



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.15pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers (Chairman), L. Fallon, P. Radclyffe, L. Ageros, G. Goy

Also, Present: KCC Cllrs Derek Crow-Brown and Linda Wright, Sara Archer – Clerk, plus 3 members of the public.

78/21-22 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public were excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during the period 7:15pm – 7:30pm.

79/21-22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor Reece Pugh offered his apologies.

80/21-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

81/21-22 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th October 2021. These were proposed by Cllr Radclyffe, seconded by Cllr Fallon, all present agreed and therefore the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

It was noted that an error had been made in item 55/21-22 which referred to the chimney of Manor Hall and should have been the Village Hall.

82/21-22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers thanked everyone who helped to make the fireworks evening such a success and was well received by the community. A litter picking session had been held, all those involved were thanked including the Bell Inn for providing refreshments. Highways had been contacted to fill the grit bins, and the handyman van was being collected on 10th November. Options for the safe storage of the vehicle were being explored.

83/21-22 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that she had received confirmation from Richard Heaps - KCC, that the footpath between Frost Farm and Shuart Lane would have a dropped kerb installed in January 2022, thus enabling disabled access for wheelchairs, buggies etc. The resident who had brought this to the attention of the Parish Council had been informed and expressed their gratitude. Thanet District Council had met 2 November 2021 to discuss the four statutory recommendations issued by the Council's external auditors Grant Thornton on 12 October 2021 under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The meeting was held in public and the Council voted unanimously to agree to the recommendations and actions proposed by Grant Thornton, with the additional decision that full Council would receive regular updates of the actions taken to address the recommendations. The full document from Grant Thornton, containing the recommendations, can be found on Thanet District Council's website.

84/21-22 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Radclyffe confirmed he had litter picked in Sarre and had received positive comments following the fireworks evening. Cllr Ageros advised that concern had been raised regarding the lack of lighting along the footpath from the Pavilion towards Manor Road in Bell Meadow. Lighting suggestions would be considered further in due course. Cllr Fallon confirmed she had litter picked through the village and would be reporting an update on the bus stop under item 87.

85/21-22 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

No District Councillors present.

86/21-22 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Linda Wright introduced herself and confirmed she would follow up the flooding/drainage concerns in Sarre, with the flood management team. Cllr Wright advised she had responsibility for Public Health and Adult Social & Mental Health Care. GP appointment issues were discussed and concerns raised at the overview and scrutiny meeting.

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows:

I am pleased to report my members grant donation of £500 towards a bee pollinator bus stop for St Nicholas has been signed off.

Household Waste Disposal Sites

The Consultation regarding the Household Waste booking system drew a record response of 11,000 submissions with a detailed analysis being made and an announcement hopefully in January. Residents have said within surveys that they would like to have the ability to make bookings on the day. In response, the County Council Commissioned Booking Lab to develop a web-app to provide this enhancement. Officers are developing a proof of concept for an initial trial and use at Folkestone & Maidstone (Tovil) HWRCs.

Tree and Hedgerow Planting

Plan Tree is Kent County Council's strategy for the establishment of 1.5 million new trees for Kent. The Strategy sets out how we will work in partnership across the county to not only increase our tree canopy cover but protect and restore existing trees, hedgerow, and woodland and, in turn, support the recovery of wildlife, provide natural climate solutions (including carbon sequestration) and enrich people's lives.

I have been advised by KCC members will advised in due course what trees and hedging will be available and will liaise with parishes.

3 PWRR Reserves and 2433 Squadron Air Cadets Manston

I have been made aware that both 3 PWRR Reserves and 2433 Squadron Air Cadets will be leaving the site at Manston in the next few months. As a member of the Armed Forces Covenant committee, I have informed Peter Bruinels, Armed Forces Parliamentary advisor. Thanet has always been a very good recruiting area and the potential loss of these organisations is immense. Hopefully 2433 Sqn will remain in the area, using the airport site for their training evenings.

87/21-22 BUS SHELTER

Cllr Fallon advised that confirmation had now been received from KCC regarding the grant application and the Parish Council had been awarded £4000 towards the costs. The grant of £500 from Derek Crow-Brown had also been secured. Enquiries were being made with KCC Cllr Linda Wright for a contribution towards the shortfall, from her covid recovery fund.

All Councillors were in agreement to go ahead with the order as soon as possible. Cllr Fallon was thanked for her work on the project.

88/21-22 BELL MEADOW PAVILION COMMITTEE

The security of the premises was discussed, additional measures would be put in place immediately to ensure the insurance is not compromised.

The use of the football pitch and it's ongoing maintenance was discussed in length. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with representatives from the football clubs to discuss concerns and implement arrangements to maintain the grass to ensure it continues to meet league requirements. A surcharge, or non-refundable deposit was suggested as a way to enforce the clubs do not leave the Pavilion or grounds in an unacceptable state.

Following the success of the fireworks evening, improvements were considered for future events. It was noted that the school car park had not been as full, possibly indicating that more local people from the village attended.

The employment of a cleaner was discussed in length and it was agreed that the post would need to be advertised. A member of the Committee had expressed an interest in the position, however, it was explained that it would be a conflict of interest for a member of the Committee to be employed by the Parish Council.

89/21-22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) TCA/TH/21/1531 - Land Between The Vicarage And The Boathouse, The Length, St Nicholas At Wade

1No Hawthorn (T1) - Crown raise to 5m and reduce reduce by 2m, 2No Cherry (T2, T3) - crown raise by 2m, 1No Copper plum (T4) - Remove 3 lower lateral limbs, 1No Beech (T5) - Partial side raise up to 5m, 1No Copper beech (T6) - Partial side raise up to 5m, 1No Cherry (T7) – Partial side raise up to 5m

Refer to Tree Officer

TCA/TH/21/1529 - Land Between The Vicarage And The Boathouse, The Length, St Nicholas At Wade

1No Beech (T1) - Crown lift by 5m, 1No Spruce (T2) - Crown lift by 2m, 1No Sycamore (T3) - Crown lift by 2-3m, 2No Sycamore (T4,T5) - Crown lift by 2-3m, 1No Cherry (T6) - Crown lift by 2-3m, 1No Christmas Tree (T7) - Fell, 1No Plum (T10) - Fell, 2No Thorn (T8, T9)- Fell

Refer to Tree Officer

b) FH/TH/21/1271 – Old Coach House, Sarre – Permission Granted

FH/TH/21/1165 – Alpha, The Length, St Nicholas at Wade – *Permission Granted*

F/TH/21/0934 – Huckleberry Farm, Downbarton Road, St Nicholas at Wade – *Permission Granted*

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Nicki Burford, Enforcement Officer for clarification whether the structures at Huckleberry Farm were permanent or mobile.

90/21-22 FINANCE

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

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for October. (Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe, seconded Cllr Goy).

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

EDF – Electricity BMP	104.80
EDF – Gas BMP	47.11
Business Stream - Water BMP	59.56
Festive Lights – Christmas Tree Lights SNAW	101.96
Edging for Sarre Flagpole	14.00
S. Archer – Clerk’s salary & expenses	949.67
N. Sangster – Handyman salary & expenses	293.25
J. Read – Handyman salary & expenses	167.74
M. Savage – Handyman salary & expenses	233.38
HMRC employee PAYE	176.08
Lloyds Bank CC	42.60

Receipts:

Cemetery fees	100.00
BMP Hire – Art Class	26.00
Cemetery fees	145.00

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for November (Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe, Seconded: Cllr Divers)

c) The Clerk reported that the Parish Council laptop was not working and shared the report produced by an engineer that advised it was unrepairable. Enquiries had been made and a new laptop with the most efficient operating system would cost approx. £600 with an additional monthly fee of £6 for the Microsoft office software package.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a laptop with a budget of £600, plus upgrade the Clerk’s subscription to Office 365 for a monthly fee of £6. (Proposed: Cllr Fallon, Seconded: Cllr Goy)

91/21-22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- It was confirmed that the vacancy for a handyman would be advertised and in the meantime, the handymen would be asked to attend Sarre. It was suggested a water blaster was hired to clear the footpaths in Sarre.

- The Church Commission representatives would be contacted to clear the overgrowth on the land adjacent to the flagpole towards bust stop.

- Cllr Divers confirmed he would be laying a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday, Cllr Radclyffe would lay one for Sarre and would also be attending the parade in Ramsgate on behalf of the Parish Council.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:50pm.