



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th June 2023 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, D. Tweedale, Eric Dore

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

10/22-23 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Cllr Glenn Pugh who had been co-opted onto the Council following the vacancies which arose from the recent uncontested election and resignation. The necessary documentation was completed and returned to the Clerk.

11/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Mark Lawrance who was on holiday.

12/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ageros declared an interest in item 16 and would not partake in any discussions relevant to this declaration.

13/22-23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

14/23-24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers offered his thanks to all those who volunteered their help with the litter pick prior to the Open Gardens weekend, and to Sarah at The Bell Inn for providing refreshments following the session. The Open Gardens weekend had proved very successful and well attended, positive feedback had been received. Thanks were also extended to the handymen for their work in making the open spaces tidy and presentable for the weekend, and to Cllr Ageros for replanting the village planters.

15/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that the application for funding to assist residents affected by the cost of living crisis had been approved in principle. The funding would be used to assist residents by providing a safe space for residents to enjoy company and a hot drink.

The Clerk had been exploring options regarding the energy supply at the Bell Meadow Pavilion. Quotes had been obtained from a number of companies, however, EDF remained competitive with their pricing. It was discussed and agreed that the Parish Council would renew the contract with EDF on a fixed term basis for 36 months.

RESOLVED: To approve the renewal of the energy supply contract for the Pavilion with EDF on a 36 month fixed term basis.

Proposed: Cllr Divers, **Seconded:** Cllr Dore.

16/23-24 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Tweedale noted historically the Parish Council meetings had been opened with the Chairman citing the Serenity Prayer.

The dog waste bin located at the end of Summer Road had been damaged and was in need of repair. The Clerk would report this to TDC accordingly. Following the success of this year's Open Garden event, Cllr Tweedale advised he and Cllr Lawrance would be exploring options to hold a community event at Bell Meadow possibly during the summer of next year.

Cllr Tweedale had been investigating the ownership of the land with the metal gate at Manor Road in order for the footpath to be completed. The details had been passed on to Steven Noad, KCC.

Cllr Smyth noted the trees and landscaping planted by Sunningdale at The Length as part of the planning conditions, were already suffering from the heat and dry weather. The development at Sarre had resulted in some clearance of overgrowth surrounding the mature trees in the area. Cllr Smyth would liaise with Cllr Abi Smith to arrange for the trees to be surveyed and monitored and if necessary, additional trees planted.

Cllr Smyth expressed an interest in attending the Health & Wellbeing Conference hosted by KALC, the Clerk would book a space accordingly.

Cllr Ageros expressed his thanks to Cllr Lawrance for organizing the recent defibrillator training. He had replanted the village planters in time for Open Gardens, and had removed the remaining debris left from the tree trimming at the allotments. It was noted that the KCC Highways team had done a poor job cutting back the overgrowth at TE10 and strimming at the A28. Cllr Ageros had declared an interest as he had proposed he would like to hire the Bell Meadow Pavilion and hold Tai-Chi sessions. He would not be charging for the sessions but donations would be welcomed. He was also considering holding a gardening/agricultural evening for the local community.

17/23-24 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith advised of some senior management positions at TDC following the elections.

Southern Water had presented their Drainage Waste Management Plan which was available to view on their website.

18/23-24 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Wright reported she had been in attendance at a working group meeting to discuss the way forward with the Integrated Care System. She expressed her concern regarding the dentistry of children under the age of 10. Cllr Wright had put forward a suggestion to approach dentists to provide nursery and primary schools with toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Resident's were reminded they could report any concerns regarding health and wellbeing to Cllr Wright.

Cllr Crow-Brown advised he had attended a six-monthly presentation from Southern Water in which any concerns could be raised. He has recently been involved in raising concern regarding the traffic snarl-ups in the district, speaking with James Wraight.

Cllr Crow-Brown confirmed that KCC were launching a consultation regarding the proposed closure of 4 waste and recycling plants in the County. The most relevant being the potential closure of the Richborough Site. Resident's were strongly encouraged to comment on the proposal once the consultation opened.

19/23-24 KENT POLICE AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

No reports submitted. The Clerk advised that PC Beth Ninnim had been appointed as Beat Officer and would be the point of contact for the Parish.

20/23-24 BELL MEADOW PAVILION REPORT

Cllr Dore encouraged resident's to join the working party for the Pavilion, all were welcome.

Advertising to promote the facility would be increased. The Pavilion kitchen would be opened on a trial basis during weekday afternoons to sell hot and cold drinks. An increase in private hires had been noted.

21/23-24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) F/TH/23/0026 – Crumps Farm, was to be discussed at the forthcoming planning committee meeting at TDC. Cllr Abi Smith would speak on behalf of the Parish Council if instructed.

b) No results noted.

22/23-24 FINANCE

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

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

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

Externiture - Replacement panels A28 bus shelter	£630.00
S. Archer - Reimbursement Bar Stock BMP	£85.00
Lloyds Bank CC	£485.41
A. Dunsdon - Website Admin Salary	£81.69
Av A Skip - Allotments skip	£300.00
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,065.78
J. Read - Handyman Salary	£28.28
J. Perfect - Handyman Salary & expenses	£733.46
M. Savage - Handyman Salary & expenses	£1,228.29
L. Fallon - Reimbursement - Coronation expenses	£106.73
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£425.40

Receipts:

D. Kirby - Coffee Morning: BMP Hire	£26.00
Slade - Private Hire: BMP	£50.00
D. Kirby - Coffee Morning: BMP Hire	£26.00

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

(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Pugh)

c) Cllr Divers presented the proposal to consider the purchase of a battery operated mower for use on the outlying parts of the Village, as per the handyman recommendation. The quotes and proposal were discussed at length, consideration given to the advantages and potential concerns of a battery powered machine. It was agreed that with a guarantee of a minimum 3 years on the machine and battery, the purchase would be approved.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a battery operated mower from Country Mowers for £900. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Dore)

d) The Clerk outlined the grant funding bid to refurbish the football pitch. The handymen had completed the necessary assessment of the pitch which had been submitted to Pitchpower for allocation of funding. It was discussed and agreed that the match funding grant application should be approved. The Clerk would complete the necessary application as soon as possible. The handymen would be advised to go ahead with the reseeding and aeration of the pitch prior to the start of the new season.

RESOLVED: To approve the application of a match-funded grant to improve the football pitch at Bell Meadow. (Proposed: Cllr Pugh, seconded: Cllr Tweedale)

e) The Clerk presented the comparison figures to be considered regarding the Cemetery fees. It was discussed and agreed that a 15% increase in fees should be applied.

RESOLVED: To approve a 15% increase in Cemetery charges for 2023/24. (Proposed: Cllr Dore, Seconded: Cllr Pugh)

23/23-24 ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

a) The position of Vice-Chair was appointed to Cllr Lee Ageros. This was proposed by Cllr Dore and seconded by Cllr Tweedale.

b) The Parish Council representatives for the following external meetings/working groups were appointed as follows:

Thanet Area Committee (TAC) – Cllr Pugh

Thanet Rural Regeneration Group (TRRG) – Cllr Pugh

School Liaison – Cllr Pugh

Bell Meadow Pavilion – Cllr Dore

Village Hall – Cllr Divers

Footpaths – Cllrs Tweedale/Lawrance

24/23-24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No comments or matters of concern raised.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:20pm.