



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Approved Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom, on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7.30pm.

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

Also, Present: Sara Archer – Clerk, District Cllrs R. Pugh & T. Roper, Reculver Cricket Club Representatives Lynn & Andy Whittington, plus 3 members of the public.

128/20-21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from District Cllr Hart and KCC Cllr Hurst.

129/20-21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Goy declared an interest regarding item 140/20-21 application – FH/TH/20/0943 and would not be taking part in any discussions on this proposal. All Councillors declared a personal interest in knowing the applicant for both this proposal, and FH/TH/21/0085 which was duly noted.

130/20-21 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held via zoom on 12th January 2021.

These were proposed by Cllr Fallon, seconded by Cllr Radclyffe, all present agreed and therefore the minutes would be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

131/20-21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bryant read his report as follows:

I sometimes think that it would be nice to report that nothing happened this month, but, then we would not be the dynamic Parish Council we are. The new planters arrived at St Nicholas Court Farm last Wednesday and I am leaving these in the capable hands of the handymen to replace the existing planters as and when it is right to do so.

I would like to thank David for sorting out the heating in The Pavilion. He kindly arranged for Grummants to come out and they found a pump completely ceased up and they have replaced it and all now working well.

I would like to thank Lisa for all the challenging work that she has done in getting the new aerial flyer in. I am sure she will want to speak more about this later.

My thanks to Philip Smith for allowing us to take a piece of his field so that we can site a new bus shelter on the A28. Again, this will be discussed later.

A lot of careful thought has gone into the working agreement with Reculver Cricket Club. The first draft of this went out to consultation with interested parties last week. I invited Lynn from Reculver CC to attend this evening as I was aware that the BMP Committee wanted some more information, and I am most grateful for her contribution tonight.

You will know that work has started on The Length development and I contacted TDC to check the s.106 money due to us. Upon investigation, I have been told that the sum of £29,000 will be due to us for play equipment but this will not be received until at least 50% of the houses are occupied. Therefore, we are not likely to receive this soon. My guess is about two years!

My final point for consideration is that if Councillors agree, all correspondence that is discussed at Council Meetings should be with the Clerk at least twenty-four hours beforehand, to give time for consideration. Any correspondence received within the 24 hour period will be held over to the following meeting, unless it is regarded as urgent.

RESOLVED: Correspondence to be considered at a meeting must be received and circulated to the Parish Council no later than 24 hours prior to the Parish Council meeting. Proposed: Cllr Bryant, Seconded: Cllr Fallon

Item 138/20-21 was brought forward to enable the representatives of the Cricket Club the opportunity to discuss the proposal to re-introduce cricket to Bell Meadow.

138/20-21 RECVLVER CRICKET CLUB

Lynn and Andy Whittington from Reculver Cricket Club (RCC) were introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

Cllr Ageros, as the BMP Committee representative put forward the queries raised by the Committee members, for clarification.

- RCC confirmed they would be looking to use the facilities at Bell Meadow potentially every day of the week, on the following basis: Mon eve – Jnr training 6-8, Tues eve – Snr training, Wed eve – under 15's matches, Thurs eve - Jnr training, Fri eve – under 13 matches, Sat afternoon – Senior matches – latest finish 7pm, and Sun morning – under 11 matches – latest finish 12:30pm
- RCC are currently training – Juniors at Kent College, Seniors at St Lawrence which they are no longer able to hire and are therefore looking to hire a pitch elsewhere – would like all teams to play in one place if possible.
- Damage to neighbouring properties, roofs etc, from loose balls – Confirm netting can be put in place which is removable. Can protect the play area and properties in Bridges Close if necessary.
- Benefit to the Community – bring cricket to the area, open to the community to join the club, training at the School: can provide a coach to do training sessions, very inclusive club.
- Looking to make Bell Meadow as home ground and build the club there.
- Use from mid- April to beginning of Sept, weather dependant.
- Family days, fundraising events, open to the whole community.
- Concern from the Committee of the amount of time the facilities will be used by the Cricket Club. Feedback to be sought from the residents. Usage would be weather dependant during the cricket season.
- Boundary will not take up whole of the Bell Meadow.
- Renovate the cricket square, approx. costs - £1800 minimum, cut, fed, spiked, weed killed, over seeded, top dressing etc... Inc labour and materials.
- Pavilion facilities – require use while training if possible, bar opened, available to all. Require access to the kitchen for teas for Seniors on a Saturday afternoon.
- Possible conflict with football clubs if the season overruns in September.

Draft working agreement will be considered further by the Parish Councillors. It was confirmed the RCC would be expected to pay for the materials required to renovate the pitch, in return for use of the pitch free of charge for the first year, however, some supplies may be available for use, in the BMP garage.

132/20-21 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised she had received a complaint regarding the installation of the new ariel runway from the resident's of Wooton Court. Concern had been raised with regard to the potential noise, anti-social behaviour and use of the equipment by older children/teenagers and a request was made to re-site the zipline away from any house.

The Parish Councillors noted the content of the letter and confirmed the equipment was aimed at 8-12 year olds. Although a thrill would be expected by children using the ariel flyer, it would be short and not considered to cause a significant rise in the level of noise. Any anti-social behaviour experienced should be reported to the Police as necessary. The situation would be monitored accordingly.

A copy of correspondence sent by a resident to KCC Highways had been forwarded to the Clerk. The content of which namely raised concern regarding the necessity for highway improvements and safety measures at Down Barton Road. The increase in development in this area gave additional pressure on the current infrastructure which was considered inadequate.

The Parish Councillors confirmed they supported the concerns raised and had opposed any further development in this area over the past couple of years. KCC had been approached and discussions were ongoing, to implement a 20mph limit through the whole village which would help address some of the safety concerns.

A letter had been received regarding the introduction of cricket to Bell Meadow, however, as it had not been received 24 hours prior to the meeting, Councillors would consider the content and comment accordingly at the next meeting.

133/20-21 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Ageros read a statement regarding the basis of the tests being used for Covid-19, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests and a quote from its creator, Kary B. Mullis, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1993.

Cllr Radclyffe advised he had been litter picking, and reported that the drains remained blocked. The Clerk confirmed she had reported the issue to KCC and would chase them up.

134/20-21 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Pugh advised he was in the process of arranging a meeting with Rob Large at TDC regarding the transfer of Bell Meadow to the PC.

TDC have agreed a loan to Your Leisure of £750,000 - £1.5m to assist with the financial impact of Covid-19.

Changes have been proposed to the way residents are able to object to Planning Applications. Yellow notices publicising planning applications may be removed and admin charges for substantial letters received by post to TDC may be introduced.

Complaints regarding the light pollution from Thanet Earth had been raised and residents were encouraged to notify the District Councillors if they had any concerns.

Cllr Roper reported that waste and bin collections have been delayed due to the inclement weather. Further collections had been organised to catch up with the collections as much as possible.

Information regarding The Princes Countryside Fund would be forwarded to the Clerk to make enquiries for funding possibilities.

135/20-21 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Liz Hurst was not in attendance and no report was available.

136/20-21 BELL MEADOW PAVILION COMMITTEE

Cllr Ageros updated the meeting following the Committee meeting held on 4th February.

In addition to the discussions regarding the cricket, the installation of the handbasin had been discussed and quotes would be obtained to bring to the next PC meeting for consideration. The Committee advised they would like to consult the public regarding the re-introduction of cricket to the Meadow.

137/20-21 AERIAL RUNWAY AT BELL MEADOW

Cllr Fallon confirmed the runway had been installed. Colourfence had been instructed to install the partition fencing as soon as possible.

139/20-21 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

Cllr Divers confirmed he had submitted a highways improvement plan to KCC regarding the 20mph suggestion and would be canvassing the residents opinions on the proposal. KCC advised a survey would be required on each road to be considered in the scheme. These would need to be carried out after the lockdown when traffic flow was at a usual level. In the meantime, it was suggested a public consultation was held and residents were encouraged to contact the PC with comments.

The inclusion of flashing speed signs which have their own power source were also added to the highways improvement plan.

140/20-21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Council considered the following applications:

FH/TH/20/0943 - Sycamore House, Court Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Erection of gate and gateway and track to allow vehicle and equine access to the stable block.

Cllr Goy declared an interest in the application and left the meeting while the proposal was discussed. No objections raised as long as access to the public footpath was retained.

FH/TH/21/0085 – 1 Bedford Way, St Nicholas At Wade

Erection of a two storey side extension comprising of a ground floor Annex and storage space at first floor level.

All Councillors declared a personal interest in knowing the applicant for this planning proposal. As the applicant is known as a Parish Council employee, it was considered that it would be inappropriate for the council to comment. However, it was noted that no objections were raised, and the plan was commended for the consideration of neighbours by not overlooking close-by properties.

b) FH/TH/20/1278 – Permission Granted

FH/TH/20/1640 – Permission Granted

141/20-21 BUS SHELTER – A28 CANTERBURY ROAD

Cllr Fallon confirmed that the land owner had agreed to allow the site of the bus shelter onto part of the field. Additional costs for tarmacing the extra land to allow the siting of the shelter would be explored. Cllr Fallon recommended the purchase of the eco-friendly shelter and would investigate the option for advertising in the shelter. Funding options for grants towards the cost of the new shelter would be explored.

RESOLVED: It was proposed to accept the quote from Exteniture – the eco-friendly shelter, This was proposed by Cllr Bryant Seconded by Cllr Radclyffe.

142/20-21 HANDYMAN VEHICLE

Cllr Divers advised he had made enquiries with regard to the type of vehicle that would be suitable for the handyman and suggested either an all-terrain utility vehicle or van would be the most appropriate. The utility vehicle would have the capacity to tow and a flat back for carrying waste. The registration of the vehicle for road use would need to be applied for.

Discussion took place regarding the benefits of each vehicle. The issue of storage was also raised. It was decided that the handyman would be invited to the next meeting to discuss the options further.

143/20-21 FINANCE

(a) The Clerk presented the monthly bank reconciliation between the cash book and bank accounts. This had been sent to Cllr Radclyffe for inspection prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for January. (Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe, seconded Cllr Fallon).

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

M. Savage (Handyman's salary & expenses)	23.42
S. Archer (Clerk's salary & expenses)	752.36
J. Read (Asst. Handyman's salary & expenses)	85.07
George Bryant (Cleaner's salary)	116.56
Lloyds Bank (Credit Card)	111.34
M. Feekings (Website Admin)	26.83
E. Saunders (faulty light at BMP)	209.38
Came & Co (Mower Insurance)	141.12
SNS (Domain hosting)	28.56
PKF Littlejohn (Audit fees)	360.00
KALC (Dynamic Cllr Course)	60.00
Bank Charges	6.00

Receipts:

Cemetery fees	2003.75
HMRC – VAT refund	532.59

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

(c) The proposal to appoint Emma Stevens of McCabe Ford Williams as Internal Auditor and to also carry out the payroll functions on behalf of the PC was considered. No concerns were raised with regard to the appointment.

RESOLVED: To approve the appointment of Emma Stevens of McCabe Ford Williams as internal auditor and to carry out the payroll reporting on behalf of the Parish Council. (Proposed: Cllr Bryant, seconded: Cllr Fallon)

144/20-21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- It was noted that the grit bins were being used to deposit dog waste. Resident's were reminded to dispose of their waste appropriately. It was also suggested that additional grit bins were purchased to assist with gritting the village more efficiently, particularly in Summer Road and Canterbury Road near the bus shelter. Cllr Bryant confirmed he would contact highways to refill the bins as soon as possible. A budget of £400 was approved for the purchase of two grit bins.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of two additional grit bins, a budget of £400 was agreed. (Proposed: Cllr Bryant, Seconded: Cllr Fallon)

- It was confirmed that correspondence would no longer be accepted for a meeting less than 24 hours in advance of that meeting in order for the information to be circulated and considered accordingly.

- It was suggested that a utility vehicle for the handymen may incur the need for a commercial waste fee. However, waste would be disposed of as per the current procedure.

- It was noted that the handymen did not attend Sarre to assist with gritting the roads and footpaths. St Nicholas was prioritised due to Sarre being covered by KCC as a main route to be gritted.

- It was clarified that the public footpath TE5B was not on the privately owned land of Sycamore House.

- Thanks were extended to Cllr Divers for considering the speeding issues in Sarre.

The meeting was concluded by The Chairman at 9:16pm.