



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, St Nicholas-at-Wade on Wednesday 1st May 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors Gordon Bryant (Chairman), Graham North, Ticia Cheniston, David Divers, Peter Radclyffe, Sonya Smyth & Lee Ageros.

Also present: Sara Archer (Clerk), Derek Crow-Brown & Reece Pugh (TDC District Councillors), Tony Gander (KCC Community Warden), Chris Cole (Village Hall Committee), PCSO Deborah Forsyth

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Parish Council Chairman Cllr Bryant was nominated to take this role, which was proposed by Cllr Cheniston and Seconded by Cllr Radclyffe. He thanked everyone for coming.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Emma Dawson & Liz Hurst (KCC County Councillors)

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2018 were re-circulated and accepted as a true record. No comments were made. Proposed: Cllr North, Seconded: Cllr Cheniston

4. PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL & FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Clerk presented a budget update for the end of 2018/19. It was reported that the Parish Council had largely met their budget on the whole. The projected receipts had seen an increase due to the generous donation of £100,000. The installation of the play area had seen an overspend in the budget for Bell Meadow, however, this had been aided by the receipt of grant funding and Section 106 monies. The accounts remained in a very healthy position, with further streams of funding still to be received.

Cllr Bryant reported as follows:

In terms of achievement this has been a most successful year. When I became Chairman of your parish council in 2016, I held a meeting with the Parish Councillors to lay out our strategic plan. We entitled this 2020 Vision and a copy is available on display.

Each year I have produced a list of our achievements and again, these are available for you to view. Our largest project this year has been the Bell Meadow playground area. Although it is not completed to our satisfaction, it has been open since 1st October last year. We are still awaiting some ground work to be done and signage must be installed.

You will know by now that the Wantsum Community and Sports Association folded in September and the Parish Council is indebted to the volunteers that have not only kept the pavilion running but have developed a plan to ensure that the building and Bell Meadow goes forward in a way that we can all be proud of. In the next few weeks the Bell Meadow Pavilion Sub-committee will become The Bell Meadow Community Partnership. Although there will be Parish Council representatives on board, the new group will have autonomy that will allow them to take over this important area. The Bell Meadow Community Partnership will provide regular updates to The Parish Council but will be free to manage the facility as they see fit.

The refurbishment of the pavilion is well overdue, some parts dating back to 1982 when the pavilion was built. and we hope to have the plumbing and redecoration completed within the next few weeks in time for Open Gardens.

We started the 2019/20 budget by trying to share our good practice with the community – through good management, there will be no increase in your Parish Precept this year, and we can still achieve the goals we have set ourselves. This has been possible by the good work that has been put in over the last few years. By placing our reserves on deposit has given us income of nearly £500. The grants we have received from KCC

have allowed us to provide the new facilities outside the pavilion. The great work done by the two handymen has meant that we have not had to contract out services.

To bring the community together and make The Parish Council more accessible to all, we purchased new notice boards that have been placed on St John's Green and in Potten Street.

We received a donation of £100,000 that has allowed us to provide some of these excellent facilities. We welcome ideas as to how you would like us to improve our village, we will consider all sensible proposals that have a significant positive affect.

Tomorrow is polling day and I am most disappointed that there will be no election for The Parish Council as there were insufficient nominations for a contest to take place. Following two further resignations in the last week we now have three vacancies to fill. If you would like details as to how you can be part of this progressive group, please ask either Sara or myself at the end of the meeting.

It would be dishonest to not mention the impasse that exists between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee. Last year, I asked several times for a meeting between myself and the trustees. This has not been granted and with the secretary living over two hundred miles away and the chairman living over twenty miles away, there is little likelihood of this being achieved soon. The flawed election process last October was indicative of poor management and we need to address this as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank all the individuals that have contributed to our success this year, we continue to attract over 1,000 views of our website per month. It is now bolder and better than ever.

5. PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARD

Cllr Bryant presented Gavin and Pat Wilson with the Parish Council Community Award together with a voucher which had been sponsored by The Powell Bar & Restaurant in recognition of their years of commitment to serving the village.

6. THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Derek Crow-Brown offered his congratulations to the Parish Council for their efforts in the two Villages and for their continued hospitality during the past 4 years.

It was reported that due to their financial position, staff redundancies at TDC were inevitable. Cllr Crow-Brown thanked the Community Warden for his assistance with various issues included the problems with Travellers, flytipping and enforcement.

Cllr Crow-Brown also reported that the Planning Inspectors were due in May to further consider the draft Local Plan.

Cllr Reece Pugh echoed the sentiment of Cllr Crow-Brown and congratulated the Parish Council on their efforts. He also thanked Cllr Crow-Brown for his support since his appointment as District Councillor.

Cllr Pugh reiterated the importance of resident's objecting to further development in the Villages as necessary. He advised the trial of the new bins was being monitored, however, he was currently trying to get the waste bin at the footpath to Bell Meadow reinstated.

7. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllrs Emma Dawson and Liz Hurst had offered their apologies and no reports were submitted.

8. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY WARDEN & KENT POLICE PCSO'S REPORT

Community Warden Tony Gander did not have anything to report.

PCSO Debbie Forsyth offered her apologies for the late arrival and reported as follows:

'I have had a look at Storm which is the database we work from. It generates our calls. In the past year there have been approx. 255 calls for St Nicholas and Sarre, nearly two thirds of those calls were relating to traffic issues on the A299.

All other calls relate to anything from fallen trees and alarms going off or suspicious events which turn out to be perfectly innocent, to burglary. There are always issues which cannot be discussed and which would not be put into the public domain.

Crime in and out of the Villages doesn't appear to follow any trends or patterns. Please remember to collate any patterns we ask that any issues are brought to our attention through the relevant channels.

It may also be worth pointing out that some issues can generate several calls which can relate to the same matter eg fallen trees, alarms sounding, concerns for welfare etc.

There hasn't been a rise in Anti-Social Behaviour in the area or crimes of note with the exception of the burglary at the Post Office and two Pubs.

In the near future I will be combining my three Police surgeries into just one as not a single person has turned up to any of the surgeries, so we can assume that village life is harmonious! This is likely to be held in Monkton on every first Wednesday of the month.

Generally speaking St Nicholas and Sarre remain enjoyable areas to patrol.

9. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chris Cole reported the following on behalf of the Village Hall Committee:

We have had a very successful year again and our hall is well used with both new and regular hirers continuing to utilize our facilities. We would like to thank them all for their continued support.

Our Christmas Fayre held on the 24th November last, was a great triumph in these days of austerity, yet we still managed to raise all but £100 more than the previous year.

Hoodening was well supported again on Wednesday 19th December, some new faces ventured out to make a fun time for all, with even the surprise visit of the American President. No-one had seen anything quite like it!

We as a Committee are always trying to upgrade the hall and its facilities, and for this reason we are obtaining quotations for the renewal of the ceiling panels which have deteriorated during the last couple of years, and further we would like to use a more economic and environmentally friendly lighting system. We are also looking at improving the kitchen floor.

There is wi-fi internet access to all users of our hall, we just ask users bear in mind that our contract is limited to 10gb per month. For access to this service, new users need to obtain the password by completing a form available at the St Nicholas-at-Wade Post Office.

The village hall has its very own website where booking and contact information can be accessed. The website is to be found at www.villagehall.snaw.org.uk

Thanks has to be offered to Cllr Peter Radclyffe of the Parish Council, who on hearing our gutters at the hall needed attention, carried out the work even before instruction were given elsewhere. We have such helpful committee members, thank you Peter.

Finally it has to be said that with six operations under my belt, the village hall committee have worked so hard and must be thanked for all their commitment to our cause, and for making my job easier throughout the year.

10. PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

CIVIC SPACES

No report available.

BELL MEADOW PAVILION

Cllr Graham North reported on behalf of the sub-committee as follows:

- CCTV ordered and due to arrive 30.04.19. Matt Feekings to arrange fitting date following arrival. Cost £499.
- Following rethink security bars will not be actioned.
- Still awaiting third quote from Westgate Security for upgrade of intruder alarm. Matt Feekings will chase yet again on 30.04.19
- Wi-Fi delayed as an option. Parish Clerk has managed to arrange through TDC the registration of pavilion and for Post Office to allocate a postcode which will now be recognised as an official address. This will enable quotes from BT for a line to be installed and subsequently obtain quotes for internet connection. Thanks were extended to Matt and the Clerk for their efforts to move this forward.
- Six months of operation of Committee has shown a credit balance of just over £600. Started with nothing. Credit to Committee and those involved. Copy of accounts attached.
- A few members of Committee considering best procedural options for format of Inaugural meeting of Bell Meadow Community Partnership on 15.05.19. A flyer advertising the meeting has been prepared and delivered throughout the Parish.
- Grummants delayed commencement of plumbing works from 23 April. Grummants promised update by the end of this week. Dave Divers instructed decorator to commence prep work.
Resident's were encouraged to attend the inaugural meeting of the Bell Meadow Community Partnership and to join the committee.

11. ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

No representation or report submitted.

12. ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE CHURCH REPORT

No representation or report submitted.

13. ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE & SARRE GARDENING CLUB REPORT

No representation or report submitted.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Concern was raised regarding the forthcoming inaugural meeting of the Bell Meadow Community Partnership that members of the public would not be permitted to speak as had been experienced at a previous meeting.

- The Chairman was asked why so many Councillors were currently resigning. He advised this question should be directed to the persons involved directly. Mr Searle and Mr Evans both gave an explanation of their reasons for their resignation. An emotive discussion ensued.

- It was pointed out that as new residents to the village, the Parish Councillors should have been introduced at the beginning of the meeting. This was taken on board and apologies offered for the conduct of the meeting.

- The future plans for the Bell Meadow Pavilion were questioned. It was explained that the vision was for the Pavilion to become a community hub and the works currently being carried out were necessary in order to make the building safe and fit for purpose.

The PCSO felt it necessary to intervene in proceedings which had digressed unfavourably and offered her report as stated under item 8.

The meeting concluded at 8.35pm.