



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Approved Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom, on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors G. Bryant (Chairman), L. Ageros, L. Fallon, D. Divers, G. Goy

Also, Present: Sara Archer – Clerk, District Cllrs R. Pugh & T. Roper plus 2 members of the public.

112/20-21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Radclyffe who was unable to connect to the meeting, District Cllr Pugh and KCC Cllr Hurst who were attending Minster PC meeting.

113/20-21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bryant declared an interest regarding item 124/20-21 application – F/TH/20/1574 and would not be taking part in any discussions on this proposal.

114/20-21 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held via zoom on 8th December 2020.

These were proposed by Cllr Fallon, seconded by Cllr Goy, all present agreed and therefore the minutes would be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

115/20-21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bryant read his report as follows:

Christmas has come and gone, and I am very grateful to Sara for resolving the issue over the Sarre Christmas tree. My thanks to fellow Councillors for delivering the Christmas cards. I hope that residents appreciate this.

The 'Blue Horizon Wall' is now up in The Length and this led me to ask TDC for some progress on the s.106 money on this development. The TDC Officer responsible for this has replied that she will check the site and the agreement to see when the contribution will be made.

The new website is almost ready, and I would like to thank Matt Feekings for all his work on this.

We have spent some time over the last week working on the 2021/22 budget and hope that you will be pleased with the outcome revealed later.

The contractors are due to start work on the aerial flyer on 25th January, but I will leave Lisa to reveal more in her report.

Over Christmas, I wrote to Reculver Cricket Club and can now report that they are keen to make a start on bringing back the cricket pitch to a condition that makes in fit for playing on. Again, this will come up later in the meeting.

I exchanged several emails with Colin Bridge, the volunteer Footpaths Officer for KCC. I am pleased that he received agreement from KCC for us to clear footpath TE5B. When the weather improves, we should look at forming a working party to complete this. Colin has offered to help and with our three handymen and some volunteers, I am sure that we can get this done in the Spring.

Yesterday, I attended a meeting of The Fabric Committee of The Church. I reaffirmed our financial support of £5,000 for a new church gate and went on to explain that this would rise to £6,000 if VAT is included and the invoice paid by The PC (as we can then claim £1,000 back from HMRC). Nothing is as simple as it seems, and it became clear that other bodies have a vested interest in this. It is the Parochial Church Council that has the responsibility for project management and permission must be obtained from The Diocesan Board if the gate design changes in any way. I understand that pictures of proposed gates have been circulated amongst the church community. I have asked to be kept informed when they are ready to proceed with this.

Cllr Hart suggested that TDC were contacted for assistance with a chipper for the footpath clearance. Cllr Bryant would follow this up with Gavin Waite as advised. Cllr Hart also offered his help with a chainsaw to assist with clearing the overgrowth, some time in March if the position regarding covid improves.

116/20-21 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed she was continuing to liaise with Roger Casement and KCC regarding the village signs for Sarre. Dates had been received from KALC for the new Councillors course, Cllr Goy would be booked on to the course in February. The Clerk advised that the company used for payroll services would cease trading at the end of the financial year. Enquiries were being made for an alternative company to take on the service. Correspondence had been received from a concerned resident of Sarre regarding the planters. It was felt that one of the four planters ordered should be placed at Sarre. The Chairman had considered this, however, the existing planters in St Nicholas had come to the end of their useful life and would therefore be replaced. A planter at Sarre would be considered further once the existing one also required replacement. It was suggested that an additional planter was placed at one of the entrances into the village in order to be included in the 'corporate' look of the villages. This was discussed and agreed that the Sarre Councillor would investigate a suitable location and make further enquiries with landowners. Sonya Smyth had expressed concern regarding defamatory remarks made by the Chairman at the last meeting in reference to the Wantsum Community and Sports Association. She felt that by offering his personal opinion in a public domain, it brought the Council into disrepute and requested comments from the other Councillors. No comments were made and the Chairman advised Sonya to follow up her complaint to the Monitoring Officer if she felt it necessary to do so. Matt Feekings was thanked for the work he has done on the new website which would be going live in the next few days.

117/20-21 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Radclyffe was unable to join the meeting but had offered a short report in his absence. He had removed the Christmas Trees and thanked the residents who assisted with this. He had been litter picking and noticed several of the drains required cleaning as they were blocked. This would be reported online to KCC. Cllr Radclyffe advised there were spare Christmas Tree lights which could be used for the St Nicholas tree next year if a starter cable was purchased.

Cllr Ageros advised that he would be following up the quotes for the memorial bench and thanked the Clerk and Cllr Radclyffe for their work on getting the tree lit this year. Cllr Ageros confirmed he would like to read a short statement regarding the testing for covid at the next meeting.

118/20-21 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Cllr Pugh was not in attendance, however, he had submitted a short report which was read by the Clerk as follows:

Transfer of Bell Meadow - As you will have seen from the response I received from Rob Large at TDC, they haven't budged but I think we can still work to get the price down significantly (and I still think it should be a nominal £1). If the Parish Council agree, I would be more than happy to see if I can arrange a meeting between myself, Gordon and Rob Large at TDC to see if we can get this sorted. Let me know the Parish Council's thoughts on this.

Felling of trees at the site on Ramsgate Road, Sarre - I was made aware of some trees that were being cut down over the Christmas break on this site, contrary to the planning conditions. The trees officer at TDC has requested that planning enforcement investigate this as the site owner believes the trees were diseased. I assisted a resident last year in liaising with the site owner about cutting back some vegetation that was overgrowing next to their property and I would urge any resident to check with their ward councillors and TDC first before agreeing to any suggestions for vegetation to be cut back (I am conscious that the site owner wants to consult with neighbours but we need to make sure that the trees officer at TDC, Kevin Preesland, agrees).

Issues with Manor Road - Unfortunately I am still awaiting a response from the planning team at TDC regarding the issues with the single bollard in Manor Road. I will chase this up as I am keen to ascertain if this is deemed suitable under the planning conditions.

Business support grants - There are still a number of grants and support that is available to businesses that have been impacted by Covid-19 and the lockdowns and I am happy to assist any that have approached the Parish Council.

Changes to park home rules - As we are currently in another lockdown, the Government have relaxed the rules regarding licenses for residents of non-permanent park homes. This means that those that live in park homes on sites that require them to vacate for 6 weeks of the year do not have to do so in light of the lockdown and lack of alternative accommodation however, this is at the discretion of the park home site owner. I just wanted to make the Parish Council aware as I had a resident in Monkton that was concerned about it and it may impact on Frost Farm residents.

Hope this is helpful and let me know if I can assist with any matter that is raised with the Parish Council.

Cllr Hart reminded Councillors that due to covid regulations, the working party to deal with the overgrown footpath would need to be delayed possibly until the end of the year.

He advised the parking charges at Birchington had been revised and increased therefore residents should bare this in mind.

Cllr Roper reported he had attended a briefing at TDC which confirmed the budget situation remained constant. The uncertainty with covid meant the financial situation would remain fluid for some time.

Further testing sites have been opened in Ramsgate Port and Birchington and the vaccination program was underway.

The impact of the EU transition at Manston had settled down and the site was being used for testing of the drivers and checking their documentation.

A 'green lane' was being introduced on the M20 in order to allow drivers who have been tested and have the necessary documentation to drive straight to the Port.

An increase in waste and flytipping had been noted since the lockdown and the issue was being addressed by TDC.

119/20-21 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Liz Hurst was not in attendance; however, a report had been made available which was read as follows:

The service www.kent.gov.uk/kenttogether which is available 24/7 has proved to be invaluable during the recent lockdown.

Symptom free test sites had been opened in Birchington and Ramsgate Port.

Manston Airport site was functioning within capacity and traffic volume of HGVs remained low.

Residents were asked to shop local as much as possible with many shops offering a click and collect service.

Cllr Bryant expressed his pleasure with the way Operation Brock had been dealt with during Christmas. The signage and management of the traffic scheme was superb.

120/20-21 BELL MEADOW PAVILION COMMITTEE

Cllr Ageros updated the meeting following the Committee meeting held on 11th January. It was reported that Tina Raven had resigned as Secretary and from the Committee due to personal commitments. The position and further membership would be re-advertised. Matt Feekings gave an update on the current useage of the Pavilion. Lisa Bryant advised that enquiries had been made regarding the licensing for live and recorded music and these would be applied for when the Pavilion re-opened. After examination of the Terms of Reference, it was advised that Matt was not able to be a member of the Committee and also a paid employee on the Parish Council, he would therefore consider his position. A number of requests had been made for consideration by the Parish Council: The bootwipers required cleaning by the handyman, the weeds at the rear of the building to be cleared, the noticeboard to be sanded and re-stained and the installation of a handbasin in the kitchen was to be investigated. Progress on the signage of the Pavilion was queried and an assessment to install a sliding window serving hatch was suggested. The Clerk would contact the handymen to carry out the works to the outside of the building. Cllr Bryant confirmed the sign would be dealt with in due course and advised the Committee to obtain three quotes for the installation of the handbasin. A written proposal for the serving hatch would be considered and this would be reported back to the Committee by Cllr Ageros. Cllr Fallon made the suggestion of cast iron bootwipers and would make enquiries for the next meeting.

121/20-21 AERIAL RUNWAY AT BELL MEADOW

Cllr Fallon confirmed the deposit had been paid and a provisional date of 25th January had been put forward to commence the installation of the ariel runway.

122/20-21 RECVLVER CRICKET CLUB

Cllr Bryant put forward the proposal for Reculver Cricket Club who were keen to play at Bell Meadow. The Club had offered to prepare and bring the cricket square back in playable order in return for the free use of the facilities for the first season, with the Parish Council charging for the bar/refreshments only. The Cricket Club had expressed an interest in using the pitch during the week to hold a cricket school, in addition to the weekends. It was suggested they were approached to allow village children to attend the cricket school free of charge. The Bell Meadow Pavilion Committee would be included in discussions and Cllr Ageros queried the use of nets to prevent stray balls from causing damage to neighbouring properties. Cllr Bryant would clarify this with the Cricket Club.

123/20-21 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

Cllr Divers proposed that KCC were approached to reduced the 30mph speed limits to 20mph within the villages. In support of the argument for this road safety measure, Cllr Diver reported that 29/34 child pedestrian deaths and 302/413 adult pedestrian deaths were in built up areas, 2.5% chance of being killed if hit by a vehicle travelling at 20mph compared to 20% at 30mph. Other benefits include improving air quality, reduces noise pollution.

After discussion, all Councillors were in support and it was agreed that Cllr Divers would follow up the proposal with Paul Valek at KCC Highways.

124/20-21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Council considered the following applications:

FH/TH/20/1640 - 2 Heritage Park, Manor Road, St Nicholas At Wade,

Erection of a detached swimming pool enclosure to rear

No objections raised.

F/TH/20/1574 - Land Between The Vicarage And The Boathouse, The Length, St Nicholas At Wade

Erection of 1No. 4 bed detached dwelling, together with erection of carport and fencing, and alterations to landscaping
Cllr Bryant left the meeting while this application was discussed and Cllr Ageros abstained.

Councillors considered there to be enough development within the village already and this would be overdevelopment. Access concerns were also raised.

20/00032/REF - OL/TH/20/0466 - Land North West Of Down Barton Road

Appeal by Mr Melvin Walker in respect of Outline application for the erection of a single storey detached dwelling with all matters reserved.

The PC upheld their existing objections.

TCA/TH/21/0020 – 3 Rose Cottages, The Length, St Nicholas at Wade

1 No Ash (A1) – Crown raise to 5m height, reduce to lower laterals by between 3 and 5 metres to previous cut lines, 1No Sycamore (A2) - Fell

Refer to Tree Officer.

b) F/TH/20/1475 – Permission Refused.

125/20-21 BUS SHELTER – A28 CANTERBURY ROAD

Cllr Fallon confirmed that quotes had been circulated for consideration. It was preferable to have an eco-roofed bus shelter, however, the land owner would need to be approached to be able to extend the space it could fit onto. The KCC bus shelter grant was not available at this time, however, other funding options may be available. It was discussed and agreed that Cllr Bryant would contact the land owner to enquire into the possibility of extending the space for an eco-friendly shelter to fit.

126/20-21 FINANCE

(a) The Clerk presented the monthly bank reconciliation between the cash book and bank accounts. This had been sent to Cllr Radclyffe for inspection prior to the meeting.

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

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

M. Savage (Handyman's salary & expenses)	170.13
S. Archer (Clerk's salary & expenses)	757.21
J. Read (Asst. Handyman's salary & expenses)	140.48
George Bryant (Cleaner's salary)	107.59
N. Sangster (Asst. Handyman's salary & expenses)	76.83
Lloyds Bank (Credit Card)	179.16
M. Feekings (Website Admin)	138.91
Safelincs Ltd (Defib pads)	238.79

Receipts:

Cemetery fees 100.00

RESOLVED: To approve payment of invoices included in the monthly payment schedule for January (Proposed: Cllr Bryant, Seconded: Cllr Fallon)

(c) The proposal to purchase a suitable vehicle for the handymen was discussed. It was considered necessary particularly as an increase in waste had been noted and also to transport the mower through the village. Options of vehicle were suggested together with a trailer, also, the possible hire of a vehicle instead of purchase. As the handymen worked on an ad-hoc basis, it was considered the ownership of a vehicle would be more beneficial.

It was proposed the sum of £13000 was included into the budget for 2021/22 for the purchase of a handyman vehicle and trailer. A vote was taken, 4 were in approval and 1 abstained until further enquiries had been made.

RESOLVED: To approve the inclusion of £13000 into the budget for 2021/22 to purchase a vehicle and trailer for the handymen. (Proposed: Cllr Bryant, seconded: Cllr Fallon)

(d) Cllr Bryant presented the budget forecast for 2021/22. At the end of the year, it is aimed for a balance of £100000. It was agreed that the snow plough was not necessary at the moment and would be removed from the comments.

RESOLVED: To approve the budget forecast for 2021/22 (Proposed: Cllr Fallon, Seconded: Cllr Divers)

(e) Cllr Bryant advised that the precept figure of £22611 allowed for a reduction of approximately 7.3% to each household. It was considered by the Parish Council and the request was approved.

RESOLVED: To approve the precept request of £22611 for 2021/22 (Proposed: Cllr Divers, Seconded: Cllr Fallon)

127/20-21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- It was advised that new requests not already included in the budget could be considered.
- It was confirmed that the Parish Council would project manage the work required to the footpath TE5B and the query was raised whether the landowner would be fencing the footpath.
- The placement of a planter at Sarre was questioned further and reiterated that a new planter would be explored by the Sarre Councillor.
- Clarification regarding the introduction of cricket to Bell Meadow was sought.
- It was suggested that an initiative for tree coverage in the Parish was put together, however, it was felt that TDC were already in a position to advise accordingly.

The meeting was concluded by The Chairman at 9:46pm.