



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, M. Lawrance, E. Dore

Also, Present: KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith, PC Beth Ninnim, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk, plus 2 members of public.

64/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Tweedale and Cllr Pugh.

65/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ageros declared an interest – Item 69.

66/22-23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

67/23-24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers advised he had attended the Planning Committee meeting at TDC and made representation regarding the Crumps Farm planning applications. The applications were approved unanimously at the meeting. It was noted that the developers were proposing to support a 20mph speed limit through the Village, however, a public consultation would be held prior to the scheme being implemented.

Sir Roger Gale had provided an update with regard to the administration of Sunningdale. Two receivers have been appointed to handle the completion and sale of the Sunningdale properties in Thanet. They in turn have appointed a local, reputable and highly experienced agent to manage the process. Contracts are out to limited tender: the bidding process will end in mid-October and contract(s) will be awarded by, all being well, the end of next month.

There is a limit to how far an MP can properly intervene in commercial negotiations – particularly where the rights of creditors (including unpaid tradespeople) and financiers are concerned – however, Sir Roger advised that he is satisfied that the agent insofar as is possible will seek to sympathetically address the needs of those who have already purchased Sunningdale homes as well as finishing unbuilt properties and estate roads etc.

CAVEAT: Any Developer(s) taking on the portfolio will have no legal responsibility for homes already sold. These are subject to warranties which, as we have found out the hard way, do not cover the `snagging` that is the responsibility of the original (Sunningdale) developer which does not have funds.

If any purchasers face individual and personal difficulties as a result of this situation please contact Sir Roger's office privately. Cllr Divers expressed his thanks to the handymen for their work to improve and maintain the football pitch to such a high standard.

68/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed the insurance renewal had been approved. It had been agreed to instruct Zurich to provide insurance, on a three year long term contract. They offered a reduced rate of £1695.41.

The Christmas trees had been ordered, a 12ft for the Church and two 14ft trees for the Villages. They were due to be delivered at the end of November, the date was to be confirmed.

Concern had been raised with regard to the speed of traffic along The Length. Discussion took place exploring the options to address the problem. The implementation of double yellow lines along The Length where the road narrows, would be included in the Highways Improvement Plan for consideration by KCC. A request would also be made for them to be extended at the junction with A28. A 20mph speed limit had been included in the HIP, the traffic survey to evidence the requirement for the reduction in speed limit would be progressed.

69/23-24 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Tweedale was unable to attend the meeting, however, he reported that he was liaising with a resident at Manor Road, regarding the application by BT Openreach to erect telegraph poles. The poles had originally been removed, and ducting had been buried under ground, thus it was felt this would be adequate to be used for the fibre optic cabling. The Clerk would write to Openreach in support of the resident.

Cllr Tweedale had been litter picking along Orchard Lane, and together with Cllr Lawrance, had litter picked across the marshes towards the sea wall at Wantsum.

It was noted that the potholes at Manor Road were worsening, this would be monitored, and there was a considerable amount of maize chaff which had been blown from the trailers during the harvest. Cllr Crow-Brown advised he had raised this issue with the Highways Manager who would be investigating the problem with the farmers involved as it compounds drainage issues. Cllr Tweedale offered his apologies that he would no longer be in a position to help Cllr Lawrance to organise the Village fete next year.

Cllr Lawrance confirmed he had reported the A28 weed growth along the edge of the road to TDC however, he was yet to receive a response.

Cllr Dore reported the damage caused by the tractors from SNCF, along the footpath from Sun Lane to Frost Farm which had since been repaired. He had also cleared the overgrowth along the footpath from Frost Farm to Stuart Lane.

Cllr Smyth advised of the passing of Dennis Kirby, a long standing resident and active member of the community. Condolences were sent to his family at this sad time.

No update had been received from Strutt & Parker regarding the tree works to be completed at Sarre.

The handymen were requested to attend Sarre and sweep the footpaths following the harvest and large amount of maize chaff blown from the trailers onto the roads and pathways.

Cllr Smyth put forward the proposal to adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge. This was an initiative from KALC who encouraged Parish Council's to sign up to the pledge. The Clerk would prepare the necessary policies and include on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Ageros had continued to maintain the garden at the flagpole and TE10 footpath. It was suggested that a pressure washer was purchased for the handymen to use to clear the footpaths, particularly at Sarre. The handymen would be asked to make enquiries about a suitable machine for this purpose.

Cllr Ageros would be holding Tai-Chi followed by gardening talks on a weekly basis, at the Pavilion, starting on 27th October, 2pm. Donations would be welcomed, however, no formal charge would be made.

70/23-24 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith confirmed the motion to consider a moratorium on larger housing developments had been included on the Cabinet agenda for consideration on Thursday evening at the full council meeting.

Cllr Smith was fully in support of a campaign to protect Minster marshes following the planning application granted to the National Grid to install an electricity converter.

71/23-24 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Crow-Brown confirmed that the North Thanet Link road had been awarded funding and would therefore be progressing. The impact of the recent emergency road closures on local businesses had been highlighted to the Highways authority. Concerns had been noted and would continue to be raised on a regular basis as necessary.

72/23-24 KENT POLICE AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

PC Beth Ninnim confirmed that reporting had reduced from the previous month and only 23 calls had been received. These included, a stolen vehicle, poaching and road traffic accidents.

There had been an increase in poaching recently, due to a larger than average population of hares this year. Resident's were reminded, if they see activity of this nature, not to approach the persons involved but to report the incident using 999.

The fly-tipping at Orchard Road had been reported and dealt with accordingly.

PC Ninnim had contacted TDC with regard to Operation Zigzag, however, they advised they were no longer involved with the scheme and schools were responsible for dealing with inconsiderate parking direct. Beth had offered her support to the School, however, they were yet to get in contact with her.

A 'car meet' had been disbursed from Sandwich and then subsequently the Potten Street Car Park. Approx 80 vehicles had been involved and ASBO's had been issued.

The introduction of a police surgery was being explored in Minster, and potentially St Nicholas. Dates were to be arranged, and the surgeries would be publicised in due course.

73/23-24 BELL MEADOW REPORT

a) Following the recent leaflet drop to promote the Pavilion and holding an open afternoon, Cllr Dore advised it had received a disappointing response. He had therefore decided he would no longer continue to lead the working group, however, he would offer support where he could.

Cllr Divers extended his thanks to Cllr Dore for his hard work and effort in leading the working group and organizing the various activities/events at the Pavilion.

Cllr Dore would follow-up with the plumber to improve the heating and make it a more workable system.

Arrangements for the Fireworks event were discussed. Any donations received would be ringfenced for use towards the 'Warm Hub' in the winter.

b) The plans for the tennis courts were discussed and the potential of upgrading the court to a Multi Use Games Area considered. It was agreed that a public consultation should be held before making any further enquiries to gauge opinion from residents.

74/23-24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) L/TH/23/1215 - Streete House, Court Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Application for Listed Building Consent for the replacement of windows to the front elevation

Discussion took place and vote taken – 4 in support of the application, 1 abstain

F/TH/23/1274 – Land adjacent Vista, Court Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Erection of 2 No two storey 3-bed semi-detached dwellings together with associated access, parking and landscaping.

Discussion took place, objections on the grounds of loss of agricultural land.

Vote taken – 4 objections, 1 abstain

b) L/TH/23/0971 - Permission Granted.

F/TH/22/1086 – Permission Granted

75/23-24 FINANCE

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

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for September. (Proposed: Cllr Dore, seconded Cllr Divers).

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

Nest - Clerk's pension	£53.59
Lloyds Bank DD	£332.56
Seaward Copy Shop - BMP leaflets	£29.95
EDF - Electric BMP	£122.96
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£272.00
A. Dunsdon - Website Admin	£5.84
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£883.46
Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,075.05
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£414.16
D. Mc Dade - Handyman's salary & expenses	£322.06
Hugofox - Website Hosting	£11.99
MPC - 1/2 Clerk's CiLCA fee	£225.00
Zurich Insurance	£1,695.41
Unity Trust Service Charge	£18.00

Receipts:

Blean FC - Deposit	£50.00
BMP Hire, Bar, Kitchen	£320.76
Allotment 1a	£26.00
TDC - Precept/Agency	£17,017.50
Pitch Hire - H Bay League	£60.00
Thanet Conservatives - BMP Hire	£20.00
BMP Hire: Williamson	£57.50

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

(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Dore)

c) The Clerk advised that the external audit report and conclusion of the Audit 2022/3 had been received. Comments were noted and the report approved.

76/23-24 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Clerk presented the following policies which had been previously circulated to Councillors for review:

Equality & Diversity Policy, FOI Policy, Internal Control Systems, Publication Scheme, Risk Management Statement, Training Policy. No further comments were made, therefore the policies were approved.

RESOLVED: To approve the policies reviewed and identified above. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Lawrance)

77/23-24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- No issues were raised.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:40pm.