



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers (Chairman), L. Fallon, P. Radclyffe, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, M. Lawrance, E. Dore

Also, Present: KCC Cllrs Linda Wright & Derek Crow-Brown and Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 3 members of public.

128/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from District Cllr Abi Smith and P& Lee Terry.

129/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Smyth declared an interest in item 138 (b) which was duly noted.

130/22-23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 14th February 2023.

These were proposed by Cllr Radclyffe, seconded by Cllr Lawrance, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

131/22-23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers reported that following the last meeting, he had contacted Highways and invited them to attend this Parish Council meeting to which they declined. He had however, met with Steven Noad, KCC Highways, on site at Manor Road to express the concerns of residents direct. All issues were raised, however, Mr Noad advised that the width of the road was in accordance with guidelines and was perceived to be narrower. He reassured residents that the footpath at the sharp bend would be re-laid, the drop kerb removed and a gate set back from the highway. The traffic peninsular would remain in place for safety reasons. A priority traffic control would be added, along with the disabled access points to the footpath, once the other road works had been completed. He also confirmed the post holes and signage would be rectified immediately.

An independent safety audit would be carried out once the works had been completed, Cllrs Divers and Lawrance would attend the inspection. Residents were encouraged to report any accidents on Manor Road or A28 to 101 and inform the Parish Council.

Cllr Divers had written to the CEO of Sunningdale regarding the replacement of the Christmas Tree at the Length. The Tree had since been replaced with a 15-20ft Autumn Blaze Acer tree.

Unfortunately, the Website Administrator had resigned. Apologies were offered for any missing documentation on the website, which was being addressed and would be updated as soon as possible. Cover for the vacancy was being organised.

Cllr Divers advised he had approached Iain Moss – St Nicholas Court Farms regarding the potential disposal of grass cuttings at the cemetery at the biodigester. Iain was making enquiries with the Environment Agency to ensure this was permitted.

132/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that a new Police Constable had been appointed to cover the villages as the PCSO has resigned.

Election nomination forms would be circulated to the Councillors who would need to complete and return to TDC direct before 4pm 4th April. Flytipping near to the Cemetery, Stuart Lane had been reported to TDC. The Clerk was also pleased to confirm that the relevant permissions had been received for the coronation celebrations and the Wantsum Morris Men had been booked to perform at 3pm on the Sunday.

133/22-23 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Fallon advised she had been making enquiries with regard to the resurfacing of the tennis court. The quotes received were in the region of approximately £17-20,000. Funding options would be explored with the Clerk and the quotes would be circulated to the Councillors for consideration. The installation of a MUGA was discussed, however, it was felt this would not be a viable option at the moment.

Cllr Dore requested the handymen to make a couple of repairs at the Pavilion. He also volunteered to be called with any bookings for the Pavilion as some users prefer to call rather book online. Parking concerns were again raised as a resident was unable to use their mobility scooter due to a car obstructing the footpath at Bridges Close.

Cllr Dore had also cleared the footpath between Frost Farm and Stuart Lane.

Discussion took place with regard to the football hire at Bell Meadow. The hire arrangements would be reviewed next season, however, it was reported that a match had been cancelled at the weekend due to the poor condition of the pitch, but the teams ignored this and continued to play.

Once again, residents were encouraged to join the working party at Bell Meadow to enable the facilities to be fully utilised. Concern was also raised regarding the number of dogs seen in the children's play area. It was suggested a reminder that dogs were not permitted in the play area was posted on the social media pages.

Cllr Lawrance had been litter picking and advised he had been assisting the Church with the preparatory work for the installation of wi-fi. Work to fit the new kitchen at the Church was also underway.

Cllr Lawrance reported on behalf of Cllr Tweedale that unfortunately Maura Pell, Footpaths Officer for the Ramblers Association, had stepped down from her position. However, she had passed on details of the person taking over. The barbed wire along TE3 required removal as soon as possible.

Cllr Smyth had been contacted by the Church Commission who had sent the lease invoice. She had therefore forwarded this on to the Clerk for payment and asked to meet with them to discuss the trees. Cllr Smyth had contacted TDC to discuss the removal of the dog waste bin at TE10 but had not yet had a response. Cllr Smyth was researching the Neighbourhood Plan and would update at the next meeting. She had also visited the Site Manager at The Length development, who advised they would be landscaping the area upon completion of the groundworks. It was noted that a decision was outstanding with regard to the planning application to vary the disability housing at the Length and the retrospective application for the pumping station at Manor Road. The Clerk would write to TDC to make enquiries about the position of these applications.

Cllr Ageros had been continuing to plant beside the public foot path TE10, removing ivy and trimming back the hedges. He raised awareness of a public consultation regarding digital ID's and digital currency which ends in June.

Cllr Radclyffe reported he had litter picked in Sarre and noted the drains still required cleaning. He enquired whether an update had been received from KCC regarding the ownership of the retaining wall, as he would like to plant some shrubs to make the area more aesthetically pleasing. Cllr Radclyffe also raised concern regarding some of the trees on the Church Commission land. A meeting was being arranged with the representatives to visit the site and inspect the trees. The grit bins were in need of refilling, the Clerk would organise.

134/22-23 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

No reports submitted.

135/22-23 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Linda Wright expressed concern regarding the Public Rights of Way and supported the importance of them being walked regularly.

She also advised that she had raised concern that personal health checks were not routinely undertaken after the age of 70 and would be pursuing the issue to try and extend the age range for the checks to continue.

Cllr Wright reported that due to KCC budget cuts and the advance in technology, more people were able to continue to live at their own home rather than be placed into care.

Cllr Derek Crow- Brown confirmed the budget for Community Grants had been cut from £10,000 to £3600.

There has recently been a government consultation, seeking views on a proposed approach to updating to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Given KCC has an infrastructure first policy, having attended a recent post planning meeting seeking councillor views on the consultation, Cllr Crow-Brown alerted their strategic planners as to the major break down of infrastructure in Thanet. Most importantly the numerous utility road works across Thanet, causing traffic chaos and numerous water outages in the Broadstairs area. Moreover, the long term closure of Monkton Street leading to traffic chaos exiting Tothill Street in Minster.

The strategic team will investigate the issues in Thanet, especially the water outages in Broadstairs and submit to central government.

Following the recent first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we can be proud of Kent's response to this humanitarian crisis, with 3,209 Ukrainians having been hosted in the county (at present, 1,889 are staying with 905 sponsors; others have already moved on into other accommodation or returned to Ukraine). KCC has played a vital role in supporting this, and continue to do so. Given the uncertainty over the course of the war, KCC are working with District and Borough colleagues to secure longer term housing options for Ukrainian guests. In addition, before Christmas KCC brought forward a package of enhanced support for hosts, moving ahead of many other councils. Given that the government has continued support for the Homes for Ukraine scheme into 2023-24, but at lower levels for councils, they are reviewing the offer for the new financial year. The severe winter conditions have led to a fivefold increase in pothole reports. Officers are working flat out to respond to this, although some more lasting repairs cannot be made during winter weather conditions. Nonetheless, work is under way to address the damage.

Cllr Crow-Brown affirmed the importance of checking the lithium batteries used primarily on electric scooters. They were prone to catch fire and were extremely volatile.

136/22-23 PCSO/COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

No report submitted by the PCSO or Community Warden.

137/22-23 BELL MEADOW

The working group were actively seeking volunteers to help at the Pavilion.

A fete was being arranged on 7th May, to celebrate the Kings Coronation. The bar would be opened and refreshments available from 2pm- 5pm. Traditional games and activities were being organised and the Clerk confirmed the Wantsum Morris Men would be performing at 3pm. A poster to publicise the celebrations would be published in due course. Volunteers to help on the day were welcomed.

138/22-23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) F/TH/23/0166 - St Nicholas Court Farm, Court Road, St Nicholas At Wade

Erection of a grain store

No comments

FH/TH/23/0152 - Wayside Cottage, The Street, St Nicholas At Wade,

Erection of single storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory together with alterations to fenestration

No Comments

b) F/TH/22/1563 – Permission Granted

139/22-23 FINANCE

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

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

b) The Clerk present the monthly payment schedule for February which included the following invoices:

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|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| R. Goldfinch - PAT Testing BMP | £428.04 |
| Lloyds Bank CC | £89.48 |
| S.Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses | £1,081.25 |

Receipts:

D. Kirby - BMP Hire: Coffee Morning £26.00

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for March.

(Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe, Seconded: Cllr Divers)

c) The quote provided by the handyman regarding the installation of wooden gravel boards, posts and wire fencing had been circulated for consideration. It was discussed and agreed that a more permanent solution would be to use concrete gravel boards and galvenised fencing. The handymen would be advised to look into the purchase of concrete boards, and a budget of £1700 was approved. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Cllrs Ageros would liaise with Cllr Tweedale to lop the trees and tidy the area beside the first allotments.

RESOLVED: To approve the budget of £1700 to install concrete gravel boards and galvenised fencing around the allotments.

(Proposed: Cllr Fallon, Seconded: Cllr Divers)

d) The quote from Greenbarnes noticeboard provider was circulated for consideration. The lettering and pin boards were in need of replacing costing approximately £900.

It was discussed and agreed to approve the quote, the handymen would be notified accordingly. A vote was taken, 5 support and 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of replacement lettering and pin boards for the noticeboards from Greenbarnes, costing up to £900. (Proposed: Cllr Fallon, Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe)

e) The Clerk advised she had been approached by Cllr Radclyffe with regard to the purchase of a Coronation flag for Sarre. The cost of a flag was £35, and it was agreed that bunting should also be purchased.

It was discussed and agreed that a flag and 3 x 20m of bunting should be purchased. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a coronation flag plus 60m of bunting.

(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe)

140/22-23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- It was confirmed the next litter picking session would be held on 13th May, 10am.

- Cllr Smyth advised of the importance for comments to be made regarding the KCC public consultation on their community services. Comments could be submitted online.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:20pm.