



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 11th June 2019 at 7.30pm.

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

Also Present: Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Liz Hurst, District Cllr Trevor Roper, plus 10 members of public

18/19-20 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public will be excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during the period 7pm – 7:30pm.

19/19-20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from PCSO Forsyth, District Cllr David Hart, District Cllr Reece Pugh, Community Warden Tony Gander, Cllr Ticia Cheniston (Ill health).

20/19-20 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Cllr Lisa Fallon who has been co-opted onto the Council following the vacancies which arose from the recent elections. The necessary documentation was completed and returned to the Clerk.

21/19-20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ageros declared an interest with regard to item 25/19-20, during which he would be mentioning a potential opportunity for financial gain.

22/19-20 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2019. These were proposed by Cllr Radclyffe, seconded by Cllr Divers, all agreed and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

23/19-20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman read his report as follows:

In February, I reported that The Friends of The Church had asked The Parish Council to support The Open Gardens event. I am particularly pleased that The PC took great steps to ensure that this event took place with all necessary permissions being obtained. It was an excellent weekend; the weather was great, and I understand that the Friends raised a total in excess of £13,000. I must remind everyone that although The Parish Council manage Bell Meadow through The Pavilion Sub-committee, the land is owned by Thanet District Council and any public event must be passed to TDC at least fourteen weeks in advance. Public liability insurance must be in place and as managing agents, The Parish Council must also give its permission. I must mention the contribution that the sub-committee made to this event by running the bar and kitchen throughout the weekend taking in about £500. The committee are recommending a donation of £100 to The Friends of The Church and I hope that by your acceptance of this report you (The Council) will ratify that decision.

RESOLVED: To approve the recommendation of the Bell Meadow Pavilion Sub-Committee to donate £100.00 to the Friends of the Church. Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe, Seconded: Cllr Fallon

My thanks to David Divers for working so hard on The Pavilion – the redecoration is almost finished with just a few small things to be completed – new blinds that are now on order and a covering for the new boiler. I have asked Martin and James if they can do the work on this and hopefully that will be the next part of the project.

Over the Open Gardens weekend, we received a great deal of praise and encouragement for the work that has been done in the pavilion and I am hoping that with some volunteer effort the changing rooms and lobby area will soon be redecorated. The CCTV on the pavilion is now up and running and our thanks to Matt Feekings for working so hard in getting this sorted out.

Graham and I will be meeting representatives from Kompan on Thursday, 20th June to finalise the play area and ensure that we have all the necessary safety certificates in place.

We are still pressing for the s.106 money from the phase two development in Manor Road. This is way overdue, and I hope that our TDC Councillors will support us by, perhaps, pushing TDC to get this sorted out for us. I write at least two emails per month to TDC requesting action on this but without seeming to make any progress.

It has come to my attention that Minster Parish Council have used some of their s.106 to have yellow lines placed around their village and are also paying TDC to have these enforced. This maybe an action that we would like to follow when we are in receipt of these monies. I met with an officer from Kent Highways a couple of weeks ago to discuss various measures around the village including the possibility of bollards around The Oaks/Wantsum Court, road marking on the junction of Manor Road/The Length/The Street and on the A28. You will see that some of this has started but you will also notice that one of the utility providers has now dug up and removed the S in 'STOP'. I am sure that this will soon be rectified.

I visited St Nicholas Court Farm last week and I am awaiting a response as to how they can help us with the clearance of several tonnes of topsoil and chalk that has amassed in the cemetery. I will keep you informed of any developments.

Finally, can I please remind everyone that St John's Green is a special part of our village and is held on a ten-year lease from St John's College, University of Cambridge. It is part of the lease conditions that no advertising boards are placed on this land. Anybody found doing this will have the board removed and will be reported for flyposting.

24/19-20 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 confirmed the position with regard to the allotments with just two half plots now vacant. The meeting was also advised that the Clerk had received correspondence regarding the forthcoming Councillors Conference hosted by KALC on 18th July. Councillors interested in attending were asked to inform the Clerk.

A road closure notice regarding the A28 had been received from KCC highways which was read to the meeting. The Clerk confirmed further information was available on the website.

The Clerk also informed the Councillors that following the GDPR guidance, dedicated email addresses had been set-up for each individual. Details would be circulated in due course and members were reminded that all future correspondence and communications within the Parish Council would be directed to these email accounts only.

25/19-20 VILLAGE REPORTS.

Councillor Radclyffe reported that he had been litter picking within the village. He advised he had repainted the benches prior to the Open Gardens weekend and had attempted to keep access to the event limited through the Village. Cllr Radclyffe also confirmed he had erected 'No Parking' signs outside the development site which had been well received by the construction company who had requested they remain in place.

It was noted that the hedges had been flailed through the village.

Cllr Bryant offered thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for the hard work carried out by Cllr Radclyffe in preparation for the Open Gardens weekend.

Councillor Ageros confirmed the litter had increased slightly along the Ramsgate Road. He advised he had demonstrated Tai-Chi at the Open Gardens with a very positive response. He was looking into teaching the martial art at a low cost, for health benefits, the sessions would be for adults and depending on interest, the venue would be confirmed in due course.

Cllr Ageros reported he had been liaising with the Public Rights of Way Officer with regards to TE10. Part of the path had been resurfaced however a large section remained untouched. The department had offered to supply materials for the fencing free of charge, however, the Parish Council would need to supply the labour. Cllr Ageros advised this footpath was not considered a priority by the Rights of Way department and funding was limited. He would take some photographs as evidence that it is in poor repair and will continue to pursue the department.

Cllr Bryant confirmed he had nothing further to report for St Nicholas.

26/19-20 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Trevor Roper was welcomed to his first Parish Council meeting at St Nicholas and congratulations on his appointment were offered by the Chairman.

Cllr Roper advised he was currently in the process of settling into his new post and therefore had little to report at this meeting. He confirmed he would approach the planning department on behalf of the Parish Council to determine the position with regard to the outstanding Sec 106 monies.

Cllr Reece Pugh was not in attendance at the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report which was read by the Clerk as follows:

Rough sleeping funding

The Housing team has secured nearly £1.2m in rough sleeping funding in 2018/19 from The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of a national reduction strategy for a range of different projects, including rough sleeping intervention, winter accommodation and a new Stay safe hub.

There has been a 50% reduction of rough sleepers between November 2017 and November 2018 (46 down to 23) and, over the past year, temporary accommodation use has reduced from a high of 188 households in April 2018 to 92 household currently and over 600 homeless cases prevented.

The Port of Ramsgate

It has been reported in the local news recently that the Council's 2018-19 draft financial statements show that Ramsgate Port experienced a notional accounting loss of £2.5m. This position, however, includes a number of non-cash transactions that have no impact on council taxpayers.

After these and similar non-cash charges are removed, the revised position is a total operating loss of £460,000. Whilst the loss for the year is recognised, it should be noted that the 2018-19 position represents an improvement on the loss of £640,000 for the previous year. Furthermore, the savings approved for the 2019-20 Budget will improve the financial position of this service in future years.

Red recycling bags

To encourage recycling, TDC will be providing all households with new red recycling bags. I know that the charges that were brought in last year for the bags and bins have been understandably unpopular with residents and I have been working to overturn this.

Of course, if I can assist with any matters that are brought before the Parish Council, please do let me know.

27/19-20 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Liz Hurst gave an update on the street lighting initiative which was nearing completion and had been a successful project with many positive outcomes.

Cllr Hurst confirmed she was not in a position to comment on the recent news regarding the potential loss of KCC pension funds.

28/19-20 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 to you all, I hope that you are all well.

I am very glad to report that when I looked back over the last months calls for the village, there aren't many crimes of note to disclose.

The two which can be disclosed are:-

23.05.19 – burglary, Manor Road, tools and equipment stolen

04.06.2019 – theft, Court Road, trailer stolen

On a lighter note, I was very pleased to see the success of the open gardens and when I went along on Sunday it was lovely to see so many familiar faces.

As always, please keep yourselves and your property safe and remain vigilant at all times.

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.

Thank you

Community Warden Tony Gander was not present however a report was submitted and read by the Clerk as follows:

- Working with School on a number of different projects.
- Working with Community payback in the village.
- Reported Anti-Social Behaviour on Potten Street Road .
- Working with Kent Fire and Rescue Service on Home Safety Checks.
- Welfare visits.
- Working alongside Speedwatch in Sarre.

29/19-20 PAVILION SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr North advised that the CCTV had been installed in the Pavilion and the relevant signage was to be placed in due course.

The alarm had also been upgraded and was now working accordingly and the redecoration had also been completed.

The constitution was yet to be agreed; however, Cllr North expressed his disappointment with the lack of support received from the community at the public meeting held last month. Resident's were encouraged to become involved in the formation of the new committee.

30/19-20 CIVIC SPACES COMMITTEE

Mr Rob Searle, Chairman of the Committee confirmed that a meeting had been arranged for 16th June 2019. He notified the meeting that he had been liaising with the School to enquire whether Bell Meadow could be utilised further by them. Suggestions had included their Sports Day and a Forest School environment. It would be envisaged that the Pavilion would be made available during these events. The Clerk had confirmed with Mr Searle that a balance of approximately £500 remained from the grant funding, proposals for the allocation of these funds would be considered by the Committee and brought to the next meeting.

Mr Searle advised that Car Boot Fairs and Vintage Car Shows were activities to be considered by the Committee. He was reminded that the Bell Meadow Pavilion Committee should be involved with any potential bookings and activities.

31/19-20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A resident enquired whether permission had been obtained from TDC for the Open Gardens event as she had reason to believe it had not been appropriately applied for. Cllr Bryant clarified the position and confirmed that TDC had authorised the event to take place although the correct procedure had not been followed in this particular instance. Cllr Bryant advised that permission from TDC should be obtained by the event organisers a minimum of 14 weeks in advance for *all* public events. It was requested that the secretary of the Bell Meadow Pavilion Committee advised users of the Meadow of this upon booking the facilities.
- Mr Searle advised that after carrying out investigations regarding the excess earth at the cemetery with the Environment Agency, they had suggested the waste could be contaminated and therefore would require specialist removal. Cllr Bryant thanked Mr Searle for the information and further enquiries would be made.
- Cllr Hurst was approached to request a streetlight to be installed at the far end of Down Barton Road.
- A faulty streetlight in The Length was mentioned and would be reported accordingly. **(addendum – reported by The Chairman on Wednesday, 12th June** -reference number (433918) so you can track the progress at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults>)
- A resident enquired about a recent survey carried out at the Play Area by KCC. This was an unknown visit by the Parish Council and therefore no comment could be made.
- It was suggested that anti-theft paint was used on the CCTV equipment, this would be considered and signage would be installed.
- The meeting was informed of a potential traveller incursion which had been avoided at Down Barton Road. The Community Warden had been informed; however, residents were reminded to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.
- The issue of where the recycled waste was being dealt with was discussed. Cllr Roper reported he would be investigating the process and would report his findings in due course.
- Minster Open Gardens event was being held this weekend; all were welcome to attend.

32/19-20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Council considered the following applications:

OL/TH/19/0523 - Huckleberry Farm, Down Barton Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Outline application for the erection of 1No. 4 bed dwelling with all matters reserved.

The Parish Council had been advised that this application had been suspended following further investigation by the Planning Officer.

Appeal: 19/00017/REF - Land North West Of Down Barton Road St Nicholas At Wade BIRCHINGTON Kent

Outline application for the erection of 6No. dwellings with all matters reserved

The Parish Council were unable to comment further on the appeal.

b) FH/TH/19/0149 – Permission REFUSED

L/TH/19/0446 – Permission REFUSED

33/19-20 FINANCE

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

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

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

M. Savage (Handyman's salary & expenses)	627.28
S. Archer (Clerk's salary & expenses)	717.40
J.Read (Asst Handyman's salary & expenses)	255.07
G. Bryant (Cleaner's salary)	215.18
P. Paul (Remarking of football pitch)	60.00

P. Radclyffe (Reimbursement – paint)	30.43
HMRC (Employee PAYE)	339.60
Surrey Hill Solicitors (Constitution advice)	630.00
R. Horsburgh (Decorating at BMP)	1300.00 (400+400+500)
A. Edwards (Plants for village planters)	168.00
Kompan (O/S Payment for play area)	16726.25

Receipts:

TDC (1/2 Precept)	15096.50
HMRC VAT Refund	12782.62
G. North (Mobile)	35.00
Allotment fee (Plot 5)	52.00
C. Brown (BMP Hire fee)	32.50
Hire fee	32.50
Allotment fee (Plot 3b)	26.00

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for June (Proposed: Cllr North, Seconded: Cllr Divers)

(c) Councillors were reminded of their ability to claim the allowance of £150 per elected Councillor and £300 for the Chairman. The Clerk confirmed this was a taxable allowance and should the Parish Councillors wish to claim the monies, they should let her know in writing.

The meeting was concluded by The Chairman at 8:35pm