



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7.30pm In The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Cllrs D. Divers, L. Ageros, D. Tweedale, M. Lawrance, G. Pugh, E. Dore

Also, Present: KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith and Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 2 members of public.

66/24-25 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Cllr Maureen Fentiman who has been co-opted onto the Council following the vacancy which arose from the resignation of a previous Councillor. The necessary documentation was completed and returned to the Clerk. **Proposed: Cllr Pugh, Seconded: Cllr Tweedale.**

67/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Parish Councillors Sonya Smyth and Ann Andrews.

68/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Divers declared an interest in item 78/24-25 (b) – Repayment of expenses incurred.

Cllr Ageros declared a significant interest due to discussing a neighbouring property during his report – item 72/24-25.

69/24-25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2024. These were proposed by Cllr Lawrance, seconded by Cllr Tweedale, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(Cllr Ageros noted that he was approached a by several concerned residents, rather than 'a' concerned resident – item 58)

70/24-25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers advised that the faulty streetlights at Court Road had been reported for repair and the situation was in hand.

71/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised she had organised the remembrance wreaths for St Nicholas and Sarre. The Chairman would be attending the Service and laying the wreaths in the usual way.

A plot holder at the allotments had been served notice for breach of contract. A new tenant had now been allocated the plot and all allotments were leased.

The Clerk had contacted Iain Livingstone for clarification with regard to the outstanding Section 106 monies. The Officer appointed to deal with Section 106 had been in contact and clarified the position. The Clerk would continue to liaise with TDC as necessary.

Following the recent resignation of Joe Perfect as handyman, it was with pleasure that a new person had since been appointed. Sincere thanks had been extended to Joe for his hard work and support to the Parish Council.

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 with regard to the fireworks, by a couple wishing to celebrate their baby gender reveal at the event. This was a welcomed idea, and the couple were put in touch with the fireworks company to organise the incorporation of the reveal direct.

The funding application to the FA towards the maintenance of the football pitch was in hand, however, issues with the online application system were delaying the progress. The Clerk would be continuing to follow this up.

Correspondence had been received with regard to the harvest debris. The complainant had suggested legal implications, therefore, this would be passed to the Ward Officer for advice.

A memorial bench or similar was requested in the village, to commemorate the villagers who have since passed. Cllr Lawrance advised he was liaising with the Church about this.

72/24-25 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Pugh offered his apologies for not being able to attend the recent TAC meeting. He continued to be involved with the issues and concerns surrounding Parish Close.

Cllr Tweedale advised he had attended a meeting at Manston regarding the air traffic control tower, and regeneration of the airport.

The recent accident at the A28 involving a young person was noted. The junctions were considered to be dangerous, with the industrial units, dance school and bus stops in close proximity. The highway layout and suggestions to improve the safety of the road were discussed at length. It was agreed that PC Howe would be approached to raise concerns with the road traffic safety division. The concerns and suggestions were supported in principle. Cllr Tweedale would liaise with PC Howe accordingly.

Cllr Tweedale 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, and follow this up accordingly.

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. An increase in dog fouling at the Meadow was noted. Cllr Lawrance would liaise with the Clerk with regard to fire safety certification for the BMP.

Cllr Dore had received concerns with regard to speeding vehicles in the village. Traffic calming measures were discussed. Traffic monitoring cables at Court Road had been noted.

KCC and Enforcement Officers had been approached with regard to the hedgerows at Crumps Farm fields, which should not have been removed, as they were considered ancient hedgerows.

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 advised that several concerned residents had expressed dissatisfaction regarding the work being undertaken at the rear of Sarre House, particularly unattended bonfires.

Large posts, potentially for signage, had appeared on the land adjacent to the flagpole. If erected, the signage would not be in keeping with the area. Enquiries would be made to confirm whether this is in a conservation area.

The drains opposite Ostlers Lane were blocked, Cllr Ageros would report online accordingly.

73/24-25 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith offered her apologies for being unable to attend the last meeting.

Cllr Smith had attended a briefing regarding the proposed Travellers Site at Shottendane Road, Margate. A consultation was opening tomorrow (9th Oct) both online and a dedicated telephone line, with a deadline for responses to be submitted by 17th December.

Cllr Smith was encouraged by a briefing attended regarding the Immigration Reception Centre at Manston.

Cllr Reece Pugh was putting forward a motion to Council to revoke the current Local Plan. Cllr Prestland was to put forward a motion for sustainable building standards obligations, to include solar panels, heat pumps drainage etc... both to be debated at the Full Council meeting, TDC, in December.

Cllr Smith advised of the planning committee meeting regarding the substantial housing development at Birchington. The decision had been deferred, objections had been raised across all political parties, and affordable housing was a significant issue discussed.

Information regarding the Citizens Advice Bureau outreach service had been circulated. The closest surgery was at Minster Library, held on 1st Tuesday of the month between 9:30-12:30. This would be publicised to residents.

74/24-25 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Crow-Brown confirmed that TDC had recently appointed 4 Parking Wardens, however, the villages lacked a visible presence. The National Grid project could provide funding streams. Information had been passed to the Chair of TAC and KALC.

Cllr Crow-Brown went on to report as follows:

Highways

The number of road closures in the county has rocketed in the past four years, new figures have revealed.

Permits issued to shut the highways temporarily have shot up in recent years, particularly those by utility companies.

In 2020-21 there were 6,604 closures for utilities which leapt to 10,296 in 2023-24 while KCC works rose from 3,477 to 5,992 in the same period.

Much of the work is associated with house building in the county while KCC must carry out essential maintenance and repairs, such as pothole patching.

1,300 fines have been issued this year to contractors not complying with the terms of the temporary closure permits with fines totalling £95,000. Fines are set nationally and my Highways committee believe they should be much higher to deter contractors from breaking their terms.

Cllr Crow-Brown had also raised concern with KCC Highways with regard to the lack of financial support offered to villages for highways improvements in their locality.

75/24-25 KENT POLICE REPORT

PC Howe was unable to attend, no report available.

76/24-25 BELL MEADOW REPORT

Cllr Divers offered his thanks to Cllr Dore for his work at the BMP, particularly dealing with bookings and football hires, and also to Cllrs Tweedale and Lawrance for their assistance with securing the car park.

The Clerk confirmed she had informed the landowner of the paddocks adjacent to Bell Meadow, of the fireworks event, as per previous years. Cllr Dore had approached the School with regard to parking for the event, and the children would be creating posters to advertise the display. It was discussed and agreed to purchase Amazon vouchers as prizes for various competitions relating to the fireworks evening. Logistical arrangements for the evening were discussed and plans agreed to ensure the smooth running of the event.

The Clerk was asked to purchase an additional 3 x collection buckets, plus outdoor lighting for the Pavilion.

Volunteers to assist with cleaning, following football matches, in the absence of Cllr Divers and his wife, were requested. Cleaning would be on an ad-hoc basis. Cllr Tweedale advised of a possible person who could help and would approach them in the first instance.

A black bag hoop to be placed on the side of the football dug out was requested, to help with the litter collection during football hires.

77/24-25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) **TCA/TH/24/1033 1 The Old Coach House , Sarre Court, Sarre**

FH/TH/24/1005 The Haven , Down Barton Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Application discussed, no objections raised.

TCA/TH/24/1120 Pocock House , Old Road, Sarre

Application discussed and agreed to defer to the Tree Officer, TDC.

F/TH/24/1041 Land Adjacent 1 New Cottages, Potten Street, St Nicholas At Wade

Application discussed, no objections raised.

b) **F/TH/24/0607 – Permission Granted**

78/24-25 FINANCE

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

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

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

Zurich - Insurance renewal	£1,807.47
S. Archer - repayment for football equipment	£103.46
SNS - Domain hosting	£50.52
JRB Enterprises - Dog poo bag dispensers	£461.28
EDF - BMP: Electric	£234.93
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£314.58
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£552.32
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,129.84
Business Stream - Water: Allotments	£22.63
Nest DD - Clerk's pension	£47.87
Lloyds Bank DD - Credit Card	£269.32
EDF - BMP: Gas	£69.20
D. Divers - Repayment - BMP sundries	£121.33
S. Archer - Repayment for bar stock	£69.97
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£18.00
Hugofox - Website hosting fees	£11.99

Receipts:

BMP - Pitch Hire - Thanet League	£60.00
TDC - Half Precept & Half Agency Payments	£17,677.50
BMP - Pitch Hire - Holmans	£110.00
BMP - Hire Rintoul	£6.50
BMP - Hire: Phelan	£19.50
WS Cole - Cemetery fees	£360.00
BMP - Pitch Hire Frames	£60.00
BMP - Hire: Farley	£65.00
BMP - Pitch Hire - Holmans	£60.00

BMP - Hire: Phelan	£10.00
Cemetery fees - Headstone: Tweedale	£70.00
Cemetery fees - Wright	£95.00

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for September and October.
(Proposed: Cllr Dore, Seconded: Cllr Pugh)

79/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Concern was raised with regard to the speed of vehicles, including the farm traffic, driving through Sarre village. PC Howe would be approached to visit the site near the roundabout, as it was considered he would be in a better position to address the concerns and advise on the most appropriate course of action. Residents were reminded where possible, to note registration numbers, makes and models of the farm vehicles involved in any inappropriate driving and forward the details to the Clerk.
- The handyman would be requested to attend Sarre to sweep the footpaths.
- The weed growth around the traffic islands at Sarre should be reported direct online to KCC.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:05pm.