



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



### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

**Present: Councillors D. Divers, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, M. Lawrance, D. Tweedale, Glenn Pugh**

**Also, Present: KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 1 member of public.**

#### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

##### 1 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR FOR 2024/25

Cllr Divers was nominated for Chair, this was proposed by Cllr Ageros and seconded by Cllr Pugh.

**RESOLVED: Cllr Divers to be re-elected as Chair for 2024-25.**

Cllr Ageros was nominated for Vice-Chair, this was proposed by Cllr Divers and seconded by Cllr Pugh.

**RESOLVED: Cllr Ageros to be re-elected as Vice-Chair for 2024-25.**

##### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Eric Dore (Sickness) and PC Andy Howe.

##### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations made.

##### 4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

**RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 9th April 2024 and Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023. These were proposed by Cllr Tweedale, seconded by Cllr Lawrance, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

##### 5 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr John Brockman reported the following on behalf of the Village Hall Committee:

On the 1st April 2023 we were forced to increase our hire charges from £8 to £10 per hour. This was in main due to the increased energy costs. With the current slight easing in energy prices, we are able to maintain the current rate this year.

Hire income now averages approximately £1,400 per month, previously £1,000. The main sources of our income remain dance and childcare.

We continue to spend monies obtained via Covid grants on long overdue repairs and refurbishment of the hall. This meant that the hall made a planned loss of £9,869 during its last financial year.

Last year we replaced the leaking clubroom / kitchen flat roof and refinished the main hall floor.

The oldest of the electrical supply panels has been replaced.

We have also purchased a storage shed which will allow us to free up space within the clubroom.

We intend to continue with these repairs and decorating during the remainder of the year with upgrades to the kitchen, decorating the clubroom and repointing of the side walls.

A successful Christmas fair was again held this year and this generated a net income of £885.

##### 6 BELL MEADOW PAVILION REPORT

Cllr Divers reflected on the past year during which the Bell Meadow Pavilion had hosted a very successful fireworks evening, and a number of private hires, with football being the main focus of income for the facility.

Financially however, it had been a challenging year for the Pavilion, and additional volunteers were welcomed to join the working party to enable more events to be held and the facility to be used to its fullest potential.

## **7 ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT**

It was disappointing to note that no response or report had been received for the second year. Cllr Lawrance would engage with the Headteacher to encourage more effective communication between the School and the Parish Council.

## **8 ST NICHOLAS CHURCH REPORT**

Cllr Lawrance reported on behalf of the Church, as follows:

The first 4 months of the year have seen a few improvements to our church. These being the refurbishment and upgrading of the sound/PA system, servicing and updating the Fire extinguishers and work to shortly to commence on the lifting and relaying of the flagstones, at the entrance to the church, and the replacing of the gate posts with new gate posts and a new gate.

The Cafe in the Church is doing well and the volunteers who work in the kitchen (and front of house) have been doing a fantastic job keeping visitors and locals alike suitably supplied with sandwiches, panini's, sausage rolls and plenty of cake, all of which are made by local villagers. The profits from which go to maintaining the upkeep of our lovely building. Upcoming events in the church are various concerts, Flower Festival and summer and Autumn Craft Fairs. (the details will shortly all be found of the village FB and WhatsApp sites and local noticeboards.

We also have plans for the Volunteers in the church to have training on: - Fire Extinguishers, First Aid and Resuscitation (including Paediatric Resuscitation) and Safeguarding and Health & Safety.

## **9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

An opportunity for members of the public to discuss local Parish matters with Councillors or those who have spoken during the meeting – No representations made.

## **ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **1/23-24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Divers updated the meeting regarding the position of the Manor Road construction. KCC had replied that planning consents/permissions and enforcement of any set conditions in general are a matter for the Local Planning Authority and their Building Control mechanisms. Cllr Divers had then, in turn, contacted the Planning Applications Manager – Iain Livingstone, who responded that the roads were not required to be constructed to an adoptable standard under planning legislation. Cllr Divers would continue to pursue an acceptable resolution to the issues with Manor Road, with both KCC and TDC.

It was noted that Crumps Farm had been put forward for auction in June. The sale and subsequent development of the land would be monitored.

### **2/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed there was now one half sized allotment plot available for lease.

The play equipment safety inspection had been booked and would be taking place in June.

The Clerk had completed the renewal of the Food Hygiene Certificate, valid for a further three years.

Correspondence had been received with regard to a request to place a memorial bench at the Cemetery. This had been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. It was discussed and agreed to approve the request. The Clerk would inform the relative accordingly.

### **3/23-24 COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**Cllr Pugh** reported he had attended the recent TRRG meeting and Speedwatch had been the main topic of consideration. Alan Watson, the Speedwatch Co-Ordinator for the area had agreed to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the scheme in more detail.

Cllr Pugh would be attending the TAC meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May to represent the Parish Council.

**Cllr Tweedale** advised he had been approached regarding the fibre optic connection to Parish Close, which would be provided in due course. Cllr Tweedale had suggested the resident should contact KCC Highways for permission to install a safety mirror opposite Orchard Close.

Cllr Tweedale had contacted the KCC Footpaths Officer – Heather Waller, to raise concern regarding the overgrown and ploughed footpaths in the Village. He had not received a response to date. It was noted that footpath TE7 – Chambers Wall - had been subject to damage, with the metal prohibitive loops being cut off to enable unauthorized access at the pedestrian rail crossing.

Cllr Tweedale had a dozen young beech saplings available for anyone who could make use of them.

It was noted that on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024, it would be a legal requirement for owners of birds/fowl to register their animals with DEFRA as part of the bird flu controls.

**Cllr Lawrance** confirmed he had printed some 'No Cold Callers' signs and left them in the Post Office and Church for residents to collect and use.

Further concern regarding the obstructive telegraph pole at Manor Road was raised.

The increased use of electric scooters in the Village was noted. Residents were encouraged to report their concerns to the Police, as they were not road legal vehicles.

The Clerk confirmed she would be ordering the dog waste bag dispensers as soon as the bags were back in stock.

**Cllr Ageros** had been maintaining the village planters, and worked on footpath TE10. He requested the handymen attended and helped to trim back some of the overgrowth at the footpath.

#### **4/23-24 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Cllr Abi Smith advised that TDC were considering reducing the number of District Councillors from 56 to 42, however, they would not be changing the boundaries. Congratulations were expressed regarding the mini-woodlands planning project in Margate/Broadstairs.

Cllr Smith had attended a meeting with the Home Energy Advice Service. They were committed to helping residents access government funding to improve the efficiency within their homes and were keen to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss their services further. The Clerk would contact the Officer and invite them to present at the next meeting.

#### **5/23-24 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Crow-Brown congratulated Cllr Divers and Cllr Ageros in their re-election for the forthcoming year.

A news release had been circulated by KCC advising of the early completion of the road improvement works on the Thanet Way. Minster Primary School had been awarded a grant of £300 from the Community Fund, to improve their stock of books.

A Special Development Consent Order was being applied for, with reference to the Manston Immigrant Processing Centre. Improvements at the Centre were noted with better security and faster processing of the immigrants.

A decision with regard to the Airport was expected within the next few weeks.

#### **6/23-24 KENT POLICE REPORT**

PC Andy Howe was unable to attend the meeting, however, he submitted the following report which was circulated to the Parish Council:

As you will see, the main issues of concern remain the vehicle related crime and the burglary on businesses. These are now generally historic as they mostly related to spikes in those offence types around the turn of the year.

We have however seen vehicle type crimes across Thanet as being particularly higher than normal with certain types of vehicles being targeted by organised crime groups. The vehicles most likely to be targeted are: High value vehicles such as Range Rovers and any vehicles with keyless entry/start.

The criminals are using technology to clone the signals of these vehicles allowing them to simply drive off with a car causing no damage.

The best way to protect against this is to:

A) keep your fob/key in a Faraday Pouch preventing the signal from being cloned (available on Ebay and Amazon).

B) use a steering lock which takes time and effort to remove and is an easy deterrent.

Calls Relating to St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre:

21 calls were recorded of which,

6 x Road Traffic related calls,

4 x Domesticated calls,

1 x Information call,

2 x Concern call,

1 x Abandoned 999 call,

1 x Accidental alarm activation,

1 x Dog incident (sheep worrying, please keep dogs on leads near sheep or cattle),

1 x Harassment call,

3 x Suspicious Persons calls relating to males looking into cars (only one call was confirmed to be actually suspicious with 3 males in dark clothing being recorded on Ring Doorbells with Police patrols in the area within a few minutes, they seemed to have been scare off with none being located)

1 x Attempt Burglary call where 3 males wearing dark clothing have kicked doors to attempt to gain access unsuccessfully (very likely to be the same 3 males as above due to timing and location)

Recorded Crime for St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre:

1 X Attempt burglary (as above)

1 x Criminal Damage to a telecoms box

I have attended numerous traffic calls on the fast roads around the villages and conducted visible patrols of poaching hot spots. There was only one unconfirmed poaching call in the whole of April and I hope that my presence has something to do with that. I have attended a couple of mental health calls in which I have successfully intercepted persons in crisis, who were then secured

and handed over to MH professionals.

I have been abstracted on a number of occasions to emergency calls in Thanet, along with some proactive operational work, and to assist with pro Palestine protests in the District.

As an overall percentage, I believe I am spending around 80% of my time either dealing with Village related calls or proactively patrolling them.

Due to finite resources and improved weather, it is likely I will be drawn into the main towns to answer calls over the next few months more frequently. I make every effort to protect myself against this as it is very important for me to maintain a visible presence in the community to prevent crime and anti social behaviour from occurring.

As such, please make sure that if you need me to keep an eye on areas of concern, please identify them and I will be able to justify remaining in the villages. Please also let me know if there are any public events you would like me to attend.

## **7/23-24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) **F/TH/24/0383 – Land rear of Court Cottages, Court Road, St Nicholas at Wade**

*Application discussed and vote taken – 5 no objections, 1 abstain*

b) None noted.

## **8/23-24 FINANCE**

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

**RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for April. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, seconded Cllr Lawrance).**

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

HMRC - Employee PAYE	£349.80
SNS - Domain Hosting	£50.52
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,159.38
KALC - Membership subscription	£555.31
D. McDade - Handyman's salary	£276.29
SLCC - Clerk's membership	£229.00
EcoDeep Clearance - Waste removal at allotments	£250.00
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£569.35
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£965.43
Nest DD - Clerk's pension	£55.36
Lloyds Bank DD - Credit Card	£839.81
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
S. Archer - Bar Stock	£120.78
S. Irving - Warm Hub & cleaning expenses	£163.06

### **Receipts:**

Holmans Carp - BMP Pitch Hire	£60.00
TDC - Half Precept & Half Agency Payments	£17,677.50
Cemetery fees - Plot 74 & Plot 75	£845.00
Cemetery fees - Plot 731	£1,270.00

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

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

c) The Clerk presented the accounts and annual return for 2023-24. No comments were made, therefore it was approved to sign Sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR form accordingly.

**RESOLVED: To approve Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Return for 2023-24. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Pugh)**

d) It was discussed and agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

e) Martin Savage was invited to present to the meeting the request for a new ride-on mower. The current cub cadet mower was no longer fit for purpose, and required a significant amount of money for repair and maintenance. Country Mowers had made an offer to part-exchange the cub cadet with a new, more robust mower. This had a larger cutting platform, thus reducing the amount of time spent on cutting the Meadow. It would have a tow bar fitted in order to tow the fertilizer and roller. A budget of £8000 was discussed and agreed, dependent on the conditions of the warranty.

**RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of the new ride-on mower, with a budget of £8000. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Lawrance)**

f) The Clerk explained the position with regard to the grant application with the Football Federation. This would continue to be followed up.

## **9/23-24 ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

a) The Clerk presented the bank signatory and bank checking arrangements for 2023-24.

All Councillors were in agreement to proceed with Cllrs Divers, Ageros, Lawrance & Tweedale as signatories, and Cllrs Pugh and Ageros were appointed to check the payments and reconciliation accordingly.

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