



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, M. Lawrance, D. Tweedale, Lisa Fallon, Eric Dore

Also, Present: District Cllr Abi Smith plus 3 members of public.

Sara Archer – Parish Clerk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR FOR 2023/24

Cllr Divers was nominated for Chair, this was proposed by Cllr Smyth and seconded by Cllr Fallon.

RESOLVED: Cllr Divers to be re-elected as Chair for 2023-24.

It was agreed that a Vice-Chair and representatives for external meetings would be appointed at the next meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from KCC Cllrs Derek Crow-Brown and Linda Wright, District Cllrs Sam Bambridge & Abi-Leigh Barlow.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations made.

4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 11th April 2023 and Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2022. These were proposed by Cllr Tweedale, seconded by Cllr Fallon, 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:

The end to Covid restrictions has seen hire income return to normal levels.

Most of our usual hirers returned to the hall but unfortunately there were some exceptions. This loss of income from these was made up by additional usage by others. Hire income now averages approximately £1,000 per month. The main sources of income are dance and childcare.

Post Covid the halls bank account was in a healthy position due to the various government grants issued to the hospitality industry. Total Covid grants received were £20,667.

We have been spending these monies on long overdue repairs and refurbishment of the hall.

Last year we removed the right-hand chimney that had become loose during a storm. At the same time, we have replaced the damaged front barge board and also carried out pointing repairs and other cosmetic works to the front of the building. The main hall walls, front porch and vestibules were redecorated.

This year we have carried out repairs to the rear wall brickwork and pointing, refinished the main hall floor and have just replaced the leaking clubroom / kitchen flat roof.

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

In December we held our Christmas fair for the first time in three years and this generated an income of £897, our highest ever.

Like everyone, we have seen a very significant increase in our energy costs over the last year. Whilst there has been some government help over the last few months this has been small in comparison to the price increases.

We have therefore been forced to increase our hire charges from £8 to £10 per hour.

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, the King's Coronation celebration fete and many private hires, with football being the main focus of income for the facility. Cllr Fallon was thanked for her involvement heading the working party.

7 ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

No report received.

8 ST NICHOLAS CHURCH REPORT

Cllr Lawrance had liaised with Amanda Lynch – Chair of Fabric Committee amongst others regarding the achievements of the Church over the last year or so. These are as follows:

Consultation, Planning and implementation of a new kitchen within the church. This is almost finished, due to be completed By the end of May.

Moving of the flower preparation room to a new location within the church. This should be finished by the end of May.

Applied for faculty to have the path leading to the front door (south door) of the church to be relevelled.

New gates to be installed at the front of the church, after completion of the path releveling.

We are looking at having a new fire alarm installed into the church.

New Wi-Fi has been installed in the church.

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 offered his thanks to Martin Savage and Joe Perfect for their hard work at the allotments. They had been greatly improved by the installation of the new fencing.

The Coronation fete had been a great success with many positive comments being received. Thanks were extended to Cllr Fallon and the Clerk for the organization of the event, as well as to the many volunteers who helped on the day.

Cllr Divers advised he had attended a site meeting at Crumps Farm arranged by the representatives from Savills. It was noted that the proposal was sympathetic to the location and sited on brownfield land. The amended site map showed the public right of way which would be monitored to ensure it remained in situ.

The application had been called-in to the Planning Committee by Cllr Abi Smith, and Cllr Divers would attend to represent the Parish Council.

Cllr Divers had been in contact with Steven Noad of KCC regarding the issues at Manor Road. The disabled access provision at the footpath was inadequate and a post hole still remained unfilled on the footpath. These issues would continue to be raised with KCC until a satisfactory solution had been received.

It was confirmed the land owner of the gate adjacent to the new development site was being sought, in order to get the remainder of the footpath completed. Upon completion of the development, a safety audit would be carried out, to which the Parish Council would be invited to attend.

Following the recent incident involving the damage to the Church wall and private wall opposite, TDC had been notified and were following up enquiries with regard to the responsibility for repairs.

2/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised she had reported the damaged bollard at Bridges Close to KCC who would be repairing the post as soon as possible. An enquiry regarding the availability of trees had been received. Cllr Ageros would contact the resident direct to confirm which trees could be donated. The Clerk was looking into pitch funding for the repair and maintenance of the football pitch at Bell Meadow. The handymen were carrying out the necessary investigations required for the funding bid.

Consultation regarding a proposed traffic order along The Length to install double yellow lines, had been circulated to the Parish Council for comments.

An opportunity to apply for funding to assist residents affected by the cost of living crisis had been received. The Clerk advised that a maximum of £1000 could be applied for, which was to be used to assist residents in a variety of ways, however, it was suggested this could primarily be used to host a regular coffee morning, providing a safe space for residents to enjoy company and a hot drink. It was agreed that the Clerk would apply for the funding via KALC.

A consultation had opened by TDC to review the strategy for Thanet's night time economy. Comments could be made online direct to TDC.

3/23-24 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Fallon reported that she had been concentrating on the Coronation fete celebrations over the past month. She regrettably advised she would be standing down as Parish Councillor following the meeting. Unfortunately, her work commitments meant she could no longer spare the time necessary for the role. She would however, remain supportive of the Village events and be involved wherever possible.

Cllr Divers offered sincere thanks on behalf of the Parish Council and residents, for all of her hard work and commitment to the Parish during her time on the Council.

Cllr Tweedale had cleared TE4 The Length to Frost Farm to make it more accessible for walkers. It was noted that the repairs to the pothole and Bus Stop on A28 had been repaired. The survey regarding cold callers was in hand.

It was suggested the Parish Councillors shared their telephone numbers between themselves in order to make contact direct if necessary.

Cllr Lawrance confirmed he had printed some 'No Cold Callers' signs and left them in the Post Office for residents to collect and use. He had done a leaflet drop in the Village to promote the forthcoming Open Gardens. Cllr Lawrance had been litter picking along the flyover at Court Road. The hedges at the rear of Bell Meadow were in need of being trimmed back, particularly near the Manor Road entrance.

Cllr Dore noted the parking and speeding concerns were still being raised, particularly during school drop off/pick ups. He had received positive comments regarding the Coronation fete and was encouraged to hear that residents' would like further events organised to utilize the Bell Meadow. Due to cut backs at KCC it was unlikely that a Community Warden would be appointed for St Nicholas and Sarre, however, Cllr Dore had met with the Warden for Birchington who advised he would be willing to assist the Villages if possible. Kent Police were currently offering a free service to security mark bicycles. Resident's could take advantage of this service by contacting the Police direct.

Cllr Smyth advised she had requested a site meeting with Strutt & Parker at Sarre to discuss the tree works, however, no response had been received to date.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Ageros for his work at TE10 and the flagpole garden.

Cllr Ageros reported he had delivered some trees to a resident, and further Goat Willow, Hazel and other varieties were available to anyone requiring them. Cllr Ageros had been maintaining the village planters, cut back the overhanging boughs of the Cherry Plum tree at the allotments and worked on footpath TE10.

Cllr Ageros also thanked Peter Radclyffe for decorating the flagpole and surrounds for the Coronation.

Residents were advised to be vigilant of Asian hornet nests, following a recent incident where Cllr Ageros had been stung. These particular insects are invasive and sightings should be reported accordingly.

4/23-24 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith thanked everyone who voted to re-elect her as a District Councillor, and confirmed the two new District Councillors, Sam Bambridge and Abi-Leigh Barlow, were unable to attend the meeting due to training.

A number of issues had been raised with the Stakeholder Engagement Manager from Southern Water, particularly sewage issues at St Nicholas and surrounding villages. It was felt the increasing level of housing developments were compounding the issue, therefore, Abi requested that substantive examples of such problems were forwarded to her in order for her to compile the evidence which may then be used to object to further development.

5/23-24 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No reports were available.

6/23-24 KENT POLICE AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

No reports submitted.

7/23-24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) F/TH/22/1582 - The School House , Down Barton Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Erection of boundary fence and sub-division of garden

Discussed and vote taken as follows: 0 support, 3 objections, 4 abstain

F/TH/23/0535 - Land On The South East Side Of, Canterbury Road, Sarre

Erection of 2No two storey 3-bed detached chalet bungalows together with parking and landscaping

Discussed and noted the proposal was adjacent to a listed building. Sympathetic material should be used, access concerns noted. Concern raised regarding overdevelopment of the site. And close proximity to the listed building.

Vote taken: 0 support, 7 objections

F/TH/23/0559 & L/TH/23/0560 - St Nicholas Court, Court Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Change of use of land from agricultural to residential, alterations to land levels and the erection of garage/home office

Clarification of the proposed site to be sought before comments being submitted.

7 objections in principle.

- b) F/TH/22/1652 – Frost Farm, St Nicholas at Wade – REFUSED
F/TH/22/1706 – Land rear of Coney Lodge, Canterbury Rd, St Nicholas – GRANTED
F/TH/23/0166 – St Nicholas Court Farm - GRANTED

8/23-24 FINANCE

a) The Clerk presented the monthly bank reconciliation between the cash book and bank accounts. (These were approved following the meeting due to an administrative accounting error on the excel spreadsheet.)

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

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

Lloyds Bank CC	£551.39
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£115.80
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,023.93
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£956.53
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£415.81
SNS - Domain Hosting	£46.92
Chubb - Fire Equipment Service	£199.89
P. Raeburn - Cakes for Coronation fete	£65.00
E. Harvey-Burgess - Website Admin salary	£84.14
KALC - Membership fees	£534.04
Cartridge People - Stationary	£235.78

Receipts:

Allotment - Plot 4a	£26.00
Allotment - Plot 1b	£26.00
Allotment - Plot 2	£52.00
Cemetery fees - Plot 675	£205.00
VAT Reclaim	£3,350.40
TDC Precept & Agency Payment	£17,017.50

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

(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Dore)

c) The Clerk presented the accounts and annual return for 2022-23. 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 2022-23. (Proposed: Cllr Fallon, Seconded: Cllr Lawrance)

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 Lawrance and Tweedale being added to the accounts as signatories following the removal of Cllr Fallon.

Cllrs Smyth and Dore were appointed to check the payments and reconciliation accordingly.

Condolences were offered to the family of Joyce Gore, a resident of St Nicholas, who had recently passed.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:10pm.