



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



### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 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, E. Dore

**Also, Present:** KCC Cllrs Derek Crow-Brown & Linda Wright, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk, plus 0 members of public.

#### **106/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from KCC Cllr Linda Wright, District Cllr Abi Smith and PC's Andy Howe & Beth Ninnim.

#### **107/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests declared.

#### **108/22-23 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023. These were proposed by Cllr Lawrance, seconded by Cllr Dore, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **109/23-24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Following the festive period, the Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and was looking forward to a prosperous and successful year ahead.

#### **110/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised she had met with Lezanne Cesar – KCC Community Engagement Officer, to review the Highways Improvement Plan. Lezanne would be making enquiries with regard to costings for various items on the HIP and would be in contact further in due course, however, the developers for Crumps Farm have agreed to fund a 20mph speed reduction in St Nicholas, which cover the following areas - The entire stretch of The Length, The Street, Manor Road, Down Barton Road & Stuart Lane and Court Road for a distance of 100m from the junction of The Street heading north west.

The Clerk would confirm that a 20mph zone in Old Road, Sarre has also been included in the HIP.

Correspondence has been received from Bruno Peek – Pagenmaster, with regard to the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.

Suggestions of how to commemorate the Anniversary were welcomed and would be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **111/23-24 COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**Cllr Tweedale** advised there had been a spate of Fiat 500 car thefts. Resident's were encouraged to be vigilant and ensure their cars are safely secured. Cllr Tweedale had been litter picking along A28 and Orchard Lane.

It was noted the electricity meter cupboard door was damaged and in need of repair. The Clerk would contact the electricity company to report the damage. The uneven surface outside of The Bell Inn would be reported to Highways as being a trip hazard.

**Cllr Lawrance** reiterated the issue of the increase in dog fouling in St Nicholas and had also been litter picking. He had been involved with helping Father Christmas deliver gifts around the Villages on Christmas Day. The tradition was well supported and funds raised were donated to the Dementia Charity nominated by the Hoodeners. It was also noted that the Christmas Church Services had been well attended.

**Cllr Dore** reported that the footpaths TE3 and TE4 were very overgrown. The Clerk would report the issue to KCC accordingly. It was discussed and agreed that Cllr Dore would apply to register the unofficial footpath at Sun Lane and being a public right of way, as it had been used as such for over 20 years.

**Cllr Smyth** advised she was in the process of applying for a TPO on the three remaining trees near TE10 at Sarre in order to protect them from being removed as with the other trees on site.

Cllr Smyth requested permission to display a poster on the noticeboards in support of a ceasefire in Gaza. The Clerk would make enquiries to clarify the position of the Parish Council with regard to the potential political implications of this. Cllr Smyth advised that if such support was permitted, she would construct an apolitical poster to be displayed.

**Cllr Ageros** had continued to maintain the garden at the flagpole, TE10 footpath, and village planters and thanked the handymen for attending Sarre and clearing the leaf litter, which had made a marked improvement to the flooding issues suffered in previous years.

#### **112/23-24 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Abi Smith offered her apologies with nothing further to report.

#### **113/23-24 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Crow-Brown offered his apologies and submitted the following report which was read by the Clerk as follows:

Thanks once again for your hospitality before Christmas and wishing you all a Happy New Year.

In terms of the St Nicholas area, I was heavily involved in lobbying Southern Water to speed up their works on the A253 Monkton Nature Reserve before Christmas, forcing traffic to be routed along the A253 St Nicholas. Having spoken to the manager of Monkton Nature Reserve, the A253 road closure was losing them visitor revenue of £150 per opening day. With the assistance of Sir Roger Gale, I lobbied SW to make a community grant gesture. SW have given the reserve £2,500 and will visit them regularly as part of their community programme.

#### **114/23-24 KENT POLICE REPORT**

PC Andy Howe was unable to attend the meeting, however, he provided the following report which was read by the Clerk as follows:

As you will be aware, there has been a spike in vehicle related crime over the Christmas period (highlighted in red) where a group of three persons (two male and one female) have interfered with and entered numerous vehicles on the morning of the 25/12/23. Many of the residents have provided Kent Police with Ring Doorbell footage and CCTV images of the suspects, and I was so pleased and appreciative that the community supported each other and the Police during this investigation.

We have managed to gauge the timeline and direction of travel for the offences and suspects, but we have been frustrated in the investigation for two reasons.

The first is that we have not gained any forensic evidence from the known 4 cars that were entered, and it is not clear why our CSI unit was not deployed to these incidents ( I will look into this). The second frustration is that from all the images reviewed, we have no facial images of the suspects capable of obtaining any ID from. The suspects have been forensically aware, and their features were hidden throughout their activity. At this point, all viable lines of enquiry have been followed and until new information comes to light, we will be filing the reports.

I would like to thank you all for the assistance and apologies that we have not yet identified the suspects, but I promise, it was not for any lack of effort. If any residents have additional information capable of identifying the suspects, please contact me on 13360@kent.police.uk.

The second spike in crime came from a single incident at Manston where multiple storage units were entered. We have (on a later date) arrested three persons trespassing in the same area on suspicion of committing similar crime but as yet, we have not been able to link those persons to the aforementioned offences. Suffice to say, we feel we may have at least disrupted this activity.

Lastly, I have attended two calls relating to Lamping/Hare Coursing. During this we have identified two vehicles and their occupants. No offences were confirmed but our suspicions were valid to their intent. One group were stopped and encouraged to never darken Thanet's doorstep again. I have made it perfectly clear to those persons, that the hunters will become the hunted in our villages.

An increased Police presence in the villages had been noted and welcomed by the Parish Council and residents alike.

Police Surgeries had been set up in the Thanet Villages, which concerned residents were encouraged to attend and report any issues they felt needed to be addressed.

#### **115/23-24 BELL MEADOW REPORT**

The logistics for the 'Warm Hub' were being finalized and would be open to residents to attend during the cold winter months.

#### **116/23-24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

##### **a) FH/TH/23/1594 - 1 Broadview Villas, Summer Road, St Nicholas At Wade**

Erection of a single storey rear extension

*No objections – vote taken – unanimously in agreement.*

##### **b) F/TH/23/1274 – Permission Granted**

FH/TH/23/1396 – Permission Granted

#### **117/23-24 FINANCE**

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for December. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, seconded Cllr Ageros).**

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

HMRC - Employee PAYE	£539.85
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,486.53
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£904.46
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£951.28
D. McDade - Handyman's salary & expenses	£672.58
EDF - BMP Gas	£316.00
Nest - Clerk's pension	£99.48
Lloyds Bank CC	£1,000.42
Cartridge People - Stationary	£88.57
Business Stream - Water Cemetery	£26.19
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Unity - Bank Charges	£18.00

**Receipts:**

WS Cole – Cemetery fees	£475.00
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**RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for January.**

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

c) The Clerk presented the proposed budget for 2024/25 which had been circulated to Councillors for consideration and would be made available on the website.

The precept request of £27,460 was discussed and considered, and it was agreed that in order to offset a proportion of the anticipated increase in expenditure, but have a minimal impact on resident's, it would be necessary to raise the forthcoming precept by approximately 5%.

**RESOLVED: To approve the proposed budget and precept request of £27,460 (Proposed: Cllr Dore, Seconded: Cllr Lawrance)**

**118/23-24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- No issues were raised.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:40pm.