



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas-at-Wade on Tuesday 13th August 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors G.Bryant (Chairman), L. Ageros, G. North, P.Radclyffe, D. Divers, L. Fallon

Also Present: Sara Archer – Clerk, plus 10 members of public

49/19-20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from PCSO Forsyth, District Cllr David Hart, District Cllr Trevor Roper, Cllr P. Cheniston and Kent County Councillor Liz Hurst.

50/19-20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

51/19-20 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2019. These were proposed by Cllr Fallon, seconded by Cllr Radclyffe, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

52/19-20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bryant read his report as follows:

At our last meeting, there was some concern regarding the out-build in Manor Road. Following this, I visited The Heritage Fields development site and spoke to the site manager. Within five minutes of my visit a red and white barrier was in place. A week later the new signage was put in. I take no credit for this as Kent Highways had visited the site thirty minutes before me! I would like remind residents that there will be further out-builds and a pavement put in as the new development progresses. Spending is still on hold until at least September whilst the notice of withdrawal expires on the deposit account and we await s.106 money, a substantial VAT refund and the second half-year precept.

We will be looking at new projects from October onwards – this will include further spending on Bell Meadow and particularly The Tennis Courts. Any thoughts on this are welcome.

I have been working with St Nicholas Court Farm and W S Cole (funeral directors) to clear the estimated twenty tons of top-soil and chalk at the cemetery. Work was due to start on Saturday 20th July but unfortunately the digger was too short and the trailer too tall. SNCF have continued to offer their help and have measured up for an eight ton digger to do the job. They will provide the labour but the digger has to be hired for a day at a cost of about £200. I then approached W S Cole to see how we are going to ensure this does not happen again. It was explained to me that the new grave digger has been tasked with removing surplus soil from the site in future. W S Cole have kindly agreed to pay the invoice for the hire of the digger, we are very grateful for this gesture.

53/19-20 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the main activities carried out by the Handymen since the last meeting which included grounds maintenance at Bell Meadow, St Johns Green, Manor Road, the cemetery and allotments. The Clerk advised she was in receipt of correspondence from CPRE together with the monthly magazine, two Councillors had recently attended the annual conference hosted by KALC which had been informative and well received. The Clerk reported she had been notified of the resignation of the Chair of the Civic Spaces Committee. Membership of the Committee would be confirmed and a decision regarding its future would be considered. The Clerk also advised she been in contact with a local community group who appeared to be set up in a similar way to how the new Bell Meadow Community Partnership would be run, however, a response was still awaited. She had also made enquiries with TDC who had provided a contact with whom she could liaise and hopefully make progress. A meeting had been arranged in the next week with a resident who had offered to assist with the constitution. An update on the progress would be provided at the next meeting.

The Clerk had received a letter from a resident who was concerned about the current storage arrangements of the historical Parish Council records and files. The storage options at Bell Meadow were discussed. Cllr North agreed to investigate appropriate fire safe cabinets.

54/19-20 VILLAGE REPORTS.

Councillor Radclyffe reported that he had been litter picking within the village had de-weeded the footpath from Sarre Court to Baxters Farm and the traffic island. He enquired whether the handyman could attend and weedkill the area. Cllr Radclyffe advised there had been a significant amount of flooding experienced again. The drains remained blocked, however, a Highways representative had attended and organized for a camera to be used in the drains to investigate the blockage.

Councillor Ageros confirmed he had attended the KALC conference and drainage issues had been discussed by a representative from Southern Water. Resident's were reminded not to flush wipes or fat into the drains.

Cllr Ageros advised he had been made aware of a potential housing development in Sarre with approximately 80 extra homes planned to be built in the village, he would make the report available for public inspection.

Sonya Smyth explained the drainage and flooding issues had been experienced since 2017. She confirmed the landowners had cleared a third of the area, however, KCC were responsible for the remaining length and they had instructed a contractor to carry out the maintenance in due course. The drainage ditch was to be cleared to the river Stour and the drains in Old Road would be investigated by camera. KCC had been approached to include Sarre on a regular maintenance schedule for drain clearance in order to prevent the build up and blockages currently experienced.

Sonya also advised she had been making further enquiries with regard to the installation of village gates in Sarre. Data from Speedwatch could be used to evidence the speeding issues. Funding options were being explored and the Chairman confirmed the Parish Council would support the project financially.

Cllr Bryant reported he had liaised with the handyman regarding the overgrowth in both villages. The current climate had contributed the increase in weeds, however, work would be carried out to tackle the problem in due course.

55/19-20 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillors Reece Pugh, David Hart and Trevor Roper were not in attendance at the meeting; however, the following information had been supplied by Cllr Hart which was read by the Clerk as follows:

As you will be aware, the airport has been sold and I will update you of any further information as and when I hear and would also ask you to remind your residents to take care on the beach with inflatables, due to winds and current.

56/19-20 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Liz Hurst was not present, and no report was available.

57/19-20 KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN & KENT POLICE PCSO's REPORT

PCSO Forsyth was not present at the meeting however a report was submitted and read by the Clerk as follows:

Good evening everybody, I hope that you are well.

I apologise in advance for the short report but I have been off for a week and came back to a very busy work load. As you are all aware by now, I am Thanet Villages PCSO and have been given Birchington too.

There are not many crimes of note.

The area for concern is the industrial estate on Stuart Lane, there have been 3 reported thefts there in the last month.

Enquiries are ongoing

Nuisance bikes continue to be reported and we are also aware of the race track on the A299 during the evenings.

If anybody wishes to look up sanitised crimes in your area, you can visit [Police.co.uk](https://www.police.co.uk) and enter your postcode.

My email is 60457@kent.pnn.police.uk but please remember to report all crimes through the correct channels.

Community Warden Tony Gander was not present and no report was available.

58/19-20 PAVILION SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr North circulated draft minutes from the last Committee meeting and drew members attention to the new noticeboard which had been dedicated to health and safety. The procedure for applying for permission from TDC to hold a public event was explained and confirmed the organiser of the event was responsible for completing the application. The Clerk advised all applications were to be submitted to TDC no less than 14 weeks prior to the event being held.

Cllr Fallon informed the meeting of the positive feedback from a recent poll held on facebook regarding the type of event which residents would welcome at Bell Meadow.

59/19-20 CIVIC SPACES COMMITTEE

No report available. The untidy state of the allotments was discussed. A fence would be installed in due course which would separate the allotments from the cemetery.

60/19-20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Council considered the following applications:

FH/TH/19/0712 – 3 Nelson Cottages, Down Barton Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Replace wooden cladding with UPVC cladding to rear extension.

The Parish Council had considered the application and noted the site plan which had been posted on the TDC website was incorrect, however, the building was not in a conservation area and no objections were raised.

F/TH/19/1054 – St Nicholas Court Farm, Court Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Erection 2No. 3 bed dwellings following removal of existing sheds, workshop/garage and summer house

The application was discussed in length and the applicant was available to answer any questions/concerns raised. It was considered that the development site would have little impact on the village and in view of the buildings being specifically restricted for agricultural occupancy the Parish Council were in agreement to support the proposal.

b) None received.

61/19-20 FINANCE

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

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for July. (Proposed: Cllr Divers Seconded: Cllr Fallon).

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

M. Savage (Handyman's salary & expenses)	256.53
S. Archer (Clerk's salary & expenses)	676.27
J. Read (Asst Handyman's salary & expenses)	194.66
G. Bryant (Bell Meadow Cleaner)	116.56
SNS (Email domain hosting)	28.56
G. North (Repayment)	3.50
Chubb (Fire Extinguisher service BMP)	140.53

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for August (Proposed: Cllr Fallon, Seconded: Cllr Ageros)

(c) The budget report would be made available at the next meeting.

62/19-20 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The Clerk presented the revised Financial Regulations and Training Strategy which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: To approve the Financial Regulations and Training Strategy.

63/19-20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A resident enquired whether the signage for the Bell Meadow Pavilion could be installed in order to promote the building and increase interest in using the facility. It had been discussed by the Committee Secretary and Parish Council Chairman and a decision had been made to install the signs after the constitution and new committee had been appointed as the graphics could potentially be altered.

- Concern by a neighbour was raised regarding the planning application FH/TH/19/0712 which had previously been discussed under item 60/19-20. It was confirmed that Councillors attend the site of each application in order to consider the proposals accordingly. It was suggested the complainant should contact TDC direct and express the concerns raised.

- An update regarding the relocation of the waste bins was requested. TDC had been contacted who confirmed the bins were being emptied on a daily basis and the situation had improved in Bell Meadow. It was suggested the dog bin at Bell Meadow should be reinstated. The bin at Sarre remained full, this would be reported to TDC for prompt attention.

The meeting was concluded by The Chairman at 8:42pm