



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th August 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, D. Tweedale, M. Lawrance
Also, Present: KCC Cllrs Derek Crow-Brown & Linda Wright plus 2 members of public,
Sara Archer – Parish Clerk

43/22-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Cllr Lee Terry, District Cllrs Abi Smith & Reece Pugh, and PCSO Eileen Shrubsole.

44/22-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Cllrs David Tweedale and Mark Lawrance declared an interest in item 55 (b) and Cllr Lee Ageros declared an interest in item 53.

45/22-23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2022. These were proposed by Cllr Lawrance, seconded by Cllr Radclyffe, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

46/22-23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers reported that correspondence had been received from a resident at Sarre regarding the lack of service from the handymen provided to the Village irrespective of the contribution by its residents towards the precept monies. It was advised that St Nicholas together with Sarre was the Parish and as such, included all residents in its entirety. The handyman role was primarily to maintain the public spaces in the Parish, ie Bell Meadow, Cemetery, Allotments, St John's Green, closed Churchyard, all of which were amenities for the whole Parish and not exclusive to those living in St Nicholas village. The Chair drew comparisons to neighboring Parishes with a similar structure to emphasise this point. It was explained, the handymen employed by the Parish Council were not full time positions, and all together, were actually less than a quarter of a whole time equivalent, therefore, it was important that their time was used in the most efficient way.

Thanks were extended to the handymen for their attendance at Sarre, however, the Clerk expressed her disappointment that their attendance was met with hostility. The handymen had requested a definitive map and directive of their duties at Sarre as it seemed unclear to them as to their responsibilities in the Village.

It was suggested an article was included in the parish magazine to explain the role of the handyman, and an introduction to the team. Promotion of the Parish Council as a whole was also considered.

Cllr Divers confirmed investigations were ongoing with regard to the retaining wall at Sarre.

A meeting was awaited with the department responsible for Manor Road, this would continue to be followed up.

47/22-23 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed the appointment of Joe Perfect as assistant handyman and advised that the bookings for the Bell Meadow Pavilion would be taken over by the website administrator. A handover was to be arranged and thanks were extended to Matt Feekings for his work with the Bell Meadow Pavilion. The administrator had requested consideration was given to supply a laptop for the publishing and bookings work. This would be included on the agenda for further discussion next month.

Notices had been published for the co-option of a Councillor to fill the vacancy following the resignation of Geraldine Goy.

A copy of a letter sent to TDC regarding the lack of recycling waste collections had been noted. The District Councillors had advised a special collection had been arranged for tomorrow (10th) for those bins which had been missed previously.

Concern had been raised by a resident with regard to a cemetery plot which was not in keeping with the guidelines for the cemetery. A letter had been written to the plot owner, however, no response had been received. Cllrs Lawrance and Tweedale would speak direct to the owner and request the unauthorised items were removed.

48/22-23 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Fallon confirmed she had reported the overgrown path which ran from The Length towards the roundabout, the footpaths in Sarre and trees adjacent to the bus shelter in Sarre for action by KCC. She had also been litter picking in the Village.

Complaints had been received regarding the excessive noise being created by the Farm generators/fans. This had been raised with the Farm Manager who was taking action to reduce the noise being created as much as possible. Cllr Fallon would be reporting the issue to Environmental Health and Enforcement at TDC to ensure the situation is monitored.

Cllr Tweedale advised the 40mph sign had not been reinstalled to date. He had been working to clear the footpaths, removing barbed wire etc. TE2 would be tidied in due course. It was suggested the litter squad met in September, the first Saturday of the month was agreed, 10am.

Cllr Lawrance extended thanks to the handymen on behalf of a resident for the tidiness of the cemetery. A letter had been passed to him on behalf of the village 'knitwits', requesting use of the Pavilion for an hour, on a weekly or fortnightly basis, in order to make decorations for the village for special occasions such as Remembrance Day. The Tabletop sales and craft mornings were also suggested to be reintroduced. It was discussed and agreed that the 'knitwits' could use the Pavilion on a fortnightly basis, however, the tabletop sales and craft morning should be formally hired. The group were advised to co-ordinate their requirements with Cllr Fallon as she was leading the focus group.

Resident's at The Length had been advised they would be unable to park their vehicles on the road during the road closure, however, representatives from Sunningdale had ensured that disruption would be kept to a minimum and ensured the road would be accessible for residential parking.

Cllr Smyth had met with Ian Day, KCC to review the problem drains at the Old Post Office, Sarre, who had confirmed remedial works would be carried out by the end of this week. The cleansing of the drains were on an annual cycle, however, Sarre would be cleansed on a six month basis.

Paul Valek had advised the road signs on the bend by the retaining wall would be reinstalled within 28 days.

Resident's were reminded that missed waste collections could be reported online to TDC. A special collection would be taking place tomorrow to collect those recently missed.

Cllr Ageros had been maintaining the village planters and advised they required extra compost and water retaining material to assist with the dry weather currently being experienced. He had also assisted two allotment holders by strimming their plots, as they were unable to attend to their allotment due to ill health.

Cllr Radclyffe reported he had litter picked in Sarre and cleaned the footpath opposite the Cherry Brandy PH. He enquired whether the hazard signs could be put into the ground temporarily to make them more secure, however, this may cause further problems should they be moved accidentally. The handymen were requested to assist with clearing the footpath TE10.

49/22-23 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

No Councillors in attendance, however the following reports were submitted and read by the Clerk:

Cllr Reece Pugh:

Missed waste collections - I know that residents in St Nick have had issues with their bins not being emptied for some time. I have enquired with our waste services manager and he explained that TDC is currently experiencing a shortage of HGV drivers. This has resulted in the green waste collection service being suspended for two weeks. The waste team are experimenting with a new system for collections and hope that this will increase the number of collections that can be carried out in a day and in turn alleviate some pressure from the shortage of HGV drivers.

The width of Manor Road - this is an issue that the Chair raised with me and so I have asked our planning officers to examine the consent for the developments on Manor Road and if highways allowed them to take away part of the road to install a pavement. The bend on Manor Road is dangerous and so if needed I'll see if Derek or Linda can get KCC Highways involved.

Verge on Canterbury Road in Sarre - the verge that was taken away to build the brick wall appears to be highways land but enforcement are confirming this.

Cllr Abi Smith:

1. The planning application discussed in July, for change of use from agricultural to private garden will be discussed at next week's Planning Committee meeting. If any of the councillors or concerned residents would like to address the committee, please let me know via my TDC email or by phone. *No representatives wished to attend.*

2. Thanet Green Party hosted an open meeting with Plastic Free Thanet (followed by a beach clean at Margate Sands), and I am talking to a local organiser about engaging with local businesses in the Villages to support their campaign to reduce single use plastic in the area. I'm not trying to put any litter pickers out of work, but hope we can lighten their loads a bit

3. We have been offered a series of dates for a public meeting with the 'Green Doctors' from Groundworks South, who offer advice on reducing household energy costs – a very useful subject ahead of the even worse 'cost of living' shocks on the horizon. The available dates are: Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th, Mon-Wed 19th - 21st or Monday 26th September, Monday 3rd, Monday 10th or Tuesday 11th October. Please let me know if the PC is interested in offering this service to Villages residents. They are looking for local venues and I thought the Pavilion might be appropriate. *Dates were discussed, email forwarded to Cllr Fallon to action and liaise with Cllr Abi Smith direct.*

50/22-23 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Derek Crow-Brown confirmed that work was being undertaken to identify the land owner of the problematic drain at Sarre. It was noted the uncovered farm trailers were adding to the blocking of the drains.

A recent Thanet Area Committee meeting which hosted Iain Livingstone, Planning Manager, as a guest speaker, had been well received.

Cllr Linda Wright advised she had attended a meeting in Lenham with Rishi Sunak. Questions regarding Manston Airport had been raised and it was confirmed further enquiries for its future were being made.

The national shortage of GP's and untrained reception staff being used to triage patients was raised as a major concern. The problem was acknowledged, and being addressed.

KCC were leading a fun run in aid of the Kent Association for the Blind at Margate Football Club on Sunday 14th August.

51/22-23 PCSO REPORT

The PCSO Eileen Shrubsole was not in attendance, however, the following report was submitted and read by the Clerk:

I have enjoyed working in Birchington, as well as attending calls to victims of crime my main role is community engagement. I try to attend as many events, coffee mornings, age uk, BRAR, resident and council meetings. I regularly patrol Birchington village and have got to know the shopkeepers well. St Nicholas at Wade has been having parking issues, I have spoken to vehicle owners and reported it to Thanet Parking as I do not have parking powers. I continue to show a presence as often as I can in the area.

There have been reports of thefts of money and wallets from people whilst visiting charity shops, this is not just in Birchington but also around Thanet, I would urge people to be vigilant and keep handbags closed and money safe.

Rogue traders have been operating in the Birchington area. They can be very persuasive in getting people to pay large amounts of money for shoddy workmanship. I would advise anyone looking to have any sort of maintenance done, to obtain their own quotes from a reputable company through check a trade. Do not buy anything on your doorstep, once people know you are willing to hand over money, they often come back for more or pass your details on to other con men.

Text messages being sent out for you to click on a link for either a parcel, a banking problem, covid alerts, amazon etc. are well known scams that can lead to you being out of pocket. My advice is DO NOT click on these links before checking on google or speaking to someone about it. Nothing is free, you do not win prizes without entering competitions and your bank will never contact you by phone.

As we are now in the summer months and maybe enjoying time at the beach, please ensure you keep your belongings safe and Take your rubbish home with you.

Have a great summer.

52/22-23 BELL MEADOW

Cllr Fallon reminded the meeting that a representative of the Lawn Tennis Association had approached her with regard to the tennis courts. As part of the recent emphasis on health and wellbeing, focus had been placed on supporting local park sports facilities. A free, independent survey had been offered to assess the condition of the tennis court. Other services were also offered if required, however, this would be explored further once the condition of the court had been confirmed. Funding streams would also be investigated. It was discussed and agreed that the survey should be carried out in the first instance. The reseeding of the football pitch had also been assessed. A contractor had advised the grass should be stitched with seed in Sept/Oct, and quoted approx. £700 + VAT to complete the works.

A second option of turning the pitch 90° and introducing mobile goalposts was also considered. This would be explored further. The Clerk advised that one football team was still outstanding the payment of their invoice from the previous season despite continuous efforts to chase the payment. Details of the Team would be passed to Cllr Linda Wright to follow up.

53/22-23 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk offered an update on the position with regard to the allotment plots. All plots had been strimmed and were being prepared for planting by the plot holders. Thanks were extended to Cllr Ageros for his assistance with strimming two of the allotments whose tenants were unwell and unable to attend to their plot themselves. The handymen were also thanked for their hard work in clearing the full allotment and preparing for the division into two plots.

It was noted the boundary fencing of all allotments plots were in poor condition and needed to be replaced. It was agreed for the handymen to make enquiries and provide quotes for this work to be undertaken.

The trees adjacent to the allotment plots were also in need of pollarding. The Clerk would contact a qualified tree surgeon to survey the trees and carry out the necessary works.

54/22-23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) **TPO/TH/22/0984** - Land West Of Hazeldene, Ramsgate Road, Sarre

TH/TPO/1(2018) - 7No Sycamore (T1, T2, T3, T4, T6, T7, T8) - Crown reduce by 2-3m and crown lift to 3m, 1No Beech (T5) - Crown reduce by 1-2m, 1No Beech (T9) - Crown reduce by 2-3m, 1No Sycamore (T10) - Crown reduce by 2-3m

To defer to Tree Officer.

b) None reported.

55/22-23 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 Divers, seconded Cllr Fallon).

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

Petty Cash - Float for BMP Bar	£	25.00
T. Oliver - Handyman Salary & Expenses	£	174.70
McCabe Ford Williams - Audit/Payroll fees	£	1,021.20
E. Harvey-Burgess - Website Admin Salary	£	80.70
J. Read - Handyman Salary & Expenses	£	140.66
S. Archer - Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£	1,013.00
N. Sangster - Handyman Salary & Expenses	£	455.30
Business Stream - Water BMP	£	52.91
HMRC - Employee PAYE	£	140.68
Westgate Security - Alarm Service BMP	£	90.00
ACRK Membership fees	£	60.00
Lloyds Bank CC	£	69.88
S. Irving - Repayment BMP Supplies	£	53.17
M. Lawrance - Repayment Jubilee supplies	£	139.80
Playsafety - RoSPA Inspection	£	121.80
D. Tweedale - Repayment Jubilee supplies	£	75.00
LJ Icke - Deposit return	£	25.00
S. Henniker - Deposit return	£	25.00

Receipts:

A. Chatfield - BMP Private Hire deposit	£	25.00
D. Kirby - BMP Hire: Coffee Morning	£	26.00
BMP Hire - Football: Herne Bay Harriers	£	572.00

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

(Proposed: Cllr Terry, Seconded: Cllr Lawrance)

56/22-23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Mr Eric Dore offered to commission a plaque to commemorate the three war graves in the cemetery at Shuart Lane. It was advised he should contact the War Commission to obtain permission and who would potentially provide the necessary signage. Mr Dore would research the matter further and was thanked for his involvement.
- Residents were encouraged to contribute to the quarterly Parish Magazine. Articles could be forwarded to the Clerk for inclusion to make the content more specific to St Nicholas and Sarre.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:15pm.