



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors - D. Divers, D. Tweedale, A. Andrews, M. Lawrance, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, E. Dore

Also, Present: KCC Cllr Luke Evans, District Cllr Abi Smith, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk plus 0 members of public.

96/25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Mo Fentiman, PC Andy Howe, District Cllr Peter Evans.

97/25-26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

98/25-26 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 11th November 2025.

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

99/25-26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers advised the mud left along Shuart Lane had been cleared. He had once again written to KCC regarding the issues at Manor Road, however he had not yet had a response.

It was pleasing to note that the construction management plan for the campsite had been revised and now directed traffic to use A299/Potten Street.

Grateful thanks were expressed to Peter Radclyffe for his generous donation of the Church Christmas Tree, and for organising the decoration of all three trees in the Parish. It was also noted, he was very active in clearing leaves and sweeping the footpaths in Sarre.

100/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed she had received correspondence from a resident requested consideration to be given regarding painting double yellow lines at Bedford Way. This was discussed and agreed to be reviewed in the new year.

The Clerk and Chairman had attended an online meeting with the KCC Community Engagement Officer regarding the additional items included on the Highways Improvement Plan. The Parish Council had been advised to report the repainting of the road markings at Sarre using the online portal, which the Clerk had completed. The lines had been refreshed and no further markings were outstanding to date. An Officer had attended the site regarding the potential installation of barriers along the A28, however, there was currently no evidence of unauthorized access into Cherry Grove, therefore the request had been declined.

101/25-26 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Tweedale advised he had written to Sir Roger Gale, the Environment Agency, and Southern Water with regard to the significant number of swan deaths at Wantsum/Sarre Penn. The incident was currently being investigated and therefore no response was expected until the conclusion of the investigation. Cllr Tweedale would continue to monitor the situation. Cllr Tweedale had been in contact with Heather Waller – Footpaths Officer, to raise concerns with regard to the ploughing of public rights of way. This was also being monitored to ensure footpaths were not lost.

Cllr Lawrance reported he had been contacted by a resident with regard to a liquid fertilizer tank. Advice from the Environment Agency indicated that the tank should be away from public and not in view. It appeared these regulations were being contravened and the issue would therefore be reported accordingly.

Thanks were expressed for the mud clearance at Shuart Lane.

Cllr Smyth advised the safety arrows at the St Nicholas roundabout were damaged. KCC Cllr Luke Evans would take this to the appropriate department for action.

Cllr Dore offered congratulations for a successful firework event. Thanks were expressed to the street cleaning department at TDC for their prompt response to clearing the flytipping at Shuart Lane.

CLlr Ageros had been maintaining the Village Planters and Flagpole garden. Thanks were expressed to the handyperson team for attending and maintaining Sarre footpaths.

102/25-26 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

CLlr Abi Smith reported as follows:

- I attended the first day of the St Augustine's Cross development appeal process.
- I will also speak for up to six minutes at the Sea Link DCO process next Weds.
- TDC is going ahead with a 999-year lease and a £4m grant agreement with Westwood One Theatre to take over the Margate Winter Gardens, with a very positive response since the announcement. The aim is to create more of a 'community hub' than just a theatre.
- TDC annual residents' survey is live. Postcards will be sent to 7,000 randomly selected households inviting them to share their views. TDC is keen for as many residents as possible to share their views. There is also an 'open' version via this link open until 24th November.
- TDC Garden Waste Service subscribers who have more than one bin are being sent a letter or an email advising of a refund. This follows overcharging for additional bins.
- TDC 'leafing bin' scheme relaunched last week and will run until Christmas, following a highly successful trial last year.

How it works:

Request a bin from leafingbin@thanet.gov.uk.

Fill it up: Use the bin exclusively for fallen leaves.

Request a collection: Once the bin is full, notify the Waste and Recycling team, by email. They will aim to collect it within 48 hours for composting.

- The Park Life event in Ellington Park, Ramsgate was hosted by the Thanet Community Safety Partnership on Wednesday 22 October. Offering free advice & support for young people on important topics from wellbeing, drugs, alcohol, mental health, healthy relationships, and careers. Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue, RISE, Oasis, RNLI, Porchlight, St John's Ambulance, Sports Connect and Kent County Council. The event was well attended by visitors of all ages.

CLlr Peter Evans was not in attendance but submitted the following report:

My monthly report is quite short.

1. Labour's Helen Whitehead has been put forward for an award for services to the community.
2. TDC has spent just over 1 million pounds purchasing 4 new council houses for local people on the housing list.
3. LGR. TDC has gone for an option that will link us with Canterbury Ashford and Dover in an East Kent unitary council. This however is nowhere near the end of this saga as the government will have the final say.
4. There is a Consultation due to start on December 18th on the proposed Gypsy encampment at Garlinge. How this might play out with the local residents will be an interesting debate.

If you have any problems that require my immediate attention please do not hesitate to contact me. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

103/25-26 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

CLlr Luke Evans reported as follows:

1. Water leaks – More water leaks across Kent recently due to the cold snap so it is important to report them to Southern Water as soon as they are identified. I reported one in Minster and one in Margate and both have now been repaired.
2. HTE – Plans are still moving forward with the proposed waste to hydrogen plant in Manston. I spoke with the Director after I rumoured that they have run into trouble. This is not the case and they will give progress updates when necessary.
3. Swan Deaths – Environmental Agency are keeping very quiet on this matter. 50 swans found dead, hundreds of dead fish and even reports of dead foxes. I will continue to investigate this matter with Cabinet Holder for Environment.
4. Special Resource Provisions (SRP's) – KCC are investing £20m in up to 55 new SRP's in Kent to reduce transport costs and our reliance on the private sector. 37 planned to open in September 2026 and the remaining the year after. This will save tax payers tens of millions annually and will provide better quality, local SEND places.

104/25-26 KENT POLICE REPORT

PC Andy Howe was unable to attend the meeting, however, he submitted the following report which was circulated to the Parish Council:

St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre Calls to the Police:

There were 17 calls to Kent Police from the area through November. The only items of concern relate to some alleged burglaries at Wansum Court; however these were actually false reports being made by a very vulnerable gentleman. We are liaising with Social Services for this gentleman in the hope that he can be safeguarded.

St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre Recorded Crime:

There were 9 offences recorded in the area, of which 4 related to the aforementioned gentleman. The remainder were either domesticated or communication related.

Proactive Policing:

Kent Police dealt with 2 drugs related incidents in Potten St Rd and on the A299, both were positive outcomes and items of good work for the Officers involved.

My activity:

Unfortunately, I have been removed from front line operations due to a permanent injury. I have been requested to maintain the administrative element of the Thanet Villages and Cliffsend Pegwell for the time being until I can be replaced. Until that time, I will be requesting colleagues including The Special Constabulary and the Neighbourhood Task Force, to undertake visible and proactive duties/tasks in the area.

Crime reduction advice:

On the approach to Xmas, please ensure you don't leave valuables on show either in vehicles or at home, thieves will walk many roads looking for valuables and insecurities. Ring/Blink doorbells and cameras are at very affordable prices now and you don't necessarily need to sign up to storage contracts.

Kent Police are now conducting their drink drive campaign. We will be focussing on country pubs especially and vehicles leaving those locations are far more likely to be stopped during this period.

The A299 Thanet way will be remaining 50mph for the foreseeable (KCC will likely update you), Kent Police are placing mobile speed camera vans along this stretch daily. We are not just trying to catch people out, it is very dangerous to drive along this stretch in excess of 50 mph and there have been numerous near misses where drivers have lost control when hitting the bumps in the road, so please be careful.

Many Thanks and Merry Christmas to you all.

105/25-26 KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

CW Gary Groombridge reported as follows:

- Continue to do Visual Presence around the Villages.
- Continuing to do Information drop-ins at Minster Library. sessions Booked in, (still running)
- I have now carried out a drop surgery at Manston Village Hall in November; I will be running further drop-in Surgeries in the future. One was missed in December, due to a mistake by me. It Clashed with another event.
- I am continuing to work with Heart in the community a Wellbeing Charity. The new wellbeing group continues to be held in Minster at the Salvation Army Hall. The last one was on Friday 5th December, which I headed up. Numbers are now growing, which is very encouraging!
- I'm also still trying to get a wellbeing group started for residents at Minster Library, there is still no one to oversee and run the group at this point. I may have someone who is interested in running the group again.
- I'm in the process of organising some digital workshops, hopefully to try and encourage people without digital skills to engage. I'm waiting to get some dates back from the organiser. I have twelve names so far.
- I had a call from a resident in Minster informing me of neighbourhood dispute. He told me he has put some more camera up and he will let me know if things get any worse or he needs my help.
- I had another conversation with a Minster resident informing me of a man that had approached her up near McDonalds, asking her if he could give her a lift in his car. He also asked her some inappropriate things. She had called the Police to inform them; they passed the information on. I did email PC Andy Howe to let him know. He was already aware of the situation.
- I Continue to attend and support the Man Shed in Minster, when I can, a group of mainly retired Men who get together to use their practical skills to support each other and the community.
- I've met up with the manager of Rivers Court, Housing 21 retirement living, in Minster. I spoke to some of the residents, I will be spending more time getting to know people. I have a scam presentation talk booked in along with Trading Standards on the 10th December for the residents.
- I continue to attend and support the residents at the wellbeing group that is held in Monkton Village Hall, some of the residents have put their names down for the future digital workshops.
- I continue to attend and support the residents at the wellbeing group that is held in the Pavilion at St Nicholas at Wade.
- I continue to attend and support the residents at the wellbeing group that is held in the Sun Inn at St Nicholas at Wade
- I'm in the process of trying to help a resident over in the Manston Area, who is isolated and feeling very low. I'm hoping to get her connected with the residents attending the Minster Wellbeing group, so that she feels connected and supported.
- I have been to see the deputy head at Monkton Primary school, and we have agreed to do some CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online protection), presentations to the Children and the Parents at the School in February.
- I've also been into Minster Primary School to see if they would be interested in the CEOP presentations. They haven't contacted me yet.
- I have contacted Orbit housing for a resident in St Nicholas at Wade, concerning damp and mould at her property. Still waiting to hear back from Orbit.
- I've recently helped a resident in Minster, who had told me he hadn't eaten for a few days. I was able to get a food parcel put together from the Salvation and drop it into him. I will be popping in to see him due to other concerns, that have been raised.
- I attended and supported the Barclays Big Blue Bus Fraud and Scam mobile unit at the Margate Christmas market. I spoke to many people throughout the day, concerning the different scams that are happening, giving advice and handing out, safety information and safety freebies. (This is not usually my area, but I said I would happily do the event)

- Continue to support the Men's wellbeing group held in the Church at St Nicholas at Wade. in the Church Café area. Seven of the men have put their names down for the digital workshops.
- Continue to do Information drop-in Surgeries in the Church at St Nicholas at Wade, speak to the residents hand out safety information leaflets, and again safety alarms and other freebies.
- Support a resident who came into the Heart In the Community group at the Salvation Army Church. He informed me that he hadn't eaten for four days, I made up a food parcel and dropped it round to his house.
- Westgate Boys and girls Brigade at Christ church, support the group, give a mild drugs and alcohol presentation to the group. Set out a track and the children had to walk around with a tray full of drinks while wearing glasses that obscure their vision. (beer goggles) Set out another track with skittles and the Children had to navigate a remote-control car around the course, again wearing the beer goggle glasses.
- A resident contacted me to inform me of people parking on the Double yellow lines on Bridges Close, leading around to the Finches, at St Nicholas at Wade. I sent an email to Parking Enforcement.

106/25-26 BELL MEADOW WORKING GROUP REPORT

Cllr Dore was thanked for securing the defibrillator and cabinet from the Football Association, with no charge. The footpath lighting had been repaired and was now fully functioning.

107/25-26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) TPO/TH/25/1172 Bell Inn , The Street, St Nicholas At Wade

TH/TPO/3(1991) - 1No Holm Oak (T1) - Crown reduce 1.5m in height, 2.5m lateral reduction to the north, east and south and 1.5m to the west providing a 1m clearance from the building

Defer to Tree Officer

b) None reported

108/25-26 FINANCE

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

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

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

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| Handyman Van Roadtax | £345.00 |
| R. Hassan - BMP deposit return | £25.00 |
| Employee salaries & expenses | £2777.02 |
| SNS - Domain hosting | £60.51 |
| PAT Testing - BMP | £69.00 |
| Viking Fireworks | £2,400.00 |
| Lloyds DD - CC | £674.44 |
| EDF - Gas BMP | £92.68 |
| EDF - Electric BMP | £66.95 |
| Hugofox - Website hosting | £11.99 |
| Unity Trust - Service fee | £6.00 |

Receipts:

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| BMP Pitch Hire - Minster | £85.00 |
| BMP Hire - Choir | £24.00 |
| BLF - Grant for Tennis Court | £10,000.00 |
| Chubb - Overpayment refund | £7.93 |
| BMP Hire - Eric | £50.00 |
| BMP - Various cash | £758.55 |
| BMP Hire - Eric | £65.00 |
| BMP Hire - Choir | £24.00 |

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

(Proposed: Cllr Andrews, Seconded: Cllr Divers)

c) The purchase of a tablet to assist with the BMP bookings procedure, and a replacement TV monitor for use by hirers was agreed. A budget of £300 was allocated for both devices.

RESOLVED: To approve a budget of £300 to purchase a new tablet and TV monitor for use by BMP representatives.

(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Lawrance)

109/25-26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No concerns raised.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:30pm.