



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, D. Tweedale, M. Lawrance, E. Dore, G. Pugh

Also, Present: KCC Cllrs Linda Wright & Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith, PC Beth Ninnim, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk, plus 1 member of public.

51/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received.

52/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Divers declared an interest – Item 62 (b)

Cllr Smyth declared an interest – Item 61 (a) and would not partake in any discussion or decision making.

53/22-23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 8th August 2023. These were proposed by Cllr Dore, seconded by Cllr Lawrance, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

54/23-24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers explained the issues were ongoing with Sunningdale, he had been copied into the correspondence exchange from Sir Roger Gale and the developments would be monitored.

Cllr Smith was asked to follow up the position with regard to the planning applications for the disability housing at The Length, and pumping station at Manor Road, with the Planning Department. Concern was raised at the length of time these applications had been outstanding.

The handymen had requested to attend a 'Groundsfest' Conference, an informative event to gain a better understanding of grass and pitch care. It was felt it was important to support the training and development of staff and therefore a budget of £250.00 was proposed to enable the handymen to attend the event.

RESOLVED: To agree a budget of £250.00 to enable the handymen to attend 'Groundsfest' to further their training and development. **Proposed:** Cllr Lawrance, **Seconded:** Cllr Ageros.

Concern had been raised regarding inconsiderate parking by vans at Manor Road. The Chairman had visited the site, and although no issues were visible at the time, he would continue to monitor the parking and action as necessary.

55/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed she had received an enquiry from TDC regarding the advertisement of the annual fireworks display. It was discussed and agreed that the event should not be advertised too widely, as it was primarily an event for resident's and their families to enjoy.

A response had been received from KCC highways with regard to the overgrowth at Shuart Lane which explained these verges are included on their Rural Road Swathe Cutting programme. This programme has two cuts to aid Biodiversity whilst ensuring highway safety. As part of the ongoing commitment to Kent's Plan Bee (Pollinator Action Plan) and by working with partners including Kent Wildlife Trust and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Shuart Lane has been identified as road with high biodiversity potential. B-Line Roads, such as this, are cut later in the year to give the longest possible time for wildflowers to grow and support pollinators. The late cut also allows for flowering plants to set and drop seeds to help in future years. The verges would therefore be cut in due course.

The Thanet Area Committee meeting was due to be held on 27th September, Cllr Pugh or Cllr Smyth would attend.

The Clerk had received notification from Hugofox that they were introducing a tiered level service charge for the hosting platform. The basic level starting at £9.99 + VAT per month which did not include the planning tracker service. It was considered that Hugofox meets the needs of the Parish Council and is easy to maintain, therefore, with no competitive alternative, it was proposed to approve the continuation of the website hosting on a basic level service. The additional costs would be included within the next budget.

RESOLVED: To approve the continuation of Hugofox website hosting platform on a basic level of service at £9.99 + VAT per month. Proposed: Cllr Lawrance, Seconded: Cllr Divers.

An email had been received offering a cancelled order for an outdoor table tennis table to put in Bell Meadow. The table is a JOOLA City table which is absolutely weatherproof and proven against frost, heat, UV radiation and temperature fluctuations. Complies with the European Standard EN 14468-1 C Recreational Sports (high quality).

The retail price is £2,499 for the table and £136.99 for the metal net, for a total of £2,635.99.

However, because of the last minute cancellation, the Parish Council has been offered the whole table and net at £1,210 + VAT (£1,452 inc VAT). Councillors were asked to consider the offer to be discussed at the next meeting.

56/23-24 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Pugh advised he had been litter picking and reiterated his support for the residents of Sunningdale properties in the village.

Cllr Tweedale reminded dog owners that dogs should be kept out of the children's Play Area at all times. Discussion took place regarding the installation of the hydrotherapy pool at Heritage Gardens and subsequent wall backing on to the Bell Meadow.

Cllr Lawrance expressed his thanks to the handymen for including the grass cutting at The Length into their schedule. It was noted that the A28 weed growth was particularly bad, TDC would be contacted to address the issue.

Cllr Lawrance suggested ID badges were issued to Councillors to wear for official business. The Clerk asked for Councillors to send a photograph to her and she would arrange for the badges to be produced.

Concern had been raised regarding the parking of vehicles on the footpath at Bedford Way, causing obstruction to pedestrians, particularly those needing to use mobility aids. Cllr Lawrance would monitor the situation.

It was proposed to have donation buckets at the entrances for the fireworks evening, this would be considered further.

Cllr Dore suggested the grass cutting at The Length was included in the handymen's work schedule permanently, however, residents should also be encouraged to maintain the areas outside of their homes. Cllr Dore complimented the handymen for their hard work to ensure the communal areas, particularly, Cemetery and Bell Meadow, were kept and maintained to a high standard. The overgrowth along public Footpath TE4 had been cut back.

Cllr Smyth advised she, the Clerk and Cllr Ageros had met with a representative from Strutt & Parker to discuss the danger and lack of maintenance of the trees which line the A28. A plan of works was to be put together by Strutt & Parker in due course. It was suggested the Clerk should write to TDC to emphasise the issues surrounding the maintenance and safety concerns of the unkempt footpaths.

The drains at Old Road, Sarre, had now been cleared, however, due to the harvest and uncovered trailers, much of the debris had been blown back into the drainage system.

Cllr Smyth was liaising with Cllr Abi Smith to arrange for the trees near Sarre Windmill to be surveyed and monitored and if necessary, TPO orders applied.

It was noted that a protest was being held on 23rd September at Whistable, against sewage pollution.

Cllr Ageros had continued to maintain the garden at the flagpole and TE10 footpath. The landowner had also removed brambles and overgrowth at the beginning of the public footpath.

57/23-24 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith confirmed the Crumps Farm planning application had been called-in to the Planning Committee which was being held on 20th September. Cllr Divers would be registered to attend and speak at the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

A motion to consider a moratorium on larger housing developments had been included on the Cabinet agenda for consideration and would be debated at the Full Council Meeting in October.

58/23-24 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Wright advised she had been involved in a long-standing safeguarding issue which was now coming to a close.

Officers for the Adult Social Care Service were procuring longer term contracts and concentrating on trying to keep service users in their own homes in a bid to try and make financial savings.

Cllr Crow-Brown reiterated his support for the waste and recycling centres to remain open. The consultation regarding the proposed closure of 4 waste and recycling plants in the County had been delayed. Residents were strongly encouraged to comment on the proposal once the consultation opened.

It was noted that the road closures around the Villages had significantly impacted many local businesses. This is something Cllr Crow-Brown has been working tirelessly to bring to the attention of Officers at KCC Highways to address the increasing problems with loss of business.

The register of green wedges between the boundaries of Villages and footpaths were being given consideration, to offer a degree of protection from development.

59/23-24 KENT POLICE AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

PC Beth Ninnim was introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Resident's were encouraged to sign up to the My Community Voice app, a two-way engagement tool to report and receive information relative to the area. PC Ninnim offered reassurance that the recent investigation regarding the missing lady at Shuart Lane was an isolated incident, however, if residents had any

feedback, they could contact her or use the Kent Police website online reporting.

PC Ninnim advised she was aware of the speeding issues on the main A-roads, and encouraged residents to report any incidents to her, particularly, anti-social drifting.

The issue of inconsiderate school time parking was discussed, PC Ninnim would request the Operation Zigzag team to attend.

60/23-24 BELL MEADOW REPORT

a) Cllr Dore advised a number of private hires had been hosted at the Pavilion and a quiz afternoon had been arranged.

It was agreed to host a Macmillan Coffee morning free of charge, date to be arranged.

The fireworks evening was discussed. A fancy dress competition and traditional games were being organised for the afternoon.

The School had been approached for the children to produce posters to advertise the event.

LA Dance Academy had offered to put on a demonstration, and the Morris Men/Ladies would be approached to dance at the event. Catering for the event was being organised, and volunteers to help on the night were welcomed.

It was discussed and agreed a budget of £100.00 for prizes on the evening would be approved.

RESOLVED: To approve a budget of £100.00 for prizes for the variety of competitions to be held at the Fireworks event.

Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Dore

b) A meeting was held with representatives of the football clubs who hire the facilities to discuss arrangements, terms and conditions for the forthcoming season.

It was agreed that a refundable deposit of £50.00 would be charged at the beginning of the season, returned if the facilities are left in an acceptable state.

Pitch hire fees would be increased to £60.00 per match, invoiced every 5 matches.

Herne Bay Harriers had requested consideration be given to reduce the fee for their children's match hire. It was discussed and agreed that a charge of £40.00 would be offered.

RESOLVED: To approve the hire fees, terms and conditions for pitch hire as outlined above. Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Tweedale.

61/23-24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) **F/TH/23/1075 - Gooseberry Farm, Down Barton Road, St Nicholas**

Change of use of existing barn to two storey 3 bedroom holiday let with addition of dormer window to north elevation

Concern was raised that the application would set a precedence for other development. Objections raised due to the building on agricultural land. Vote taken – 2 support, 3 object, 2 abstain

FH/TH/23/1071 - 1 Broadview Villas, Summer Road, St Nicholas

Erection of a two storey side extension following demolition of existing detached garage

No objections raised. Unanimously in support of application.

F/TH/23/0236 & L/TH/23/0237 - Crumps Farm, Shuart Lane, St Nicholas

Erection of 2No 4 bed two storey detached dwellings together with change of use of 3No barns to 1No 5 bed and 1No 4 bed two storey semi-detached dwellings and 4No 3 bed two storey semi-detached dwellings and change of use of 2No 3 bed dwellings to 1No 3 bed dwellings with associated landscaping following demolition of menage and associated stables/storage.

Concerns raised as per previous applications – Access, delivery times, parking of construction vehicles. Chairman to attend Planning Committee to voice concerns.

L/TH/23/0971 - The Kings Head Inn, Canterbury Road, Sarre

Application for Listed Building Consent to reinstate tiles to rear extension roof and alteration of rear chimney (retrospective)

Cllr Smyth left the room and did not partake in any discussion or decision making.

No visual impact noted, no objections raised. Vote taken – 5 support, 1 abstain

F/TH/23/0535 - Land On The South East Side Of, Canterbury Road, Sarre

Erection of 2No two storey 3-bed detached chalet bungalows together with parking and landscaping

Objections raised as per previous application. Highways concerns noted.

F/TH/23/1039 - Thanet Earth, Barrow Man Road, Birchington

Erection of extension to Pack House together with associated vehicle hardstanding

No objections raised.

b) FH/TH/23/0554, L/TH/23/0555, FH/TH/23/0556, L/TH/23/0557, F/TH/23/0559, L/TH/23/0560 – SNCF applications - Permission Granted.

F/TH/23/0886 – Permission Granted

62/23-24 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 Ageros, seconded Cllr Lawrance).

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

S. Henniker - BMP Hire deposit return	£25.00
D. Divers - Reimbursement Bar Stock	£12.50
EDF - BMP Electric	£333.89
Business Stream - Water BMP	£52.94
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£407.80
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	£1,045.33
A. Dunsdon - Website Admin salary	£29.19
M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses	£668.60
D. McDade - Handyman's salary & expenses	£695.99
J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses	£563.03
Westgate Security - BMP Alarm service	£90.00
Playsafety - RoSPA Inspection fee	£127.80
Lloyds Bank DD	£249.23
Nest - Clerk's pension	£39.73

Receipts:

Cemetery fees - Plot GOR 71	£545.00
Minster FC pitch fees	£150.00
Cemetery fees - Headstone	£95.00
BMP Hire: Watson	£18.50
HBH Pitch hire fee	£250.00

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

(Proposed: Cllr Pugh, Seconded: Cllr Dore)

63/23-24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- No issues were raised.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:40pm.