



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



**Approved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Bell Meadow Pavilion,
St Nicholas-at-Wade on Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Councillors G.Bryant (Chairman), L. Ageros, G. North, P.Radclyffe, L. Fallon
Also, Present: Sara Archer – Clerk, plus 5 members of the public.

64/19-20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from PCSO Forsyth, Cllr P. Cheniston and Cllr D. Divers

65/19-20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

66/19-20 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th August 2019. These were proposed by Cllr Radclyffe, seconded by Cllr North, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

67/19-20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bryant read his report as follows:

Yet another busy month with much going on in the villages.

We have had problems with litter and fly-tipping in Stuart Lane. Please be aware that cars and vans are entering St Nicholas and depositing rubbish. There is a prevalence of NOS cylinders being dropped. These are harmless after use and can be picked up and disposed of.

The thirty plus tonnes of soil and chalk have been removed from The Cemetery and I am immensely thankful to St Nicholas Court Farm and W S Cole for ensuring this has been done. Martin has now grass seeded the area and I am sure that it will look good come next Spring.

We now turn to the area between the cemetery and the allotments. The allotments are generally looking in poor condition and need to be screened from the cemetery. I have taken advice from Martin and he tells me that fifty laurel plants would be needed to cover this area. After some research this would require a budget of £3,000. As this is such an important place for many residents, it is important that we make this a priority in sorting out. I ask Council to approve the expenditure so that work can start in November. It was suggested that fruit trees could be planted, however, it was felt this would not provide a suitable screen. Three quotes would be obtained, however, there were no objections raised in principle.

Graham will provide us with an update for the pavilion later, but I want to pay tribute to the Bell Meadow Pavilion sub-committee and volunteers that have worked so hard this year to renovate the property. It is quite outstanding. We are now beginning to see more and more bookings from birthday parties for teenagers through to older residents. The football pitches are being well used and all the hirers have commented on the high standard of the refurbishment.

We have three large projects that I would like us to look at over the next year:

1. The Tennis Court needs attention. This will be started this coming Saturday with The Litter Squad concentrating on weeding the area. I am hoping that the BMP committee with the support of The Parish Council will then renew this area.
2. I mentioned at a previous meeting that a VE Day celebration will be taking place nationally next May. It is important that as a village we recognise this event. The planters opposite the church are coming to the end of their useful life and I propose that these are replaced with long life steel commemorative planters. Two planters would be required. The layout of the area was discussed.

I have spoken with the family of Tom West about having his memorial bench moved to outside the village hall and a new war memorial bench replaces it.

The cost of this project is likely to be in the region of £2,000. I have spoken to the Chairman of The Gardening Club who will put this suggestion to the club so that they have input to this and, hopefully, will continue the maintenance of the flowers and plants. It was noted that some existing plants were dedicated to the families of residents in the villages.

3. The third project brings these two things together. If it can be managed, I am proposing that a VE day event is held in a marquee that is erected on the tennis court area. It would be between having the old fence pulled down (perhaps at the

beginning of April) and a new one put in in May. If a new court surface is put in during April, we could hold a VE day event on 9th May to include a swing band and a hog roast. These are early days and a full business plan will be required. The resurfacing project was dependant on the condition of the existing undersurface.

Finally, The Fire Work display is coming up shortly and we would like volunteers to help with this. Over 500 people attended last year and this is probably the largest event on our calendar. Cllrs Fallon, Radclyffe and North volunteered to assist on the night. The Chairman of the school PTFA has approached me and asked if they can have a stall selling glow sticks etc. in place of the burger van that has come for the past year. I think that the BMP committee would support this as it should result in higher sales of food and drink through the pavilion. I have asked Sue Orchard from Sarre to be our first aider and she has agreed to attend. Cllr Bryant ended his report by sharing an article in the Times on 24th August which featured the best 20 coastal walks in England. An article in The Times of Saturday 24th August entitled 'The Twenty Best Coastal Walks' featured the walk between St Nicholas, Reculver and Plumb Pudding Island. This was considered the 5th best walk in the country. This is an incredible honour for our community and one that should be shared. As the walk starts and finishes at The Bell, I propose that two copies of the article are obtained and framed. One to be placed in The Pavilion and the other to be presented to The Bell.

68/19-20 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.

An email had been received from a resident concerned about the new road layout at Manor Road. The message had been circulated for consideration. Cllr Bryant confirmed the out build and road layout had been discussed previously and no objections had been raised. It was noted the dustmen were encountering difficulties with the layout which may also impact the emergency services. Cllr North would approach the fire service and enquire whether the new payout also had an effect on access for emergency vehicles.

The new insurance quotes had been received. The Clerk confirmed the existing company had offered a reduced rate on the premium if the Parish Council entered into a three-year fixed term contract. It was discussed and agreed to renew the policy on this basis.

RESOLVED: To approve the renewal of the insurance policy for a fixed term of three years. Proposed Cllr North, seconded Cllr Fallon.

69/19-20 VILLAGE REPORTS.

Councillor Radclyffe reported that he had been litter picking within the village. He generously offered to purchase the Christmas Tree for the Church. The Clerk would advise of the details for payment and order the tree accordingly.

The drains in Sarre were still receiving harvest debris from the tractors. Cllr Radclyffe therefore requested KCC were contacted to flush them in a months' time following the harvest period. Cllr Bryant confirmed he would be meeting with a representative from Highways and would raise the issues then. Cllr Fallon would contact the Environment Agency to raise the issues of concern regarding the overfilled trailers and impact on the drainage system.

Sonya Smyth advised the ditches would be cleared during the week of 17th Sept and a full cleansing programme of the drains would ensue including the use of the inspection camera.

Councillor Ageros reported that following the poor response received from the online consultation for the Sarre village sign, he would be producing a newsletter which would incorporate the suggestions for the sign and welcome feedback from the residents of Sarre. The content would also include details regarding planning and would be produced by himself personally. Cllr Ageros advised he had visited Ticia in hospital and was pleased to report she was in good spirits and looking forward to returning home.

Cllr Ageros attended a preliminary meeting of a potential Residents Association group looking to be set up. The meeting had been positive and well attended.

Cllr Bryant had nothing further to add for St Nicholas.

70/19-20 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillors Reece Pugh, David Hart and Trevor Roper were not in attendance at the meeting and no reports were received.

71/19-20 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

72/19-20 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, I hope you are well.

Other than RTC's, abandoned vehicles and un sanitised crimes, I am very pleased to report that the only crime of note that I can find on our system is of a theft of 3 conifer bushes in SARRE, at Sarre Court on 5th September.

I would like to take this opportunity to promote Neighbourhood Watch. It appears that St Nichoas only has 4 members and Sarre only 3. We have a brilliant Neighbourhood watch liaison officer at the station, Adam Sackett and he is constantly updating us and providing us with invaluable intel. I would urge you to consider becoming a member not only to help protect your area but also to be in touch with what crimes of note eg burglaries, fraud is being committed in Thanet. His details are: - adam.sackett@kent.police.uk

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

73/19-20 PAVILION SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr North circulated draft minutes from the last Committee meeting and advised that Amber Fallon had recently been appointed as Secretary for Committee.

Discussion took place regarding the tennis court and how the facilities could be improved, including resurfacing and fencing. The installation of WIFI had been considered, it was agreed the various options should be explored further.

A Christmas Quiz was being arranged; proceeds being donated to charity. Wendy Wooler kindly offered to donate a hamper as prize for the Quiz. Details would be confirmed in due course.

A secure cabinet to hold the Parish Council files had been investigated, however, due to the expense, it was agreed that the handyman would be approached to potentially adapt the existing cupboard.

74/19-20 CIVIC SPACES COMMITTEE

The Clerk confirmed she would be meeting with a representative from TDC next week in order to discuss the constitution for the Bell Meadow Partnership. Cllr Bryant suggested the Civic Spaces Committee should be dissolved and responsibility for civic spaces should fall under the remit of the Bell Meadow Committee. This proposal was discussed however, as it was complicated with the current situation with the constitution, it was felt a decision could not be made at this stage.

75/19-20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Council considered the following applications:

F/TH/19/1088– Land on the South East side of Canterbury Road, Sarre

Use of land for the permanent siting of two mobiles for permanent residential occupation.

Object to the proposal on the following grounds:

- It is considered that the vehicular access is inadequate, it is close to listed building and thus not in keeping with the surroundings. It is noted that previous application has been dismissed.

FH/TH/19/1121- 13 Sandalwood Drive, St Nicholas At Wade, BIRCHINGTON, Kent

Erection of first floor balcony to rear elevation together with 1.8m high privacy screening, replacement of windows and door to ground floor rear elevation and insertion of window to ground floor side elevation

No objections to the proposal. It was noted the yellow notices detailing the planning application were not visible.

b) None received.

It was noted that a planning application was to be submitted regarding Huckleberry Farm. As members had not been notified of this formally by TDC and no information was available, the Clerk advised that a decision could not be made at this meeting. Upon receipt of the application, Councillors would then be requested to comment via email.

76/19-20 FINANCE

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

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for August. (Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe Seconded: Cllr North).

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

M. Savage (Handyman's salary & expenses)	187.84
S. Archer (Clerk's salary & expenses)	658.23
J.Read (Asst Handyman's salary & expenses)	136.35
G. Bryant (Bell Meadow Cleaner)	107.59
SNS (Email domain hosting)	28.56
Phillips Blinds (Blinds for BMP)	358.80
HMRC (Employee PAYE)	305.40
Grummants (Final payment for heating BMP)	18884.00
PKF Littlejohn (Audit fees)	480.00
M. Feekings (Admin Payment)	200.00

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

(c) The budget report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for consideration. No comments were made.

77/19-20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A resident enquired why a recent meeting of the Bell Meadow Committee had not been advertised for the public to attend. It was confirmed the meeting was a closed briefing meeting.
- The dissolution of the Civic Spaces Committee was queried. It was confirmed that no decision could be made at this time.
- The refurbishment of the tennis courts was discussed. It was suggested the area could be changed into a multi-use games area rather than be a dedicated tennis court. Options were still being explored.
- The planning at Down Barton Road was discussed. It was advised that the Parish Council were requesting all developers in this area to contribute to road safety initiatives and widening the highway to improve conditions for the residents.
- A complaint was made regarding the rubbish bin at Sarre. An incident of fly tipping had occurred and the bin had not been emptied. This would be reported to TDC.

The meeting was concluded by The Chairman at 9:23pm