



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm
in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors - D. Divers, D. Tweedale, A. Andrews, M. Lawrance, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, E. Dore

Also, Present: District Cllr Abi Smith, Community Warden Gary Groombridge, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 0 members of public.

128/25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Mo Fentiman, KCC Cllr Luke Evans, District Cllr Peter Evans.

129/25-26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

130/25-26 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 10th February 2026.

These were proposed by Cllr Lawrance, seconded by Cllr Dore, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

131/25-26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers advised that he had attended the recent Village Hall Management Committee meeting. The Christmas Fair had been arranged for 28th November. The Committee were also keen to support the 'Isle of Culture' bid, put forward by Polly Billington. This was discussed by the Parish Council, all of whom agreed to also support the bid. Cllr Smith would enquire about the process to enable the Parish Council to formally support the proposal.

132/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed the allotment renewal contracts had been sent to plot holders. She would be on leave for a week commencing 16th March 2026.

133/25-26 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Tweedale advised he had litter picked at Potten Street and was pleased to note only one bag had been collected.

Cllr Lawrance reported he had attended the meeting of the Church Fabric Committee at which the quinquennial report had been discussed. He would be maintaining the memorial planter located opposite the Church.

The Thursday Men's Club had been building raised planters at the rear of the Church.

Cllr Smyth requested a copy of the recent HIP and enquired whether a site meeting at Sarre with the Clerk and KCC Community Engagement Officer could be arranged.

Cllr Ageros had been maintaining the Village Planters and Flagpole garden. The wooden surround at the flagpole required replacing. It was noted that no further feedback had been received regarding the large housing development application.

134/25-26 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith reported as follows:

Simpler Recycling

Thanet's recycling rate currently sits at 35% – well below the national average. To ensure district-wide consistency, 27,000 households will transition to alternate weekly refuse and recycling collections. Full information, FAQs and a handy look-up tool are on the [TDC website](#), where people can check whether their collections will change.

Community Planning Alliance National Day of Action, 18th April

Westgate & Garlinge Action Group (against housing development on Farmland) is organising a special event in Thanet in conjunction with the CPA event, to raise awareness of the loss of precious farmland for housing development. They are seeking volunteers, which may be of interest to St Nicholas residents.

WGAG: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2561972944099243>

CPA: <https://communityplanningalliance.org>

Visited drop-in for new water reservoir near Broad Oak

The catchment area barely touches the Villages, and will have very peripheral benefits to offer us, but it might be a nice place to visit in due course...

TDC 2026-27 Budget adopted

Thanet District Council officially adopted a balanced £30.357 million budget for 2026/27, requiring a council tax increase of just under 3% (£8.10 for a Band D property). KCC also announced a council tax increase of 3.99%.

The TDC budget aims to protect frontline services and invest in community infrastructure. Key focus areas include a £21 million investment for temporary housing, along with funding for street cleaning & public space improvements.

Dreamland's Grade II* listed Scenic Railway.

TDC's Director of Place Bob Porter sent the following email in response to the news that Dreamland intends to 'retire' the ride rather than maintain it as operational: The ride was closed at the time of an 'incident' last year and has not operated since. Following an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the HSE has advised Dreamland that to operate the ride they would need to implement a daily inspection routine, which Dreamland says would take up to five hours each day, so that Dreamland believes they are no longer able to operate the ride.

TDC Leader Rick Everitt commented: "As the scenic railway is a listed structure, Dreamland is required to maintain the structure in good condition, but not necessarily to operate it as a ride... Any applications would need to clearly set out the detailed case for why it is not viable to operate the ride and set out the case for change."

TDC has no direct planning enforcement role in the operation of the Scenic Railway, but arguably it has a clear responsibility under national planning policy.

27th February "school wars" fight averted

TDC received a warning from Kent Police about a message originating in the US, that was circulated on social media. The message (and matching digital called for 'fights' between local schools. Kent Police were proactive in response, and no injuries were reported.

Manston Airspace Change Consultation

RSP is carrying out its Stage 3 airspace change consultation from 16th March to 22nd June. The consultation will provide details of proposed changes to flight paths and airspace structure. Aspects of the consultation include an online portal to view consultation materials and proposals, and a series of in-person and online engagement events. You can give feedback via the online portal, at forthcoming consultation events or by writing to FREEPOST 1616, and the website is at

<https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/>.

Leafing Bin Scheme shortlisted

I'm delighted to announce that our Leafing Bin Scheme has been officially shortlisted for the Awards for Excellence in Recycling & Waste Management 2026.

Great British Spring Clean 2026

TDC's Beach and Coast team is organising a beach clean for staff and councillors on 26 March. Volunteers will begin the litter pick at Margate and work along the coastline toward Westgate-on-Sea.

Cllr Peter Evans was not in attendance, however, he advised that he echoed Cllr Smith's comprehensive report.

135/25-26 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Luke Evans was not in attendance and did not submit a report.

136/25-26 KENT POLICE REPORT

PC Owen Crush was unable to attend the meeting, however, he had submitted the following report:

Apologies but having reviewed my duties I am not at work for your next scheduled Parish Council meeting and so will sadly not be able to attend. Please see the below report covering 1st Feb to 26th Feb with the usual information on call numbers and types, as well as some good news updates which hopefully residents will find useful to hear about.

Calls to Kent Police from Thanet Villages:

- There were 125 calls to Kent Police across the Thanet Villages ward. The vast majority of these were road traffic collisions, missing persons and like calls which are daily business.
- For St. Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre, the police have recorded 26 calls, the vast majority of this has come under broke down vehicles or traffic collisions along the road networks. This also however does include some proactive stops created by myself as I try to reduce traffic offences in the local area.
- There were 4 crime reports recorded however none of these appear to be ASB related.

General News:

- I have been in contact with residents regarding a report of youths causing damage with an air rifle in Manston. I have spoken to the officer in charge of the investigation who is in the process of reviewing CCTV to identify offenders.
- A proactive stop search by officers in Minster led to the seizure of a quantity of drugs for which the suspect was administered an out of court resolution.

- I have been conducting foot patrols and have conducted five stop searches across the Isle. One of these searches led to the arrest of a male for drug driving, possession of an offensive weapon, and drug supply offences. The investigation is ongoing. Separately, I have made five arrests while on the beat across the Isle, both responding to 999 calls and during proactive work.

- I have been conducting visible patrolling at locations raised by councillors as having issues with nuisance vehicle use. Dozens of cars have been stop checked, and one driver was issued a s.59 warning by me due to his antisocial driving through the villages.

- I have noted a couple of theft of motor vehicles reported across the ward which PC Howe may have mentioned previously. Enquiries are ongoing, but I'd just like to remind residents of the importance of ensuring your car is locked overnight, that keys are kept securely away from the front of the house, and to consider measures such as exterior lighting and CCTV cameras.

- My next police surgery for Thanet Villages is on 06/03/26 outside Monkton Village Hall between 0900 and 1000 hours, and for Cliffsend and Pegwell my colleagues and I will be in the centre of Ramsgate town on 27/03/26 between 15:00 and 16:00 hours. Please feel free to come to either date regardless of which ward you live in, I hope this offers some flexibility!

137/25-26 KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

CW Gary Groombridge reported as follows:

- Continue to do Visual Presence around the Villages
- I reported some fly tipping to the street scene enforcement officer, concerning a bike frame that had been dumped near Cotington Road, Cliffsend. This was reported to me by one of the Parish Councillors from St Nicholas at Wade.
- Continue to support and attend the Wellbeing group in the Bell Meadow Pavilion at St Nicholas at Wade, speak to the residents and support with any issues and concerns.
- Continue to support and attend the Wellbeing group in the Sun Inn at St Nicholas at Wade, speak to the residents and support with any issues and concerns.
- Reported some potholes and road damage around St Nicholas at Wade. I Received reference numbers and responses.
- I have carried out some visual presence outside the Primary School at St Nicholas at Wade, concerning people parking on the new double yellow lines that have been installed. (I will continue be a presence when I can)
- Check for fly tipping around some of the Roads around the villages that can't be accessed on foot (Using my van)
- The Community Warden Team is involved in the Safety in Action Week at Dreamland in Margate, for primary school age children from the schools in the Thanet Area. I have put the information together for the team to use. This included a five-question quiz on Community safety, Phonetic alphabet charts so the children can spell their names through some walkie talkies. We also had stickers to give out at the end.
- Continue to support and attend the Men's Wellbeing group at the Church Café, in the Church at St Nicholas at Wade, speak to the residents and support them with any issues and concerns. Hold a fun quiz.

138/25-26 BELL MEADOW WORKING GROUP REPORT

Cllr Divers advised that the St George's Day event had been scheduled, the bar would be opened and Pie 'n' Mash available. It was pleasing to report the success of the Sunday Market event which is being held on the last Sunday of each month.

139/25-26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) No new applications received.
- b) FH/TH/25/1374 – Permission Granted

140/25-26 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 Lawrance, Seconded Cllr Dore).

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

KCS - Boiler repair and service	£794.48
Zurich Insurance	£998.28
SNS - Domain Hosting	£60.51
Employee salaries & expenses	£2570.79
ICO - Renewal fee	£47.00
PMF FA - New goalposts	£631.37
Lloyds Bank CC	£214.24
EDF - Electricity	£91.12
Hugofox - Website hosting	£11.99
EDF - Gas	£138.64
Unity Trust - service fee	£6.00

Receipts:

BMP Hire - Ukelele	£13.00
WS Cole - Interment Hollands	£135.00
BMP Hire - Stokes	£25.00
BMP Hire - Market	£40.00

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

141/25-26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public in attendance.

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