



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



### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

**Present:** Councillors D. Divers (Chairman), P. Radclyffe, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, D. Tweedale, M. Lawrance, E. Dore, Lee Terry  
**Also, Present:** District Cllr Reece Pugh, Maura Pell – Ramblers Association, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus three members of public.

#### **87/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted from Community Warden Alison Ring, KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown.

#### **88/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Smyth declared an interest in item 99/22-23 which was duly noted.

#### **89/22-23 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022. It was noted in item 79, Cllr Ageros' report, the Petitions Committee had rejected the petition rather than the Government as stated. The following was also noted and included: The NHS continues to promote the placement of defibrillators and CPR training within the Community.

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

#### **90/22-23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Divers extended his thanks to Cllr Tweedale for attending the Remembrance Service in Ramsgate and representing the Parish Council. The service held at St Nicholas Church had been well attended.

The resignation of one of the handymen had been received. The vacancy would be advertised in due course. Joe was thanked for his hard work and contribution during his time with the handyman team.

Thanks were offered to Cllr Radclyffe and the team who helped to erect and decorate the Christmas trees, and to Sue for decorating the Pavilion.

Sue Irving had approached the Parish Council to request a donation towards a Christmas meal she would be preparing for those in need on Christmas Day in the Pavilion. She planned to provide a Christmas dinner on 25<sup>th</sup> December and cold meats on Boxing Day with entertainment and festivities.

It was discussed and agreed that the Chairman would donate up to £150 of his allowance towards the proposal, subject to the provision of receipts/invoices.

#### **91/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised of the closure of Action with Communities in Rural Kent following a review of their financial affairs. The national organisation, Action with Communities in Rural England, will continue to operate and offer advice.

Correspondence had been received from a resident in Sarre enquiring about Baxter's land near Chantry Park. Concern was raised that the land was being prepared for development, however, the Parish Council confirmed they had not been notified of any applications. It was suggested the land had been included in the call for sites by TDC but this did not guarantee the land would be accepted for development.

#### **92/22-23 COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**Cllr Fallon** offered thanks to Sue Irving for decorating the Pavilion and for opening the facilities for the hires. No volunteers had been forthcoming to join the working party for the Pavilion. The survey of the tennis court had been received and would cost approximately £20,000 to resurface. Cllr Fallon was making enquiries with regard to funding streams to assist with the costs should it be decided to go ahead with the improvements.

The siting of the bench on the green of the Sunningdale development at The Length was revisited. A resident had approached Sunningdale regarding the provision of a bench but had not received a response. Cllr Fallon would follow this up and report further at the next meeting.

**Cllr Dore** reported he had attended the Age UK group in the village and residents had offered their thanks to the Parish Council for the yellow lines at The Finches. The enforcement of the parking restrictions were discussed, as there remained a problem during school drop off/pick up hours. Cllr Pugh offered to contact the Enforcement Officer to request attendance during the problematic times.

The Right of Way signs had been removed on TE3/4, this had been reported to KCC, Cllr Terry would enquire with the Farm to see if they had mistakenly taken them down.

**Cllr Tweedale** had replaced the Public Footpaths map at the Post Office. The overgrown shrubbery at the Vicarage was noted and suggested the Church representatives were approached to trim the overgrowth. Cllr Divers would make enquiries.

It was noted that the road sweeper had attended since the previous meeting.

**Cllr Lawrance** had been litter picking and noted the potholes were becoming worse on the roads surrounding the housing developments, potentially caused by the heavy machinery accessing the sites. Manor Road would be resurfaced in due course.

**Cllr Smyth** noted the road signs at the hazardous bend on A28 Sarre had been replaced. The clerk was thanked for organising the replacement Christmas trees due to the first delivery of trees being inadequate. It was suggested the Parish Council could look into buying a reusable tree for forthcoming years. This option would be explored further.

It was proposed that the implementation of a Neighbourhood plan could be revisited. A public consultation would need to be organized to gauge opinion, however, it was also noted that the position of the Government indicated that the Neighbourhood Plan did not necessarily prevent housing developments.

It was suggested that an article regarding the planning procedure was publicised on the website and parish magazine to address the public misconception with regard to the role of the Parish Council when dealing with planning applications. Also, to reinforce that the public are permitted to comment to the local authority on planning applications.

**Cllr Ageros** noted an improvement to the flooding concerns following the works on the drainage system in Sarre.

**Cllr Radclyffe** reported he had litter picked in Sarre and thanked the volunteers who helped to decorate and erect the Christmas trees. He had also approached Cllr Abi Smith with regard to the availability of trees with a view to planting some in Sarre. The land owner was yet to be identified for the piece of land being considered for the planting, Cllr Divers would chase KCC who making the enquiries.

### **93/22-23 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Cllr Reece Pugh advised he had approached the property team at TDC with regard to the transfer of Bell Meadow which would be progressed in due course.

The planning application to re-site the pumping station at Manor Road had been called-in. The delays with the development were due to the inability to connect the sewage until a decision has been made with regard to the location of the pumping station.

Cllr Pugh was working to ascertain the location of any designated Village Gaps to be included in the revision of the Local Plan. Cllr Pugh confirmed the rumours regarding a development being built at the Manor Lea Car Park were speculation and were completely unsubstantiated.

TDC were looking into revising the housing numbers in the District following the recent census data.

The inclusion of the land at The Length in the recent call for sites by TDC was discussed. There were a number of reasons why the land was unsuitable for development which meant it would potentially be rejected.

### **94/22-23 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Derek Crow-Brown was unable to attend the meeting and submitted the following report which was read by the Clerk:

#### **Warm Space**

KCC's libraries have joined the UK's "Warm Welcome" campaign, which aims to provide people across the country with a list of organisations and venues offering free, warm, welcoming spaces over the winter.

The campaign's website, [warmwelcome.uk](http://warmwelcome.uk), includes a postcode search to help people find locations where they can keep warm and join their local communities. Warm Welcome spaces come in all different shapes and sizes, from a homework club in a local church, to over an over-65s community drop-in centre.

#### **Operation Brock**

Drivers heading to and travelling around Kent this week are being reminded that Operation Brock is back in place.

The decision by the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF), made up of a group of organisations and agencies including Kent County Council and Kent Police in conjunction with National Highways - has been driven by significantly increased cross channel bookings for tourist traffic as well as hauliers heading back to the continent in time for the festive break.

Operation Brock enables strict management of HGVs on the M20 if necessary, allowing traffic to continue in both directions through a contraflow system.

Gritters have been doing their rounds out on the county's roads this week for the first time this season.

Not only is the message to take care while travelling during deteriorating weather conditions, but to plan ahead and make sure your vehicle is winter ready.

KCC Highways advise to check your route before you travel, allow extra time for your journey, check tyres before you set out to avoid unnecessary breakdowns and pack your car with essentials including food, water, regular medicines, family essentials and blankets and warm clothing.

#### **95/22-23 PCSO/COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT**

No report submitted by the PCSO.

Community Warden Alison Ring was not in attendance, however, she submitted the following report which was read by the Clerk as follows:

I work three days a week in St Nicholas at Wade, Sarre, Acol and Manston, usually on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, although this is flexible.

December has seen a significant drop in temperatures and with the cost of living increases many people are worried about managing in the months ahead. Unfortunately vulnerable people will try and save money by not heating their home sufficiently or eating properly. However, there is support and advice out there about keeping warm and managing costs. The Government has increased the cold weather payment for pensioners from £300 to £500 which is a help. If you or anyone in your neighbourhood are worried and need support, please contact me on 07812 786006 or by email [alison.ring@kent.gov.uk](mailto:alison.ring@kent.gov.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

With Christmas and New Year creeping up on us, unfortunately so are the scammers. Please think before giving personal information to anyone over the phone or by email. Remember if it sounds too good to be true, then it invariably is. If you are unsure about something, ask someone you can trust.

This time of year can be a wonderful time to enjoy with family and friends. But please remember there are many people who do not have anyone to check they are ok, and therefore this time of year in particular can be very lonely and socially isolating for some.

I am here to support residents in the villages struggling with all kinds of issues, practical and emotional. I am available to advise, listen and support. If I can't help, I may know someone that can.

#### **96/22-23 FOOTPATHS**

Maura Pell, Footpaths Officer for the Ramblers Association was welcomed and introduced. Maura was the lead Officer for Kent, a voluntary position in which she walked the footpaths and reported any issues/findings to be addressed to KCC who are responsibility for the maintenance of the public footpaths. The Parishes were encouraged to take ownership of the footpaths and keep them maintained due to the lack of resources from KCC. Maura was pleased to report that the footpaths in the Parish were of a high standard and thanked Cllrs Tweedale and Lawrance for their work on keeping them cleared and useable.

#### **97/22-23 LONE WORKING PROCEDURE**

The Clerk circulated the Lone Working procedure to be adopted. It was discussed and all were in agreement to adopt the procedure. The Clerk would order four 'Men at Work' signs to be used when working on or near the roads.

**RESOLVED: To adopt the Lone Working Procedure with immediate effect. Proposed: Cllr Lawrance, Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe**

#### **98/22-23 BELL MEADOW**

Nothing further to add from previous discussions. Volunteers were welcomed to join a working party to promote the use of the facilities. The website would be updated to remove the advice following Covid restrictions and update the telephone contact number.

#### **99/22-23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

##### **a) FH/TH/22/1453 - Plum Tree Cottage, Shuart Lane, South**

Erection of a two storey rear extension together with 4no. rooflights

*No objections made. All in agreement.*

##### **FH/TH/22/1486 - Bastion, Down Barton Road, St Nicholas At Wade**

Reconfiguration of existing garage into a ground floor bedroom, with relocation of the proposed front entrance from the side of the house to the front. together with addition of Juliet balconies to the both rear bedrooms

*No objections made. All in agreement.*

##### **F/TH/22/1582 & L/TH/22/1583 - The School House , Down Barton Road, St Nicholas**

Erection of boundary fence and sub-division of garden

*Vote taken 8 objections, 1 abstention. Concern was raised with regard to the protection of the trees on the plot. Suggested the Parish Council apply for TPO's to protect the trees in the garden.*

##### **F/TH/22/1583 – The Kings Head Inn, Canterbury Road, Sarre**

Change of use of existing annexe to the Kings Head Inn to a single storey dwelling and alteration to annexe porch and construction of disabled ramps

*No objections made. All in agreement. Cllr Smth left the room when discussion of this application took place.*

- b) F/TH/21/0136 & F/TH/21/0153 – St Nicholas Court Farm – Non Determined Appeal  
 L/TH/22/1378 – Church Cottage, Shuart Lane, St Nicholas – Granted  
 L/TH/22/1270 – The School House, Down Barton Rd, St Nicholas - Refused

#### **100/22-23 FINANCE**

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for November. (Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe, seconded Cllr Terry).**

b) The Clerk present the monthly payment schedule for December which included the following invoices:

DVLA- Handyman Van Tax	£290.00
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,667.71
E. Harvey-Burgess - Website Admin salary	£121.10
J. Read - Handyman's salary & expenses	£51.04
N. Sangster - Handyman's salary & expenses	£528.94
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£167.60
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£333.41
T. Oliver - Handyman's salary & expenses	£183.70
Viking Fireworks	£2,400.00
Business Stream - Water BMP	£64.34
SNS - Domain hosting	£42.84
The Defib Pad - replacement pads	£341.96
Lloyds Bank CC	£445.25
Festive Lights - Starter cables: Tree Lights	£28.97
Grummants - Boiler fault BMP	£180.00
RBL - Poppy Wreaths	£37.00
S. Archer - BMP Bar Stock	£133.05

#### **Receipts:**

BMP Hire - Cash Deposit: School Leavers/Fireworks	£1,021.60
D. Kirby - BMP Hire: Coffee Morning	£26.00

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

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

c) The Clerk advised that new flags would cost approximately £50 each depending on fittings etc... Cllr Divers would make enquiries regarding the sizes needed. Cllr Radclyffe advised he already had a flag for the Sarre flagpole.

**RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a flag for St Nicholas village. Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Terry.**

#### **101/22-23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- It was suggested that the bus companies were approached and asked to include a stop at the proposed site of the bench at The Length. It was considered to be a safe option and conducive for children using the bus for school. Cllr Lawrance would make initial enquiries with KCC to ascertain the feasibility of the suggestion.
- The use of the Pavilion as a warm space for residents was suggested and considered. However, due to the lack of volunteers able to open the facility and accommodate potential users, it was not viable.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:25pm.