

ST. NICHOLAS AT WADE WITH SARRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, St. Nicholas at Wade on 23rd November 2019 at 12.30pm 2019.

Present: Councillors Bryant (Chairman), Ageros, Ms. Cheniston, Divers, Ms. Fallon, North and Radclyffe

Also present: 62 residents, 3x PCSOs & Roy Wade (Acting Clerk)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Roger Gale MP. & Ms. Debbie Forsyth. Cllr Tervor Roper, Cllr Liz Hirst, Cllr David Hart

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No disclosures of interest were made.

PROPOSED TRAVELLERS' SITE – POTTEN STREET

The Chairman welcomed residents to the meeting to discuss and make observations on the proposal by TDC to include a site in Potten Street Road, St. Nicholas at Wade as one of three sites being considered for the establishment of a travellers site.

The Chairman read from a prepared speech the matters for consideration as follows:

Thank you for coming this afternoon. The proposal to site a temporary traveller's site on Potten Street Road is obviously a very emotive subject. It is important that we all conduct ourselves in a proper manner. I will not accept abusive and/or offensive language. Anybody that uses foul or abusive language will be asked to stop talking and will not be allowed any further input to the proceedings. If they decide to continue, I will ask The Police Community Officers to escort the offender off the premises.

The purpose of this meeting is to enable The Parish Council to gauge opinion and ensure that as a community we take forward the wishes of the majority of the residents. Whatever is decided today, The Parish Council cannot do it alone. We will need the support of each and every one of you to ensure that our voice is heard. Our community need to rally together so that the decision makers are very clear on the strength of feeling.

Our local MP, Sir Roger Gale, the two Thanet Villages County Councillors and the three Thanet Villages District Councillors were invited to attend.

The proposal report was sent to me by Derek Crow-Brown last Saturday. I have distributed a few copies around the room. Three sites in Thanet have been identified to support transient travellers, they are Tivoli, Ramsgate Port and Potten Street Road. These are to be used on a rotational basis. The report states that this will be dependent upon cost implications. There is no mention of any public consultation. Seventy sites in Thanet have been used in the past five years and only three seem to have been chosen. This must raise questions of how these were decided upon.

I would like to open the debate up to the floor, please make your point as succinctly as possible and state who your question is addressed to. Will you also, please be patient, as our clerk would like to write down as much information as he possibly can?

The meeting was advised by the Chairman that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of TDC had deferred consideration of this matter to allow for wide consultations to take place.

Residents were invited by the Chairman to express their thoughts on the proposals and the following concerns were expressed:

- (i) The proposed car park for the siting was very small and used extensively for road users going to their respective businesses and to collect other users as part of the KCC car share scheme;
- (ii) An increase in crime within the Village and this was evidenced when the travellers last used the site especially having regard to the elderly and vulnerable residents within the Village
- (iii) The faeces and other litter left on the site when the travellers vacated the site and the consequential costs of cleansing and clearing the site;
- (iv) The site has no facilities for example toilets and again concerns over health and safety issues
- (v) The site is near a major roundabout and the parking area is used by car sharers;
- (vi) The car park is owned by KCC and have their comments been received and if so, what are they?
- (vii) Concerns for the important adjoining farm land and whether the farmers have been consulted; and
- (viii) The logic of having 3 temporary sites and the costs to the local tax payer;

There then followed a general discussion on the procedure for submitting observations to TDC. The Chairman asked for a show of hands **and it was agreed:**

(A) To organise a petition objecting to the proposal; the petition to be put in the Village Hall and the local shop,

(B) Notices be posted on the Parish Notice boards advising residents to object directly to TDC by letter;

(C) The Chairman to draft the petition and letters of objection and put to Members for approval.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked the residents for attending and also Derek Crow Brown for his kind help in bringing this matter to the attention of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 1:20 PM