



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



### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 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 Linda Wright and Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 3 members of public.

#### **52/24-25 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public are excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during the period 7:00pm – 7:30pm.

Discussion took place regarding the future management of the Bell Meadow Pavilion. It was resolved to approve the appointment of a cleaner as required. Councillors would share responsibility for the pitch hire and private functions as appropriate.

#### **53/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted from KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown.

#### **54/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Ageros declared an interest in item 58/24-25.

#### **55/24-25 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024. These were proposed by Cllr Lawrance, seconded by Cllr Dore, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **56/24-25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Divers advised much of his time this month had been spent dealing with the Pavilion and associated issues.

#### **57/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk advised she had reported the dangerously hanging branch at TE10 and asked for it to be removed as a matter of urgency.

The dog waste bag dispensers for Bell Meadow and Sarre had been installed with thanks to the handymen.

A plot holder at the allotments had been served notice for breach of contract. Once finalised, the allotment will be offered to resident on the waiting list.

The Clerk had contacted Iain Livingstone for clarification with regard to the outstanding Section 106 monies. No response had been received, the Clerk would continue to follow this up.

Planning Enforcement had been contacted with regard to the fencing that had been erected at Court Road, obstructing the footpath. The matter was on-going, no further update had been received.

The Clerk had been approached to order the Christmas tree for the Church as has been done in previous years. This is kindly donated to the Church by a resident. All agreed for the purchase to be made as in previous years.

#### **58/24-25 COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**Cllr Pugh** reported he had been involved with concerns regarding Parish Close. A resident in attendance shared his concerns with regard to the current state of poor repair of roads and footpaths.

**Cllr Tweedale** advised he had also contacted Heather Waller – KCC Footpaths Officer to raise concerns regarding the fencing that has been installed. He is yet to receive a response. It was suggested the matter was referred to Cllr Crow-Brown to make enquiries on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was noted that one side of the drain in Sarre had not been cleared. This would be reported to KCC Highways again for attention. Cllr Tweedale had attended the Planning Meeting at TDC with regard to the 1600 home development at Birchington and was pleased to note the decision to defer the application.

**Cllr Lawrance** had completed the monthly safety inspection for the play area and had spoken with the handymen to investigate an appropriate closing mechanism for the play area gate to prevent dogs from getting into the area independently. A magnetic closure was being explored. Signage to indicate the appropriate ages for use of the equipment were discussed, as it appeared some of the play equipment was being abused. Compliments had been received and noted with regard to Bell Meadow which is very well maintained and a credit to the handymen.

ID cards were suggested, the Clerk would take photographs of each Councillor and produce badges for the next meeting.

**Cllr Andrews** noted the dangerous speed of the tractors and farm vehicles using Court Road. It was suggested the SNCF were approached and concerns raised again about the issue. Resident's are encouraged to note the vehicles colour and number plate if possible, which would then be passed on the Farm Manager to action accordingly.

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

Cllr Smyth would report the drainage issue to KCC accordingly. A significant number of trailers remained uncovered when transporting crops through the villages. Cllr Divers would re-circulate the response from the Farm Manager, who will be putting mechanisms in place to address this issue for future harvests.

**Cllr Ageros** had been maintaining the village planters, the flagpole garden and had worked on footpath TE10 to clear some of the overgrowth. Cllr Ageros had been approached by a concerned resident who had witnessed an unattended bonfire in the field adjacent to Sarre House, and widening of the access into the field. He would monitor the situation and update the Parish Council as appropriate.

#### **59/24-25 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

No District Councillors were in attendance and no reports submitted.

Cllr Wright confirmed the position with regard to the housing development at Birchington which had been deferred.

Discussion took place between the Parish Councillors with regard to the proposal and circumstances of the application.

#### **60/24-25 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Wright advised she had attended a meeting with the Care Quality Commission and was pleased to report that QEQM were making progress, with more engagement with its staff.

A small amount of grant funding was available for any projects in the Parish that KCC could support.

South Eastern had also opened its grant funding scheme for 2026.

Cllr Crow-Brown offered his apologies for the meeting, and submitted the following report which was read by the Clerk:

Although the summer period was relatively quiet on meetings in Maidstone, I have been busy dealing with a variety of issues, including numerous road issues, blue badge queries, housing requests and supporting my fellow cllrs against the building of 1,600 dwellings in Birchington.

Good to see Cllr Tweedle and Pugh attending the planning application meeting at TDC last week.

I have also assisted the Save Minster Marshes group and the Westgate Housing action group. Moreover, following the chancellor's announcement to stop winter fuel allowances for millions of pensioners, Sir Roger Gale's office and I have received many complaints from anxious people worried about losing a much needed financial benefit.

#### **61/24-25 KENT POLICE REPORT**

PC Howe provided the following report:

Please see the stats for Thanet Villages below, unfortunately the August stats are yet to be uploaded and so these are still for July. As you will see, the areas of concern were sexual offences and public order through July.

The sexual offences were directly linked to a number of accosting incidents where females were approached by a male, this person has now received a Community Protection Warning from me, and no further incidents have occurred. Please be aware that Police class this a "sexual offence" however no sexual act occurs, and it is only classed as such, due to it being an early indicator of possibly escalation.

The public order instances can be directly attributable to hot nights, too much booze and England being rubbish at football 😊 so we should not be too concerned about these.

From myself, I have been focussing on farm areas during the Hare Coursing season, since the crops were cut back, we have had intelligence of poaching, lamping and hare coursing albeit we have only received one call which was attended by two response patrols which seemed to have scared them off.

I have been abstracted on a number of occasions to assist with call demand and summer events including Dreamland events.

Unfortunately, this will always be the case until we manage to recruit more officers, but I am lucky in as much as, I am usually the last to be called upon.

The following are updates for August relating to calls to your specific Village:

#### **St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre:**

There were 20 calls to Police during August with the largest proportion being traffic related. No real stand out issues, with only a handful of these calls being classed as emergencies. The reports of nuisance youths in St Nicholas at Wade are linked to possibly

two groups of children. I have had a chat with one group of children and a Mum who I can only describe as a lovely family who enjoy the environment they live in. The children are all polite and responsible as they wear protective gear when on their cycles, I have asked them to be more respectful of other road users and residents when riding.

Please be mindful that I regularly get drawn into the towns to assist in dealing with nuisance youths who show very feral tendencies and little respect for the public or authority, the children in St Nicholas are not the same species in comparison and we are very lucky to have far more responsible parents and children. I would also like to say that it is so refreshing to be able to engage with kids who are enjoying life and exploring their environment instead of hiding in dark rooms playing on their Xbox.

#### **62/24-25 BELL MEADOW REPORT**

Cllr Divers confirmed the arrangements for the annual fireworks event. Cllrs Tweedale and Lawrance would assist with the car park and marshalling, Cllr Dore would approach the School with regard to parking, posters and glow stick sales.

The bar would be open and the Clerk would make enquiries into purchasing a sum-up card machine for electronic sales this year. The display would start at 7pm with doors open from 6pm.

The Clerk would also contact the owners of the horses in the field adjacent to ensure they are moved away from the area.

#### **63/24-25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

##### **a) FH/TH/24/0998 - The Paddocks , Canterbury Road, St Nicholas At Wade**

*The application was discussed, no objections raised, however, it was proposed that TDC were asked to consider putting conditions attached to the planning, to direct that the annexe should be tied to the curtilage of the main building and not be sold independently from the main property. Vote taken – unanimously agreed to suggest above proposal.*

b) No results given.

#### **64/24-25 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 Pugh, seconded Cllr Lawrance).**

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

HMRC - Employee PAYE	£111.96
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£250.64
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£776.06
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,129.64
SNS - Domain hosting	£50.52
Nest DD - Clerk's pension	£64.18
Westgate Security - Alarm service BMP	£97.98
Lloyds Bank DD - Credit Card	£119.29
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99

##### **Receipts:**

Various receipts as listed in paying in book	£253.50
Holman's - Pitch Hire BMP	£60.00
WS Cole - plot 79	£485.00
Frames - Pitch Hire BMP	£60.00

**RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for September at the next meeting due to a clerical error.**

c) The Clerk presented the conclusion of audit which had been published on the parish noticeboard and website accordingly. The recommendation to implement a '.gov.uk' domain was noted and the Clerk would be making the necessary enquiries with regard to the financial implications of this.

**RESOLVED: To approve and note the conclusion of the 2023/24 external audit, carried out by Mazars.**

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

d) The Clerk confirmed the insurance arrangements for the forthcoming year. A fixed term agreement was in place, therefore a nominal increase in cost was observed.

**RESOLVED: To approve the renewal of the insurance with Zurich for 2024/25 accordingly.**

**(Proposed: Cllr Ageros, Seconded: Cllr Divers)**

#### **65/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- Discussion took place with regard to the position of the Sunningdale developments. A residents committee for Parish Close was in the process of being formed.
- The Clerk would chase Iain Livingstone for an update on the position of the outstanding Section 106 monies.
- It was suggested that following comments on social media, a public consultation with regards to the tennis courts and potential MUGA was explored. It was disappointing to note that very few residents were in attendance at the meeting to put forward their ideas/suggestions for consideration.

**The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:00pm.**