundabout was discussed. Cllr Hurst would make enquiries with Highways and request the road is repaired on behalf of the Parish Council.

160/18-19 KENT POLICE PCSO & KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT

PCSO Forsythe was not present however, she had offered her apologies and submitted the following report which was read by the Clerk:

Good evening everybody. I hope you are well?

The main issues remain to be door to door sales and rogue traders.

Please be aware that some of these suspicious activities are also involving distraction techniques.

Please do not open the door to strangers but if you do try not to engage with them. Some of these door knockers are extremely pushy and intimidating and can be quite threatening. Report any suspicious activity immediately through the appropriate channels, giving as much detail as possible.

Could I take this opportunity to ask you to be mindful of your elderly and vulnerable neighbours regarding these issues?

There are rural community issues involving plant machinery theft, red diesel theft and hare coursing, the rural task force are working hard on these matters.

All safety advice remains constant regardless of location, time of year or time of day. Keep all valuables out of sight. Do not leave valuables in your vehicles. Ensure that your houses, cars, sheds and garages are locked. Do not leave keys, bags or valuables near the main doors of your property and do not leave your front or back doors open even if you are just popping down to the end of your garden or putting your bins out for example.

If you wish to look at crimes in your area you can log into [Police.co.uk](https://www.police.co.uk) and enter your postcode.

Until the next time keep safe and warm

Community Warden Tony Gander was not present however, he offered his apologies and submitted a report which was read by the Clerk as follows:

- Highways faults reported and fixed on Court Road
- Abandoned vehicle removed by Potten Street Road. Reported
- 42 car tyres reported dumped between Sarre and St Nicholas. Reported
- Flytipping of wood on Potten Street Road. Reported
- Flytipping of fridge freezer on Wantsum Way.
- First aid awareness project at school with year 5 & 6. How to use a defibrillator, recovery position, CPR babies / children / adults, bleeding head and hand wounds , what to do in an emergency and phone . Supported by KCC Cllr Emma Dawson & KCC Cllr Liz Hurst.
- Obtained funding for St Nicholas at Wade Primary School £2,000 from KCC Community Grant Fund KCC Cllr Emma Dawson & KCC Cllr Liz Hurst.
- Suspect vehicles on Potten Street Road near wood area. Intel reported.
- Welfare checks in village.
- Report of BT internet direct debit scam going around.

161/18-19 PAVILION SUB-COMMITTEE

Cllr North circulated a briefing note from the meeting held on 4th February.

Discussion took place regarding the use of the Pavilion by the Speedwatch Group for no fee. It was agreed that as other Parishes do not charge a hire fee for Speedwatch meetings, it would be reasonable to continue to permit the group to use the facility for free. It was confirmed that there were no proposed increases to the hire fees overall.

Quotes to replace the alarm were being obtained and would be available for discussion at the next meeting. The fire exits had been upgraded and made compliant with the health and safety regulations.

The Committee put forward a recommendation to instruct Buzz Electrical Ltd to carry out the electrical work. This, along with the replacement of the heating system would be discussed during item 166/18-19 (d).

It was stated that the signage for the Pavilion would be dealt with in due course.

162/18-19 CIVIC SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Searle confirmed receipt of the grant from KCC and therefore a meeting had been held to discuss the benches for the new patio area in Bell Meadow. Examples of the benches were circulated for information. It was agreed to purchase two accessible benches made from recycled plastic with a 10yr guarantee, approx. £1330.

Work on the patio area would begin once safety fencing had been obtained. Two extra panels were needed to secure the area appropriately, Cllr Evans would acquire these on behalf of the Parish Council and liaise further with Cllr Searle with regard to commencing the project. It was envisaged the project would be completed before the Open Gardens event in June.

Cllr Searle reported the new fencing for the playground had been ordered and delivery was expected on 21st February. Kompan would then be instructed to erect the fence and complete the installation.

163/18-19 EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr North thanked those involved in putting together the Plan, in particular Cllr Searle.

Two holdalls plus equipment had been purchased to be used in an emergency, which would be held at the Village Hall.

Discussion regarding a third holdall for Sarre took place, however, it was deemed unnecessary.

The Plan would be placed on the website for public access.

164/18-19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Discussion took place regarding the potential costs involved in refurbishing the Pavilion and it was suggested the public should be consulted before a decision was made with regard to replacing the heating system. It was considered that the Pavilion was a community asset and therefore the public should respect the Parish Council to spend the public money appropriately.

Resident's are encouraged to attend the Parish Council meetings and put forward their views.

- The location of the sign in Bell Meadow at the Manor Road entrance, was questioned. It was confirmed the position of the sign had been dictated by the poor condition of the ground and would therefore remain as it is.

165/18-19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) FH/TH/19/0075 – Minnie Cottage, The Length, St Nicholas-at-Wade. The application had been circulated previously. No objections were made. It was noted the construction traffic was a concern but unavoidable.

(b) None received.

166/18-19 FINANCE

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

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for January (Proposed: Cllr Cheniston Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe).

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

M. Savage (Handyman's salary & expenses)	90.27
S. Archer (Clerk's salary & expenses)	786.47
J. Read (Asst Handyman's salary & expenses)	80.40
Ladywell Accountancy (HMRC Reporting)	176.00
ICO – Registration fee (Chq issued)	40.00
Greenbarnes (Noticeboards)	2398.37
P. Paul (Pitch remarking)	60.00
G. North (Reimbursement – EP accessories)	120.61
G. Bryant (Reimbursement – photocopying)	90.00
G. Bryant (Cleaner salary)	104.00
R. Searle (Reimbursement – printer inks)	67.98
Stackhouse Poland (Mower Insurance)	141.12

Receipts:

Cemetery fees	75.00
Herne Bay Harriers	120.00
Envie Canine	125.00

AA Fencing Refund 2582.36

KCC Grant – Civic Spaces 2000.00

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for February (Proposed: Cllr Searle, Seconded: Cllr Cheniston)

(c) Cllr Bryant presented the budget report and precept calculations. The proposed budget was discussed in length with an explanation of variances and the current financial position detailed. It was confirmed there would not be an increase in the precept this year. Cllr Smyth advised there was a sum of £5000 which had been earmarked for the church wall repairs. The Clerk would include this in the budget report.

Cllr Smyth presented the Parish Council with a cheque for £500, returning the unused grant from the Archive Group.

RESOLVED: To approve the budget report and precept request. (Proposed: Cllr Cheniston, Seconded: Cllr Evans)

(d)(i) Cllr Divers offered a short explanation of the electrical work to be carried out. Discussion took place regarding the content of the recommended quote. Councillors were then asked to vote on the recommendation of the Sub-Committee, the outcome of which was as follows:

For – 5, Against – 1, Abstained – 2

Cllr Bryant clarified that one of the main users of the facility, the Whist Drive Group, which meet on a Thursday evening, had suggested the lighting in particular was not sufficient.

Discussion surrounding the function of the Sub-Committees ensued.

RESOLVED: To accept the recommended quote for the electrical work at the Bell Meadow Pavilion and instruct the company to proceed as soon as possible. (Proposed: Cllr Bryant, Seconded: Cllr Cheniston)

(ii) Cllr Divers opened the discussion regarding the replacement of the heating system in the Pavilion. The report from Grummants had been circulated prior to the meeting in order for the Councillors to familiarise themselves with the amount of work to be considered. Health & Safety concerns were highlighted and the current system was deemed to be inadequate. It was suggested that two of the main users of the Pavilion, the football clubs, should be approached to contribute towards the costs by way of grants that are available to them.

After much deliberation and further discussion it was agreed that further quotes should be made available to the Parish Council before any decision could be made. Cllr Divers was therefore appointed to obtain two additional quotes for consideration by the Parish Council.

167/18-19 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The Safeguarding Policy was circulated prior to the meeting for consideration. Cllr Ageros expressed concern that free speech had not been included in the Policy and therefore would prepare a paragraph for inclusion before the policy could be agreed.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:50pm