



## St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

**Present: Councillors - D. Divers, D. Tweedale, A. Andrews, M. Lawrance, M. Fentiman, L. Ageros**

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

#### **82/25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted from Cllr Eric Dore – Holiday, Cllr Sonya Smyth – Unwell, PC Andy Howe, District Cllr Peter Evans and KCC Community Warden Gary Groombridge.

#### **83/25-26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Ageros declared a significant interest under item 87/25-26.

#### **84/25-26 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

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

#### **85/25-26 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Divers advised he attended the Planning Committee meeting at TDC to make representation regarding the Campsite proposal. Cllr Abi Smith was thanked for her support, however, permission was granted by TDC for the planning application. Everyone involved with the fireworks event were thanked for their help and support. The event had proved to be a success once again. Concern regarding the catering arrangements had been noted and fed back to the vendors. It was agreed to have a debrief regarding the event prior to the next meeting.

#### **86/25-26 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed she had received information regarding an unstable wall which runs along the alley between Bridges Close and The Street. This had been reported to TDC for investigation/repair.

Concern regarding the potential entrapment issue involving the expansion gully on the footbridge at Shuart Lane had been reported as an emergency to KCC for investigation, following a pedestrian getting their foot caught in the gap.

Information had been received to confirm the double yellow lines would be painted on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The hedges at Court Road, located close to Sunnyside, were overgrown and required trimming back. The Clerk would contact SNCF and bring this to their attention.

#### **87/25-26 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

**Cllr Fentiman** confirmed the problems surrounding Parish Close were ongoing. Advice from a Barrister was potentially going to be sought to move the issues forward.

**Cllr Tweedale** advised he had been litter picking and had been contacted regarding the significant dip in the A28 which collects water and becomes hazardous in wet weather. The matter would be reported accordingly.

**Cllr Lawrance** reported he had been litter picking in Shuart Lane. It was noted that the wall opposite the Church still required repair. It was confirmed that TDC were aware of the outstanding repairs. The Church craft fair was well attended. Concerns were raised with regard to construction traffic using the Village to access the Campsite when development begins. Cllr Smith would raise the concerns with the planning department and suggest the traffic management plan routes vehicles via Potten Street.

**Cllr Ageros** had been maintaining the Village Planters and Flagpole garden. Cllr Ageros was extremely disappointed to report he had recently had 6 kittens stolen from his property. The matter had been reported to the Police for investigation. Cllr Ageros believed the kittens had been targeted and mistaken to be 'ragdoll' cats, however, this was not indeed the case. Members and residents were asked to be vigilant and report any sightings of kitten for sale in the local area.

## **88/25-26 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:

- £1.5 million Pride in Place Impact Funding Grant from Central Government.

Cllr Vera Duckworth says: -

Community Spaces, Refurbished buildings will be bought back into use to create welcoming spaces for shared activity.

Public Spaces, Improve green spaces and leisure facilities.

Hight Street Re Vitalisation, Make shopping areas more attractive and welcoming.

- TDC Annual Residents Survey, to be sent by post card to 7000 houses inviting them to take part. Residents will be asked their views on some of the councils 30 services. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Winter Gardens, Thanet District Council is going ahead with a 4-million-pound grant to upgrade and refurbish the Winter Gardens. They will be awarding a 999-year lease to 'Westwood One Theatre', who will be their preferred partner to take the scheme forward and reopen the Winter Gardens. This will include: -
  - Upgrading the main concert area, The Queens Hall.
  - A Rooftop Bar and Restaurant.
  - 4 additional bars.
  - A 100-place drama school.
  - A Vocational Learning Centre.
  - A 100 Ofsted Certificated Nursery

## **89/25-26 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Luke Evans reported as follows:

### LGR

5 Proposals are going forward for the Government to make the final decision on.

KCC's option is 1a and it proposes 1 unitary authority and 3 regional assemblies.

1a is the cheapest option to deliver by approximately £6m and the implementation costs will be recovered through the savings after only 3 years. The other proposals have extended recovery times of up to 15 years so yet again our option is the best for the residents of Kent. The cumulative impact of 1a is +£457m after ten years which is £330m more than its closest opponent proposal. The Government will not be paying for LGR so they expect tax payers to pay for it through increased council tax.

### Thanet Way

Road is over 30 years old so is at the end of its current lifespan but KCC does not have the funds to resurface it all. Based on this the most likely outcome will be patch repairs but this will not be known until the engineers reports comes back. In the meantime the road will stay as a restricted 50mph road for safety reasons.

### Goodwin Sands Conservation Trust

Myself and Cllr David Wimble had a productive meeting with the trustees of the Goodwin Sands Conservation Trust. It was a very informative meeting and on the back of it we have decided to do whatever we can within our limited powers to help protect and conserve the sands. A big PR event around this will be happening in the spring time but I cannot divulge what exactly just yet.

### Debt reduction

We have now reduced KCC debt down from £732m to £650m through a combination of efficiency savings and paying a long standing loan off 50 years early. By paying the loan off early we made an immediate £5.5m saving as we negotiated a discount with Barclays. Further savings of £670,000 per year for the next 50 years will be made by this deal.

### SEND Surgery

If any residents have SEND children and they need assistance then I will be operating a SEND Surgery by appointment only at the Bouncing Bomb Café in Minnis Bay. I have 25 years experience working in SEND settings and recently qualified as a Headteacher so I can offer a range of assistance in this field if required.

### **90/25-26 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:

#### **Thanet Villages:**

We do continue to have increased levels of fly tipping especially on the farm tracks around Monkton and I have been liaising with Street Scene (TDC) for this to be investigated and cleared. Street Scene have contacted me and advised me of some success in identifying the perpetrators. We have used ANPR cameras and evidence from the waste to ID two of these people who will be prosecuted. If you see fly tipping in progress call 999. If you locate fly tipped material, record it on the Thanet District Council web site (search TDC fly tipping).

There has been a small increase in poaching activity in Thanet, where we have enjoyed a long period of their absence. The incursions relate to a black Suzuki Vitara and a black Ford Transit, and a black Jeep Grand Cherokee (54 plate), these have been seen in the Birchington and Woodchurch area but are likely to venture nearer to Minster. One of the vehicles was pursued by a Police response vehicle but was lost when it went off road.

#### **St Nicholas at Wade:**

There were 20 calls to Kent Police during October, of note were the burglary calls which related to the Post Office and some plant area on St Nicholas Court Farm.

You may be aware of the Post Office Burglary early in October. All three suspects were identified and have since been arrested, interviewed, and charged. Many thanks for the community assistance with ring doorbell footage and CCTV.

We have had some issues along The Length from nuisance children who have been activating doorbells and generally being rude. I have yet to identify these but if you have children in the area, please ensure they behave themselves when walking too and from the bus stop.

I continue to attend Shuart Lane and Potten Street Road car park to deter anti-social behaviour. During October and early November, I have interrupted and deterred 7 persons from these locations.

Lastly, just some crime reduction and safety advice:

On the run up to Xmas, please ensure that you keep your homes and vehicles secure with no valuables on show.

You may also be aware of the A299/Thanet Way and its ongoing issues.

The speed reduction to 50mph is set to remain for the foreseeable and I expect the KCC Councillors will provide more information on this. From Kent Police, please be aware that we will be regularly setting up a mobile speed camera along this route so please adhere to the temporary limit.

### **91/25-26 KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT**

CW Gary Groombridge was not in attendance, however he submitted the following report:

- Continuing to do Information drop-ins at Minster Library. sessions Booked in.
- I am working with Heart in the community a Wellbeing Charity. The new wellbeing group has started in Minster at the Salvation Army Hall on the 17th October, We have had two sessions now 10.00-11.00 I've got some advertising out everywhere for that, the GP surgery, The Vets, Local notice boards, The premier Shop, in the Coop.
- I continue to do Visual Presence in the Villages, continuing to get out and meet residents around the villages, deal with any concerns that arise.
- Deal with any resident queries or concerns, I'm still visiting a resident who can't get out now, she is part of one of my wellbeing groups. Sorted out her prescription at the Doctors surgery.
- Deal with Referral visits that come in from other agencies.
- I attend and support the St Nicholas at Wade Men's wellbeing group.
- Information Drop-ins at St Nicholas at Wade, in the Church. Support the residents with any queries or problems. Pass the information to the police and other agencies, if needed. The next drop in is this coming Thursday 6th November.
- I continue to Report in Fly-tipping, to the Street Scene Enforcement Officer (TDC) Two lots recently at St Nicholas at Wade, some also in Minster.
- Support the Residents at the Coffee/Wellbeing group in the Bell Meadow Pavillion, St Nicholas at Wade. A Scam talk presentation was carried out on the 20th of October. We handed out safety freebies, which included personal attack alarms. I'm now out of personal alarms. Need some more.

- Support and talk the Residents at the Coffee/Wellbeing group in the Sun Inn, St Nicholas at Wade. Deal with any issues or queries they may have.
- I've helped a couple of residents from the group with advice on money coming out of their bank account, they are setting up a new bank account with Nationwide, new bank card etc.
- Just helped a resident with advice on what to do with a nuisance neighbour, she has now phoned 101 and has got a crime reference number. She has been logging what has been going on in a diary. She has already contacted orbit housing to log the complaint. So hopefully things can move forwards if the problem continues.
- I've recently carried out a stranger awareness presentation with a fellow Community Warden for the children at group in Westgate at Christ Church.
- I recently attended a multi-agency event in Ramsgate at Ellington Park. We had the gazebo up promoting the service. We also Spoke to many people on the Day, advice given out along with safety scam leaflets, trading standards checked. Again, personal safety alarms and other safety freebies.

#### **92/25-26 BELL MEADOW WORKING GROUP REPORT**

The Clerk confirmed the £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Awards for All fund had been received. The Section 106 monies were still being chased to be released before the project can progress. Cllr Luke Evans advised he may be in a position to assist with funding for a digital lock for the tennis court when it is refurbished.

The footpath lighting was in hand and an electrician had been instructed to start works as soon as possible.

Cllr Dore was thanked for securing the defibrillator and cabinet from the Football Association, with no charge.

#### **93/25-26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- No new applications reported.
- None reported

#### **94/25-26 FINANCE**

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

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

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

T. Phelan - Deposit return	£25.00
SNS - Email hosting fees	£60.51
Business Stream - Cemetery	£53.78
Business Stream - BMP	£28.34
TDC - Event fee	£301.00
Employee salary, expenses, PAYE	£2152.80
D. Divers - Repayment Cleaning Sundries	£95.20
EDF - BMP - Electric	£64.54
Lloyds Bank CC	£110.11
EDF - BMP - Gas	£37.43
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Unity Trust - Service Fee	£6.00

#### **Receipts:**

M. Wright - BMP Hire	£38.00
WS Cole - Cemetery fees	£595.00
BMP Hire - Frames	£85.00
BMP Hire - Offcumduns	£38.00
BMP Hire - Pearce	£36.00
BMP Hire - Hassan	£51.00
BMP Pitch Hire - Frames	£85.00
Roberts Stonemason - Headstone	£60.00
BMP Bar takings	£185.00
BMP Pitch Hire - Frames	£85.00
BMP Hire - S Morris	£117.00

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

**(Proposed: Cllr Andrews, Seconded: Cllr Divers)**

#### **95/25-26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No concerns raised.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 9:05pm.