



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th August 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

Also, Present: KCC Cllrs Linda Wright & Derek Crow-Brown, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk, Martin Savage - Handyman plus 1 member of public.

38/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Glenn Pugh who was on holiday, District Cllrs Abi Smith and Sam Bambridge.

39/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ageros declared an interest in item 43 when presenting his report.

40/22-23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 11th July 2023. These were proposed by Cllr Tweedale, seconded by Cllr Lawrance, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

41/23-24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

An emergency meeting has been arranged by Sir Roger Gale regarding the recent news of the dissolution of Sunningdale Housing Developments. The meeting will be held on 10th August, 7pm St Nicholas Village Hall.

Cllr Divers advised he had contacted Steven Noad, KCC, to follow up on the issues raised with him some time ago at Manor Road, however, he was yet to receive a response, possibly due to the issues surrounding Sunningdale. This correspondence had been copied to Sir Roger Gale who would be liaising with Cllr Divers prior to the meeting on Thursday.

Cllr Divers placed an emphasis, in light of these developments, that the Parish Council would support the residents as much as possible.

42/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed she had reported the damaged dog waste bin at Summer Road. Mark Greening, TDC has advised that unfortunately TDC are not repairing or replacing dog bins currently, and if they do, it will be with a general waste bin, that will be dependent on stick levels. The issue will be passed on to the street cleansing team to look at and schedule in when possible.

Regarding the outstanding Section 106 monies. The Clerk had emailed Iain Livingstone re: The Length payment and any outstanding from Manor Road. A response was received advising TDC were currently reviewing all the Sunningdale sites as they are due a number of contributions which are being pursued currently, including the site at the Length and Manor Road. Iain Livingstone will confirm the position once all of the information has been consolidated.

Church wall repairs – The Clerk had emailed Katie Plews, TDC for confirmation of ownership – not clarified yet, TDC still making enquiries.

The Clerk advised that following the last meeting she had requested additional dog fouling signs from TDC and also enquired whether they have any other signage that could be used to raise awareness of the issue. No response had been received to date. A meeting has been arranged with representatives from the four Football Clubs to discuss the way forward with the next season. This will be discussed further under item 47.

Reported the overgrowth and potholes along the north side of Shuart Lane following complaint from resident. KCC advised they have raised a works order and are awaiting the compacting machine to be available. They were coming out to assess the road to make sure there were no immediately dangerous potholes and to assess the overgrowth. Will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Allotments – Each lease holder apart from one, has responded to the period of notice served last month and works should have been undertaken. The one outstanding plot holder has been advised that they are in breach of the contract and therefore the allotment plot will be re-leased.

An enquiry had been received regarding the parking of a fish 'n' chip van at the Bell Meadow car park on a Tuesday evening as it is fairly central to the Village. It was considered this would not cause an obstruction and was therefore approved.

Correspondence had been received from KCC – All day August – travel for elderly and Disabled travel card holders free every day in August prior to 9:30am.

The recent annual play area inspection had been completed and RoSPA report received – a few items needed attention – loose bolts, cleaning of bird poo and it was noted that a dog had bitten the swing basket! – Will ask handymen to address. Kent Police have launched their annual consultation about the performance of Kent Police and crime levels in local areas. It's an anonymous survey, it will take about 5 minutes to complete and it is important, because the Commissioner uses the data to challenge the Chief Constable and hold him to account. It also informs him about crime in local areas etc. Residents are encouraged to comment.

43/23-24 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Tweeddale had no further issues to report.

Cllr Lawrance advised that he would be working in a personal capacity with David Tweeddale, to organise a village fete for 2024. Details of the event would follow in due course.

Cllr Dore expressed concern regarding the allotment plots which would be monitored more closely in future to ensure they do not breach the terms and conditions of the contracts.

Cllr Smyth advised she had attended the Health & Wellbeing Conference hosted by KALC which was well attended and informative. Following the conference she was invited to attend the integrated care strategy meeting TDC, and stressed the importance of raising awareness to tackle isolation and loneliness. Cllr Smyth was disappointed that she could not progress with any ideas to address this issue in the Parish as she had been instructed by the Chair that she was prohibited from being a member of the Bell Meadow Working Group.

Cllr Smyth expressed an interest in attending the TAC meeting with Cllr Pugh in order to network with other Parish Councils. 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.

A meeting had been arranged with representatives from Strutt & Parker to discuss the danger of the trees which line the A28. An update would be reported at the next meeting.

Cllr Ageros confirmed he was now in a position to hold tai-chi and gardening advice sessions at the Bell Meadow Pavilion and would be booking dates in due course. He had also noted the unkempt state of some of the allotments and offered to advise the plot holders on planting schemes which covered the ground and reduced the amount of physical digging required to maintain the plot. Cllr Ageros would be attending the meeting to discuss the trees along the A28, many of which were being affected by the overgrowth of ivy. Cllr Ageros had continued to maintain the garden at the flagpole and TE10 footpath. It was noted that the handymen had not attended Sarre recently. He was asked to provide a list of areas of responsibility and work to be carried out at Sarre and the handymen would prioritise their work accordingly.

44/23-24 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith was unable to attend the meeting, however, she advised the Clerk that the motion to consider a moratorium on larger housing developments, over 10 houses, at the last TDC full council meeting was well received and TDC voted to discuss and debate the motion further at the next meeting in October.

The Crumps Farm planning application had been called-in to the Planning Committee and a date was still pending.

45/23-24 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Wright advised the Climate Control Group had been reinstated by TDC and were investigating the carbon dioxide emission level statistics. She expressed her disappointment that the new housing development in Margate did not meet level 5 energy efficiency levels and felt this should be addressed with future developments.

Energy grant funding to improve efficiency in existing homes was becoming available, details would be circulated to the Clerk. The loss of ticket personnel at train stations was discussed, decisions regarding the consultation would be dependant on funding availability.

Cllr Crow-Brown reaffirmed the point that KCC, TDC and Parish Councils should engage more effectively.

The consultation regarding the proposed closure of 4 waste and recycling plants in the County had been delayed. Resident's were strongly encouraged to comment on the proposal once the consultation opened.

Concerns regarding the Sunningdale dissolution had been noted. KCC had retained surety deposits to ensure Sunningdale fulfil their statutory obligations, however, the situation remained uncertain at this time.

46/23-24 KENT POLICE AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORTS

No reports submitted.

47/23-24 BELL MEADOW REPORT

Cllr Dore advised that volunteers were gradually coming forward to join the working group. Wantsum Brewery had expressed an interest in hosting a beer festival at the Bell Meadow.

Arrangements for the fireworks evening were to be discussed, all were welcome to attend a planning meeting on Tuesday 15th August, 6pm. Advice had been sought regarding the football pitch and work had been undertaken to improve the condition of the grass. The handymen suggested meeting with the FA representative for further advice on how to improve the facility to meet FA requirements.

It was suggested an open afternoon was held to raise awareness of the Bell Meadow Pavilion and the Parish Council. Ideas for events and improvements to the facility would be welcomed. A leaflet would be distributed to residents in the Parish.

48/23-24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) TPO/TH/23/0818 – Barn Oak, Down Barton Road, St Nicholas at Wade

TH/TPO/08/2004 T1: Beech Crown reduction of 20%

Defer to Tree Officer – TDC.

b) F/TH/22/1199 & F/TH/22/1400 Gooseberry Farm – Permission Granted.

49/23-24 FINANCE

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

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

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

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| D. McDade - Handyman's salary & expenses | £677.43 |
| HMRC - PAYE | £429.60 |
| J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses | £835.92 |
| M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses | £725.66 |
| S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses | £1,147.02 |
| SNS - Domain hosting | £57.60 |
| St Johns College - Lease SJG | £60.00 |
| NEST - Clerk's pension contribution | £27.08 |
| Lloyds Bank CC | £815.65 |
| Maytree Nursery - Village Plants | £96.00 |
| S. Archer - Bar Stock BMP | £185.72 |
| NEST - Clerk's pension contribution | £60.58 |
| S. Archer - Bar Stock BMP | £183.58 |
| Business Stream - Water Cemetery | £52.94 |

Receipts:

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| L. Mann - Allotment plot 4b | £26.00 |
| Cash Deposit - BMP Hire/Allotment plot 3b | £963.40 |
| Blean - Pitch Hire | £400.00 |
| Cemetery fees | £110.00 |
| Cemetery fees | £50.00 |
| Cemetery fees | £467.00 |
| BMP Hire - July | £428.50 |

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

(Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Dore)

c) Cllr Divers presented the quote from Thanet Heating which included remedial work to drain system and remove existing secondary pump and valves, supply and fit replacement bronze pump with valve unions. Supply and fit in heating flow 1 No 28mm vertical check valve with isolation valves. Charge system, install inhibitor and vent. Remove existing room stat/programmer and supply and fit basic analogue Honeywell room stat, wire into existing control system and carry out gas safety check to boiler and gas system. Issue CP1 certificate. £823.71 + VAT @ 20%

It was discussed and agreed that the works were necessary in order for the system to function properly. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to approve the quote.

RESOLVED: To approve the quote from Thanet Heating for remedial works as outlined above. (Proposed: Cllr Dore, Seconded: Cllr Divers)

A second quote regarding the installation of an under sink water heater in the kitchen was discussed. It was agreed that the installation would meet the standards for health and hygiene and should therefore be approved. Enquiries would be made by Cllr Dore whether the heater would service both the handwashing and preparation sink, however, the handwashing sink would be prioritized.

RESOLVED: To approve the quote from Thanet Heating to install an under counter water heater in the kitchen of the Bell Meadow Pavilion - £735 + VAT. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Dore)

50/23-24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Cllr Derek Crow-Brown advised a commemoration service was being held at Minster Cemetery on 16th August, 11am, with a fly past at 11:45am, in honour of Baron Jean de Selys Longchamps.

- Martin Savage confirmed he would be on leave for two weeks, and Don McDade was unwell, therefore the service would be limited until next month.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:55pm.