



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th February 2022 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, Mark Lawrance, David Tweedale, Geraldine Goy

Also, Present: KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith, Sara Archer – Clerk, plus 5 members of the public.

120/21-22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PCSO Eileen Shrubsole and Parish Councillor Lee Terry offered their apologies.

121/21-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

122/21-22 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Lisa Fallon was nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. A vote was taken and Cllr Fallon was unanimously elected into the vacancy. **Proposed: Cllr Lawrance, Seconded: Cllr Tweedale**

123/21-22 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th January 2022. These were proposed by Cllr Fallon, seconded by Cllr Radclyffe, all present agreed and therefore the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

124/21-22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers advised he had met with the handymen to discuss the way forward and any issues they were experiencing. It was agreed a third handyman should be appointed as soon as possible. The Clerk confirmed the vacancy had been publicised on the noticeboards.

The damaged streetlight had been repaired and subsequently damaged once again. The repairs were in hand and due to be carried out this week.

It had been brought to the attention of the Clerk that food waste was being left in Bell Meadow again. This is harmful for wildlife and pets in the area. Notices had been displayed and resident's were reminded to use waste bins.

The broken bollard along The Length was due for repair next week. Once in place, the bollards would be painted with reflective paint to make them more visible.

100 trees had been allocated to the Parish. The planting of the trees was discussed and agreed to plant at various locations in both villages. Resident's were welcomed to plant one of the trees in their gardens and were advised to contact the Clerk to request a sapling.

125/21-22 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported she had been contacted by a representative of Strutt & Parker with regard to the acquisition of the land at the flagpole at Sarre. The transfer of the land would be progressing in due course.

A new website administrator had been appointed. The handover was currently underway and Matt Feekings was thanked for his hard work and remaining in the position until a replacement was found.

The new village signs for Sarre had now been installed by Casement Signs.

The Clerk advised the dedicated Parish Council email addresses for the newly co-opted Councillors had been arranged. Log in details would be circulated and all future correspondence would be sent via these email addresses.

The vacancy for a handyperson had been advertised on the noticeboards and would be included in the Parish Magazine and website.

The Clerk confirmed she was in receipt of quotes for the van insurance renewal. The quotes were discussed and it was agreed to instruct Zurich to insure the van for the forthcoming year. The van would be insured for any driver, with permission of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: To approve the policy provided by Zurich Insurers for the van insurance £848.81. Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Goy

126/21-22 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Fallon advised she had been litter picking and noted the road gutters along Court Road were blocked with mud. The issue had been reported online to KCC and was in progress.

The replacement bus shelter was due to be installed next week. The installation company would be removing and disposing of the old shelter.

The new grit bins at Summer Road and The Length needed filling. The Clerk would contact Paul Valek and ask for them to be filled as soon as possible.

Cllr Goy reported the dangerous parking and speed of traffic during school pick up and drop off times remained an issue. The Clerk would contact the PCSO and raise the issues with her.

Cllr Lawrance echoed the concerns with regard to the inconsiderate parking at school times which also extended to The Oaks and Wantsum Court. It was suggested the Headteacher was contacted and asked to remind parents to be mindful of hazards when parking. Cllr Lawrance had also attended a meeting of the friends of the Church and advised they were considering various events for the Queen's Jubilee weekend and would liaise with the Bell Meadow Committee to ensure there were no overlapping events.

Cllr Tweedale advised he and Cllr Lawrance regularly walked the local footpaths noting any issues to be addressed. TE5, TE5(a) and TE5(b) were overgrown and required maintenance to trim back the overgrowth. The Clerk was in the process of obtaining new maps of the footpaths. Cllr Tweedale had also been litter picking and noted much of the waste had been blown across from the housing developments. This issue would be raised with the Site Managers to ensure skips were covered appropriately.

Cllr Smyth confirmed quotes for a MUGA were in hand and would be presented to the Bell Meadow Committee in due course. The recommendations would then be brought to the Parish Council for consideration and a public consultation arranged.

Cllr Ageros volunteered to plant some of the donated trees along the footpath TE10 in Sarre.

Cllr Radclyffe reported he had litter picked in Sarre. The drains were still in need of clearing. Details of the issues with the drains on the forecourt of the Kings Head would be passed to KCC Cllrs. The white lines at the roundabout needed repainting however, the previous request had been declined by KCC. A resident had approached Cllr Radclyffe regarding the dangerous parking opposite the Post Office in St Nicholas where sight lines were often obstructed. The addition of yellow lines at this location would be included in the Highways Improvement Plan, along with a request for yellow lines at Bridges Close, Down Barton Rd and potentially The Oaks/The Street junction. Cats eyes and gutter clearance/relining along the A28 were also requested to be included on the HIP.

127/21-22 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith advised that the Green Party had submitted a lengthy report in response to the Local Plan Review Consultation which primarily called for a halt to all housing developments until the numbers could be reviewed. The infrastructure was also inadequate and needed to be developed accordingly to support the existing housing.

Cllr Smith also continued to follow up the issues reported to the Enforcement Officer regarding the development at The Length and the removal of the hedge at Manor Road.

128/21-22 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As a member of KCC's environment committee, Cllr Crow-Brown reported they had recently received a briefing from Dr Toby Wilson, Southern Water's director of environment and corporate affairs.

Southern Water has pledged to make "transformational" changes to its infrastructure to protect Kent's local environment amid spillage concerns. The committee was briefed that millions will be invested into revamping the sewage system to create "sustainable" drainage over the next five years. Councillors questioning Dr Wilson said the county's drainage systems need "upgrading" as the Victorian-era systems "cannot cope" and wastewater has caused serious damage to Kent's beaches, rivers and seas.

When the sewage system is overwhelmed by heavy rainfall, there is a risk of material backing up and flooding homes and businesses. Regarding spillages into the local environment, Dr Wilson stated this is increasingly not acceptable to the public, pledging to something about the situation. Plans have been made for a storm overflow taskforce in Swale, Margate, Deal, the Isle of Wight and Hampshire as part of a wider investment plan to reduce pollution incidents.

Actions will involve increasing sewer capacity, greater monitoring of networks, along with nature-based solutions, such as rain gardens and ponds. Dr Wilson said: "We believe these nature based solutions will make a massive difference to the frequency. You will recall Southern Water was recently fined a record £90million for widespread pollution in the south of England, which caused harm to protected areas, conservation sites and oyster beds in Whitstable. Southern Water pleaded guilty to 6,791 un-permitted sewer charges in Kent, Hampshire and Sussex between 2010 and 2015.

Last year, Southern Water came under fire for sewer discharges on Kent's coasts, namely in Thanet and Whitstable, with reports of people falling ill after taking a dip in the sea. Other concerns included the public being unable to swim in the sea, particularly during times of lockdown.

A Whitstable councillor cited the appalling situation where shellfish operators are having to import oysters from Jersey because they cannot be sure what is going into the sea."

Dr Wilson said the firm was "profoundly" apologetic, stating his company are working tremendously hard to make it better." Since 2016, the water utility company says it has been through a "massive transformational" inward change, including a new chief executive.

Commitments have been made to invest more cash to improve the sewer infrastructure in Kent. This includes £22million being invested into protection schemes in Thanet, sealing chalk adits (tunnels) to prevent leaking sewage into the chalk system.

Another £6million will be spent on refurbishing Margate's pumping station. Southern Water has been asked to report back to KCC's environment committee in the autumn of this year.

Finally, Southern Water was taken to task for rarely objecting to large scale planning applications, knowing the sewage system is already overwhelmed. This is particularly pertinent for Thanet. Dr Wilson stated as statutory consultee, in future objections to applications will made.

Cllr Crow-Brown also advised that the A28 Active Travel scheme from Birchington to Margate faced opposition and therefore will no longer be going ahead.

As a member of the Armed Forces Covenant Committee, Cllr Crow-Brown reported this weekend sees the 80th anniversary of the 'Channel Dash'.

The air cadets had been transferred to Margate bringing a loss in numbers of cadets. Cllr Crow-Brown has been asked to prepare a report on this by the local authority.

129/21-22 PCSO REPORT

No report submitted. It was agreed the Clerk would contact the PCSO to express concern that no representation or report has been made for any meetings, with the exception of one online meeting.

130/21-22 BELL MEADOW PAVILION COMMITTEE

Cllr Ageros encouraged resident's to attend the Committee meetings and express their views of what they would like the facility to offer. The hire of the Pavilion had been advertised in the monthly Parish magazine. Bookings were currently taken online via the bookings email, and paper forms were being made available.

The suggestion of hosting an Easter Egg hunt in the Meadow with plastic eggs and prizes for an Easter bonnet parade was discussed.

The Queen's Jubilee arrangements were confirmed. It was agreed that the Committee would be holding various stalls and events at Bell Meadow on Saturday 4th June 2022 throughout the day. The bar would be opened and refreshments available.

Cllrs Tweedale and Lawrance would co-ordinate the 'Picnic in the Park' to be held on Sunday 5th June.

The Parish Council were asked to support a leaflet drop to advertise the Jubilee weekend events.

The condition of the football pitch was discussed. It was felt that the pitch was being over used and not having time to rest, thus being left in an unsatisfactory standard. The handymen would re-seed the grass and roll the pitch at the end of the season. The position as a whole with regard to the football, would be looked into in due course. Options regarding the pitch, fees and deposits will be explored further at the season end. The introduction of a mobile waste bin to be kept with the football equipment was suggested to assist with the litter issues.

131/21-22 HIGHWAYS

Cllr Tweedale presented a diagram of the existing speed restriction measures along Manor Road which are causing issues for resident's both living in the new build and along Manor Road. Parking had been reduced due to the road layout and concern was expressed with regard to the traffic islands, dropped kerb on the pavement and signage.

Resident's were encouraged to contact the Clerk with their concerns which would be noted and collated accordingly.

A site meeting will be arranged with Highways representatives to consider the issues and discuss the concerns fully.

132/21-22 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllrs Tweedale and Lawrance have been walking the local footpaths in the Parish and noting any issues and concerns. Some overgrowth required trimming and the Clerk was obtaining an up to date map to be displayed in the cabinet by the Post Office.

133/21-22 VILLAGE PLANTERS

Following the disbanding of the Gardening Club, the maintenance and planting of the village planters was discussed. Councillors agreed to being added to a rota and Cllr Ageros would formulate a planting list.

134/21-22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) **F/TH/22/0098 – St Nicholas Court Farm** – Erection of grain store

Application to be considered further, more information required to make an informed decision.

F/TH/22/0106 & L/TH/22/0107 - St Nicholas Court, Court Road – Erection of garage

No objections.

FH/TH/22/0105 – Flat b, The Manor House, Sarre Court, Sarre – Installation of electric vehicle charger socket

No objections.

Planning Appeals were also noted: **F/TH/21/0153 APP/Z2260/W/21/3282151**

F/TH/21/0136 APP/Z2260/W/21/3282043

b) None received.

135/21-22 FINANCE

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

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

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

S. Archer - Clerk's salary & Expenses	£	904.54
Premier signs - Van sign writing	£	108.00
D. Divers - Reimbursement	£	84.99
M. Feelings - Website Administrator salary	£	22.40
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£	125.28
J. Read - Handyman salary & expenses	£	127.90
D. Buckett - Audit fees	£	324.30
N. Sangster - Handyman salary & expenses	£	97.86
Lloyds Bank CC	£	193.82
Westgate Security - Alarm BMP	£	36.00
KALC - Training Courses	£	204.00
TRRG - Membership subs	£	25.00
Information Commissioner - Renewal fee	£	40.00
EDF - Gas BMP	£	626.86
EDF - Electricity BMP	£	125.02
Business Stream - BMP	£	56.81

Receipts:

KCC Members Grant - Bus Shelter	£	1,500.00
BMP Hire - Steel	£	132.00
BMP Hire - D Harman	£	19.50
BMP Hire - ICKE LA	£	25.00
BMP Hire - ICKE LA	£	45.50
Various - See Paying in book for details	£	908.86

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

(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe)

c) Options for new folding tables for the Bell Meadow Pavilion were discussed. It was agreed to approve the purchase of two 6ft and two 4ft tables. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of 2 x 6ft and 2 x 4ft folding tables for the Bell Meadow Pavilion. (Proposed: Cllr Smyth, Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe)

136/21-22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No representations were made.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:25pm.