



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th August 2024 at 7.30pm In The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Cllrs D. Divers, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, D. Tweedale, Mark Lawrance, Glenn Pugh, Ann Andrews, Eric Dore
Also, Present: KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllrs Abi Smith & Sam Bambridge, PC Andy Howe and Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 1 member of public.

38/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from KCC Cllr Linda Wright

39/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Divers declared an interest, item 49/24-25 (b) – repayment of expenses.

40/24-25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2024. These were proposed by Cllr Tweedale, seconded by Cllr Lawrance, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

41/24-25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers advised he had been in contact with the residents of the property adjacent to the Bell Meadow car park to request they do not leave discarded items next to the fencing. This had since been removed and cleaned accordingly. Cllr Divers met with a former resident regarding the siting of the memorial bench at the Garden of Rest. The handymen would liaise with the gentleman direct to ensure the location and bench purchased is suitable.

42/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised she had reported the overgrown footpath which runs from Frost Farm towards Shuart Lane as complaints had been received that access was obstructed, particularly for disabled persons. The overgrowth at TE10 had now been cut back.

The dog waste bag dispensers for Bell Meadow had been ordered, and waste bags had been received from TDC for the existing dispensers to be refilled.

Ongoing correspondence had been received from a resident in Sarre, who had requested information with regard to handyman schedules of work. The matter had now been addressed.

Banking signatories had been updated accordingly.

43/24-25 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Pugh reported he had been approached by concerned residents regarding the speeding issues in the village. 20mph zones were being considered in the Highways Improvement Plan, and speedwatch was felt to be a deterrent, however, the scheme relied upon volunteers to enable it to be re-introduced.

Cllr Tweedale advised he had approached the paragliding company at Manston, following the disturbance from the early morning flights. Although it was inconvenient to residents to be awoken very early, it was not unlawful for the paragliders to fly half an hour before sunrise. The company explained they were unlikely to return to Manston due to the airport re-opening.

Cllr Lawrance had been approached by residents interested in purchasing a plot at the cemetery. Cllr Lawrance had spoken to Jonathon Cole who had explained the position with regard to the plot allocation, and space remaining in the cemetery. The Clerk regularly liaises with Jonathon and deals with the burials and plot allocation. It was noted that the allotment spaces may be required to expand the Cemetery in the future, however, this was not an immediate issue. The land at the rear of the cemetery may also be potentially used for the expansion, and would be considered as necessary. A resident had volunteered to remove the mound of soil from the cemetery, which was gratefully accepted. The overgrowth at Shuart Lane was restricting access, this was noted and would be reported to KCC accordingly.

The Church were in the process of having the flagstone path upgraded and dwarf walls rebuilt.

Recent anti-social behaviour of youths riding on e-scooters had been reported to the Police. PC Howe would be actively looking for the riders and would address the issue with them direct.

It was requested that the handymen investigate an appropriate closing mechanism for the play area gate to prevent dogs from getting into the area independently.

Cllr Dore advised he had cleared the overgrowth from the footpath between Frost Farm and Stuart Lane and been litter picking.

Cllr Smyth requested for the Chair and Clerk to meet with the Sarre Councillor representatives to discuss the HIP.

Flytipping at Old Road had been noted and reported to TDC accordingly.

Cllr Ageros had been maintaining the village planters, the flagpole garden and had worked on footpath TE10 to clear some of the overgrowth. The recent accident on the A28 which affected traffic at Sarre, had been noted.

44/24-25 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith had unfortunately been on sick leave and therefore had not been in a position to provide a full report. She had attended a presentation with regard to the Manston Airport flight proposals and noted the flight path being considered was direct over St Nicholas village. This would be monitored by the Parish Council and responded to once the consultation had opened.

The position of KCC to not use glyphosphate weed killer was welcomed, and residents were encouraged to remove the weeds outside of their own properties if able.

Cllr Sam Bambridge was welcomed to her first meeting. She introduced herself and confirmed that the Manston Airport flights paths were currently being discussed. No night flights were expected with the latest flight being at 11pm, and starting again at 6/7am. Cllr Bambridge was also in the process of arranging a meeting with Iain Livingstone to discuss the Sealink proposal.

45/24-25 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Crow-Brown explained he was recently interviewed by Kent Online, regarding the new government plan to relax planning rules. He stated that having seven parish and town councils in his division, there is much anger already, regarding overdevelopment of Thanet. Cllr Crow-Brown stated this is not being a 'Nimby', it is about the loss of nature, wildlife, trees and food security, especially having the best agricultural farmland in the county. People are generally concerned about the biodiversity loss and additional traffic, especially in the villages, making travel more dangerous.

In the Thanet villages, we have many angry, intelligent, well-organised and well-funded voters, who will fight large scale, poorly built housing to the bitter end.

Cllr Crow-Brown had attended the corporate opening ceremony for the geodesic dome at Monkton Nature Reserve, and was pleased to report the Reserve was welcoming record numbers of visitors.

46/24-25 KENT POLICE REPORT

PC Howe provided the following report:

Thanet Villages:

As you will see, we have seen a slight rise in violence against the person offences, these usually go arm in arm with improved weather conditions and alcohol consumption around football internationals so I don't think we should be too concerned.

I will look into the sexual offences increase but I believe these were linked to a small number of stalking/accosting calls. Whilst I am unable to give specifics, I can tell you that I have identified a person involved and they have been dealt with via a Community Protection Warning resulting in no further calls of this type.

Since returning from leave I have been abstracted nearly on a daily basis due to call demand and operational requirements such as Dreamland Events, Op Island (Thanet Beaches) and more recently the civil unrest. I have been visiting vulnerable religious sites such as Mosques and Synagogues to provide a visible policing presence along with my usual visits to where illegal migrants are housed and processed.

St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre:

I have focused on three issues around St Nich's and Sarre, these are the speed of traffic on the A28 entering Sarre from Upstreet. I have undertaken two pop up speed checks in this area and the issues remain where drivers fail to reduce speed significantly as they enter the village, I will undertake further checks over the next month.

I have also been attending Bell Meadow where I have received reports of nuisance youths in the area using their cycles to cause nuisance. I am yet to find them or identify them.

Lastly I have been attending Potten St to deal with the anti-social issues linked to the wooded area. I have placed notices onto the trees warning of the consequences of this kind of behaviour, however these have been ripped down. Further notices will be placed here but a longer-term solution is required. In two weeks, I have moved on 12 lone vehicles from this location, details of the drivers have been recorded for intelligence purposes and those drivers have been warned not to return to the location. I will be continuing with this approach along with requesting the Neighbourhood Task Force pay attention to the area when I am on rest days. An incident relating to this area was reported to Kent Police in early July resulting in arrests, this is an ongoing case and as

such I am unable to provide any further detail at this moment. Suffice to say, I will be attending the location on a very regular basis.

47/24-25 BELL MEADOW REPORT

Cllr Divers advised the football pitch hire was restarting in August, and the changing facilities had been tidied in preparation for the new season. New flagposts and net pegs were required, Cllr Dore would make enquiries and forward to the Clerk for purchase. A poster advertising the Pavilion had been published on the social media pages to promote the facility. It was suggested the lobby area was repainted to spruce it up again.

48/24-25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) F/TH/24/0607 - Little Orchard , Canterbury Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Application discussed, no objections raised. Vote taken – unanimous support for the application.

b) F/TH/23/1075 – Granted

F/TH/24/0383 – Granted

F/TH/24/0605 – Granted

F/TH/24/0606 – Granted

49/24-25 FINANCE

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

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for July. (Proposed: Cllr Lawrance, seconded Cllr Andrews).

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

St John's College - SJG lease payment	£60.00
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£275.16
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£283.72
SNS - Domain Hosting	£50.52
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£713.06
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,288.09
Playsafety - Play Area Safety Inspection	£136.80
KCS - Boiler service & repair	£307.20
D. McDade - Handyman's salary & expenses	£337.53
Nest DD - Clerk's pension	£59.59
Lloyds Bank DD - Credit Card	£79.87
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
TDC - Event fee - Fireworks	£75.00
BMP Hire - Deposit return	£25.00
BMP Hire - Deposit return	£25.00
Business Stream - Water BMP	£96.33
D. Divers - Repayment for bar stock	£161.19

Receipts:

Unity Trust - Refund of overcharged fees	£38.30
Cemetery fees - Mehlin	£70.00
Cemetery fees - WS Cole	£350.00
Various receipts - BMP Hire	£755.50
Cemetery fee - Headstone	£110.00
BMP Hire - Consultancy Solutions	£25.00

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

(Proposed: Cllr Tweedale, Seconded: Cllr Pugh)

50/24-25 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Clerk advised that revised financial regulations had been issued by NALC and a revised Code of Conduct had been issued by TDC for review and adoption. These had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. No concerns were raised and it was therefore agreed to approve the documents which would then be reviewed on an annual basis.

(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Pugh)

51/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No concerns raised. It was noted that the resident in attendance had kindly offered his assistance to villagers who may require labouring work to be undertaken.

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