



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers (Chairman), P. Radclyffe, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, M. Lawrance, D. Tweedale
Also, Present: KCC Cllrs Derek Crow-Brown & Linda Wright, District Cllr Abi Smith plus 4 members of public.
Sara Archer – Parish Clerk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR FOR 2022/23

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

RESOLVED: Cllr Divers to be re-elected as Chair for 2022-23.

Cllr Fallon was nominated as Vice-Chair, this was proposed by Cllr Lawrance and seconded by Cllr Radclyffe.

RESOLVED: Cllr Fallon to be re-elected as Vice-Chair for 2022-23.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Lisa Fallon and Geraldine Goy, PCSO Eileen Shrubsole and Mrs H Kemp, Headteacher of St Nicholas at Wade Primary School.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations made.

4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve all minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 12th April 2022 and Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2021. These were proposed by Cllr Tweedale, seconded by Cllr Radclyffe, 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:

Like every other hospitality venue, the hall has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

2021 started with the hall closed to all users except childcare and it was not until the 12th April that it was partially reopened for children's activities and household groups. On the 17th May was opened to all users with restrictions. All restrictions were finally removed on the 19th July.

Income was initially down by approximately 70% but once the hall was reopened to all users in May we have seen income return to near normal levels. We have continued to see various booking cancellations due to covid throughout the year. Most of our usual hirers returned once the hall reopened but there were some exceptions but loss of income from these was made up by additional usage by others.

The Christmas fair was cancelled for the second year running due to stall holders being unwilling to commit due to Omicron. Income losses have, fortunately, been more than mitigated by the government restart grant of £8,000 in May 2021 and the Omicron grant of £2,667 in February 2022. Relief on the business rates has also been given by Thanet council.

Planned repairs to the hall were brought forward in February due to storm damage when the hall had to be evacuated and closed due damage to the right-hand chimney.

The chimney has been removed to below gutter level, where it had sheared. 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 were redecorated at Easter.

We hope to continue with these repairs and decorating during the coming year with repointing of the rear wall, repair or replacement of the rear flat roof and resurfacing of the main hall floor.

On the 1st January we increased hire fees for the first time since June 2017. This was due to increased energy bills which during the last financial year made up a third of our expenditure. Unfortunately, due to ongoing energy cost increases we may have to review these again later in the year.

6 PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT – BELL MEADOW PAVILION

Cllr Divers reflected on the past year which had seen much change. The Parish Council now had a full compliment of Councillors to represent the wide range of views of the residents of the Parish. The Bell Meadow Pavilion had hosted a very successful fireworks evening, many private hires, with football being the main focus of income for the facility. Suggestions to improve the facility further and positive ways to move forward were being explored. The previous Committee were thanked for their hard work in making the Pavilion the success it has been.

7 ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

A representative from the Primary School was unable to attend the meeting, however, a report had been submitted by the Headteacher which was read by the Clerk as follows:

Pupil Progress and Achievement

The school has continued to be adversely affected by Covid. In fact, during March and April this year nearly all of the staff fell ill and we managed to keep the school running with the use of supply teachers and huge flexibility and understanding from the staff in school at any one time. Attendance of pupils continues to be affected but overall it has been good for the school to be operating normally once again.

This summer pupils will be statutorily assessed for the first time since 2019. Pupils continue to attend a wide variety of schools when they leave us at the end of Year 6. We continue to have at least 25% of our pupils moving on to grammar school despite the pandemic.

More recently we have been able to return to our usual trips and visitors to enhance the pupils learning. Year 6 will be off to PGL Liddington, Stonehenge, Salisbury and Longleat in June.

School in the community

We have continued to miss our community links over the past year with our usual events not able to take place. It will be great this summer to welcome parents back for Sports Day, the Summer Fair and end of year celebrations. It has been lovely for the children to be involved in the plate decorating competition for the Jubilee celebrations.

Church links

Reverend Michael had made great links with the school and is missed. We have been lucky however to make a link with Mr Peter Russell, formally a chaplain at St Lawrence School who is providing some of our worship in school. We look forward to returning to the church for our end of year celebrations having been rained off at Easter!

Premises

The premises continue to be in a good state of repair. Our school field, which had become more of a meadow than a sports field, was completely refurbished, ploughed, levelled and reseeded in the Autumn and is now much safer and appropriate for school sports. We will now be able to proudly invite other schools to competitions on our field. We are now fully equipped to offer Forest School activities on our school site with children enjoying hot chocolate and marshmallows around our fire pit. The school garden is a riot of colour at present and classes are hoping for a good harvest of potatoes, tomatoes and courgettes later in the year. I am sure the school will look forward to Open Gardens again next year.

And Finally

This will be my last report for the Parish Council as I am retiring from headship at the end of this academic year. My husband and I are heading to Ecuador to do some school voluntary work in 2023. I have enjoyed my time at the school and overseen the construction of the new junior block and transformation of the outside area as well as ensuring that the school curriculum continues to prepare the children for their future. I hope that the school continues to have a family feel and is at the centre of the village community. I attended the school myself, living in the village for my first ten years. Both the school and the village will always have a very special place in my heart. The governors are interviewing for my replacement as I write. With the building of many new homes it will be the start perhaps of a new era for the school as it welcomes more children from the village itself. I hope the school continues to enjoy the support from the village and hope that it will go from strength to strength.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to look at our school website or follow us on Facebook.
<http://www.st-nicholas-birchington.kent.sch.uk/>

8 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

1/22-23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers confirmed that following the concerns raised by resident's, enquiries had been made with the planning department and KCC regarding the retaining wall being built adjacent to the Canterbury Rd in Sarre. No response had been received to date, therefore, Cllr Abi Smith was asked to make further enquiries on behalf of the Parish Council. Confirmation that there were no restrictions on the land due to the conservation area and that it is in the curtilage of a listed building, was requested. KCC were also investigating and advising on the matter.

Cllr Divers advised he was making enquiries with regard to the church wall to confirm the maintenance of the wall was indeed the responsibility of the Parish Council.

A new handyman had now been appointed following the resignation of Martin Savage – Tony Oliver would be working with Norman Sangster and James Read and was a very welcome addition to the team.

2/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed the appointment of the handyman and had no other issues to raise that had not already been addressed.

3/22-23 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Tweedale had assisted with the clearance of the Bell Meadow Pavilion and advised the local dance school may be interested in the changing room benches.

The potholes on the A28 at the corner of the junction with The Length were in need of repair and would be reported to KCC. It was noted the flytipping at the roundabout had recently been cleared.

Concern was raised regarding the height of the footpath at Manor Road. KCC had advised the road would be resurfaced in due course, however, Cllr Crow-Brown offered to follow up the concerns.

Cllr Lawrance requested the footpath beside the old telephone exchange at The Length required repair and was considered to be a trip hazard. Photographs had been taken of the pavement and submitted to evidence the problem.

Cllr Lawrance was thanked for delivering a number of flyers advertising the Jubilee celebrations, together with Cllr Tweedale and Cllr Radclyffe in Sarre.

The contractors parking at the Sunningdale Development at The Length remained an issue although it had been noted the situation had improved. The PCSO was requested to visit the School during collection/drop off times in order to monitor and address the inconsiderate parking there.

Cllr Smyth advised that road markings signs had been erected in Sarre, however, notification of these works had not been received by the Parish Council. The addition of double lines in the middle of the road, to indicate no overtaking at the bus stops on the Canterbury Road, were asked to be considered to be included in the Highways Improvement Plan.

The landscaping of the new development at The Length was discussed and agreed the original plans should be enforced. The situation would be monitored.

Cllr Ageros reported on the sad discovery of his neighbour who had passed on at her home recently. Sincere condolences were offered to her family at this difficult time.

The donated trees at the allotments were looking healthy, some would be offered to resident's at the Jubilee celebrations which would be publicised on the website.

The village planters were looking well but would soon require new flowers, he would organize replanting in due course.

Cllr Ageros shared information regarding 1.4 million adverse reactions to the covid vaccine. Further details regarding this issue were available on the government website and searching - yellow card reporting.

Cllr Radclyffe reported he had litter picked in Sarre and re-planted flowers in the planters and garden at the flagpole. It was noted the verges had been cut by KCC, however, a few branches had been left insecure which he had since removed.

4/22-23 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith advised she would continue to follow up any enforcement issues surrounding the Sunningdale developments at The Length and Manor Road as necessary.

The Leader of TDC had called for a pause on the Local Plan Review process until 2026 and had written to the Secretary of State to review the housing targets, therefore relieving the pressure on TDC to approve so many planning applications. The issue was under discussion but was a positive move for the district.

5/22-23 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Derek Crow-Brown confirmed he had been called to meet with resident's from Sarre who had expressed concern of flytipping near their property.

Approximately 2650 Ukrainian refugees were being housed in the County with 205 staying with families in Thanet. Support with translation, finances and general needs had been offered to the individuals.

Cllr Linda Wright advised that she had recently had the opportunity to approach the CEO of Southern Water and put forward her suggestion that any developer found to be misusing the drains, were reported to Southern Water via a hotline, who could then

subsequently issue a fine. This had been positively received by the CEO. Developers were also required to put in place infrastructure to deal with excess water drainage. The installation of 'green' roofs to soak up rain water, porous driveways and 'smart' water butts were being explored.

6/22-23 PCSO REPORT

The PCSO Eileen Shrubsole was not in attendance, however, a report had been submitted which was read by the Clerk as follows: I have settled into my role as the Birchington PCSO, getting to meet some lovely residents and shopkeepers. I cover North and South Birchington, including Minnis Bay, St Nicholas at Wade, Acol and Sarre.

I have been into St Nicholas a number of times for various things and regularly drive and walk through. I would like to attend any community events that I can.

Crimes of note:

Numerous reports of scams targeting people in their own homes via Email/ letters and on the phone. Also door to door salesmen often trying to sell overpriced goods. A number of bogus "roofers" are out after the storms quoting silly prices for fixing roofs, residents of Thanet should be cautious with strangers knocking at their addresses, if anyone would like advice on this or talk to me about anything crime related feel free to stop me when I'm about or pop into Birchington library, if I am not there please leave a message with the library staff.

7/22-23 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Various events had been discussed to be held on Bell Meadow for the Jubilee weekend between 11am – 3pm. Flyers to publicise the event had been kindly delivered by Cllrs Tweedale and Lawrance. Volunteers, suggestions and ideas were welcomed to help make the weekend a success. A last meeting would be held on 1st June, 7pm to finalise arrangements.

8/22-23 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllrs Tweedale and Lawrance have been walking the local footpaths in the Parish and noting any issues and concerns.

It was noted the footpath at Crumps Farm was obstructed. The name of the footpath officer who had previous involvement, would be forwarded to the Councillors for information.

9/22-23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) F/TH/22/0545 - 6 Downbarton Farm Cottages , Down Barton Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Application for variation of conditions 2 and 3 of approved planning permission for FH/TH/20/0670 Erection of a two storey side extension following demolition of existing extensions to allow the changing of the roof tiles of the proposed extension from concrete to slate tiles along with black timber effect cement based cladding to South west elevation

No objections raised.

b) FH/TH/22/0305 – 1 Sandlewood Drive, St Nichols at Wade – *Permission Granted*

10/22-23 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 Radclyffe, seconded Cllr Lawrance).

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

TDC - Event fee	£	352.00
SNS - Domain & Email hosting	£	803.44
N. Sangster - Handyman Salary & Expenses	£	319.49
J. Read - Handyman Salary & Expenses	£	119.26
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£	123.88
KALC - Membership Subscription	£	485.88
S. Archer - Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£	1,107.18
EDF - Gas BMP	£	139.61
EDF - Electricity BMP	£	136.67
Business Stream - Water BMP	£	67.36
Lloyds Bank CC	£	223.82
EDF - Electricity BMP	£	268.96
E. Harvey-Burgess	£	67.30
Av A Skip - Clearance BM Storage facilities	£	288.00

Receipts:

D. Kirby - BMP Hire: Coffee Morning	£	26.00
Memorial Stone - Plot 712 Cross	£	95.00
BMP Hire: Football - Steel Dean	£	132.00
Cemetery fees - Plot 708 Rose	£	780.00
TDC - Half Precept & Agency payment	£	16,397.00

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

(Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe, Seconded: Cllr Smyth)

c) The Clerk presented the accounts and annual return for 2021-22. 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 2021-22. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe)

11/22-23 ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

a) The Clerk presented the bank signatory and bank checking arrangements for 2022-23. All Councillors were in agreement to proceed with the existing arrangements.

b) It was agreed to consider the appointment of representatives on working groups / committees at a future meeting.

12/22-23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- The sudden arrival of a coffee van at Bell Meadow was discussed. Concerns were raised with regard to safety of children and resident's, and the authority to park at Bell Meadow. The Chair and Clerk had met with the proprietors who had advised they had permission from TDC to attend the site. The Clerk was making further enquiries with TDC but had not response to date. The matter would continue to be followed up and concerns addressed when possible.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:15pm.