



St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30pm in The Bell Meadow Pavilion, St Nicholas at Wade

Present: Councillors D. Divers – Chairman, L. Ageros, S. Smyth, M. Lawrance, D. Tweedale, E. Dore, G. Pugh
Also, Present: KCC Cllrs Derek Crow-Brown and Linda Wright, District Cllr Abi Smith, Sara Archer – Parish Clerk, plus 0 members of public.

133/23-24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PC Andy Howe.

134/23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

135/23-24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 19th February 2024. These were proposed by Cllr Lawrance, seconded by Cllr Dore, all were in agreement and therefore signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

136/23-24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Divers advised he had met with a building control officer from TDC regarding the damage to the church wall. The issue is in hand, and TDC will be in touch further once they have completed their enquiries. Thanks were extended to Cllr Abi Smith for following this up on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Linda Wright enquired about the possible tunnel which had been discovered under the church. Cllr Lawrance confirmed that investigations were ongoing as to whether the structure was in fact a tunnel or the opening of an enlarged well. A meeting had been held with the Thanet Archaeological Trust, and a camera would be deployed to examine the structure further. KCC Streetworks team have issued notice that Potten Street will be closed for up to 5 days whilst repairs to the road are carried out.

Cllr Divers had been litter picking along Potten Street with the junction of the Thanet Way. An increase in unsanitary waste had been noted, particularly discarded plastic bottles.

Correspondence had been received from KCC with regard to the unmaintained roads at the Sunningdale sites and Manor Road. Cllr Divers advised that KCC were no longer accepting responsibility to repair the roads, or rectify the damage caused by the building construction. He would follow up this issue with Steven Noad accordingly.

Sir Roger Gale had circulated correspondence with regard to the Sunningdale sites, providing an update on the position with regard to the outstanding problems at each development.

137/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed she would be ordering 4 dog waste bag dispensers to be sited at both Bell Meadow, and TE10 Sarre. It is hoped this would encourage dog owners to act more responsibly.

138/23-24 COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Pugh reported he had attended the TRRG meeting, where Speedwatch was primarily discussed, and would be attending the Thanet Area Committee meeting to be held tomorrow evening.

Cllr Lawrance had been litter picking along The Length. He advised he was involved in setting up a coffee morning at the Church, aimed specifically at men, to address men's mental health issues. The 'Coffee Moaning' would be held at the Church on a Thursday morning, 10am-12 noon, all were welcome.

The lighting works in the Church had now been completed.

Cllr Dore advised speeding concerns had been raised with him, and anti-social behaviour at Shuart Lane was noted. The area would be monitored and Police advised of any incidents as appropriate.

The purchase of a roof rack for the handyman van was discussed, and it was agreed for health and safety purposes, that a suitable roof rack should be acquired. The handymen would make enquiries and inform the Clerk before making the purchase.

Cllr Smyth advised she attended the meeting to discuss events at Bell Meadow, which would be discussed under item 142.

Cllr Ageros had continued to maintain the garden at the flagpole, TE10 footpath, and village planters. It had been noted that the historic flooding issues had been addressed by the drain clearance, and effective leaf/detritus removal by the handymen. It was

suggested that SNCF were contacted before the next harvest, to remind them to cover the trailers and prevent chaff being blown into the drainage system.

139/23-24 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Abi Smith had followed up the concerns raised with regard to the potential use of Potten Street for an encampment site, and the church wall repairs with TDC, but had not received a response.

Cllr Smith had attended a presentation from the Home Energy Advice Service. Funding had been secured for the service, which was considered to be a welcome initiative in the area. Funding streams available, and energy efficiency advice would be offered. A motion had been carried unanimously supported, by members cross-party, at TDC, to call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

140/23-24 KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Linda Wright was thanked for her support with the grant funding application towards improving the bar facilities at the Pavilion. Cllr Wright advised of the public health issue with under vaccinated children, and had a proposal had been put forward that clinics should be set up at schools in order to vaccinate on mass. The Director of Public Health was making enquiries into the costings of this proposal to see if it would be a viable solution.

Cllr Crow-Brown advised of the following:

Potholes - Additional funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) worth £8.6 million will be spent between March and October this year. The financial boost is on top of about £50 million already pledged in KCC's own road and footway planned maintenance budget.

The Pothole Blitz will be delivered using additional contractors and focus on medium to large scale resurfacing, making permanent first-time fixes. Specialist equipment, including miniature planers, pavers and diggers, will be used to ensure the repairs can be made with minimal disruption to the travelling public.

Highways Inspectors - KCC Highways have recently employed 4 additional inspectors carrying out 59 audits of road closures finding 18 were not complying with the terms of the closure agreement. Members of the environment and transport cabinet committee had insisted the inspectors be appointed after witnessing clear breaches of the terms under which the county council issued the closure permits. Director Simon Jones has pledged to improve the situation.

Sunningdale - KCC have had no contact from administrators of Sunningdale Homes regarding Heritage phase #2 (Parish Close). The administration companies handling other parcels of Sunningdale Homes works have been asked if they know who is acting for the Parish Close section, they have previously confirmed that this area is not within their remit. Should they however, come back with information that is pertinent it will be forwarded to me.

The development at Parish Close was not offered for adoption via a Section 38 Agreement and the street is to remain in private maintenance as it was not constructed, inspected, or tested to ensure it met current highway specification. KCC have no plans to complete works within the private areas.

Should they wish to consider using s37 of the Highways Act the street would require reconstruction and completion, or proof of construction and testing to highway specifications before this could be considered. KCC suggest residents seek professional advice as it could involve substantial cost and disruption ensuring the street is of an acceptable standard for adoption. As it currently stands this authority takes the view that the road is 1) of substandard construction and unsuitable for adoption, and 2) the street provides little benefit to the wider public beyond that of the residents and the cost of maintaining at public expense is unwarranted. Any s37 application would therefore be refused.

This authority would repudiate any claims for damages as there has been no "breach of statutory or other duties".

141/23-24 KENT POLICE REPORT

PC Andy Howe was not in attendance, however, it was noted that he had raised awareness of an increase in theft of high value vehicles in the area. Residents were encouraged to be vigilant and protect their vehicles as much as possible.

142/23-24 BELL MEADOW REPORT

A meeting had been arranged to plan events for the Pavilion for the forthcoming year which had been poorly attended.

A dedicated facebook page was being set up by one of the volunteers to promote and raise the profile of the facility.

Dates for a few events had been arranged, including a cream tea, bingo on the third Thursday of the month, an Easter Extravaganza, D-Day Afternoon tea, and a table top sale on the last Saturday in April. These would be publicised on the noticeboards and facebook pages.

As ever, volunteers were always welcome to join the working group.

143/23-24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) **TPO/TH/24/0210 - 1 Elms Cottages , Canterbury Road, Sarre**

TH/TPO/1(1990) - 2No Sycamore - Crown reduce both trees by 30% and re-shape all round accordingly

Defer to Tree Officer – TDC.

OL/TH/24/0222 – Land East of Field House, Down Barton Rd, St Nicholas at Wade

Outline application for the erection of 4No 2-bed terraced dwellings with all matters reserved.

Application discussed, the road was not considered suitable for further development. Councillors were asked to submit further comments to the Clerk before 1st April and advise whether they would like the application to be called-in.

144/23-24 FINANCE

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

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for February. (Proposed: Cllr Divers, seconded Cllr Pugh).

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

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| HMRC - Employee PAYE | £287.20 |
| S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses | £1,167.38 |
| M. Savage - Handyman's salary & expenses | £552.35 |
| J. Perfect - Handyman's salary & expenses | £704.64 |
| D. McDade - Handyman's salary & expenses | £452.95 |
| Hugofox - Website hosting fee | £11.99 |
| Lloyds Bank CC | £512.68 |
| SNS - Domain hosting | £57.60 |
| CPRE - Membership renewal | £60.00 |

Receipts:

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| WS Cole & Son - Plot 73 | £417.00 |
| BMP - Pitch Hire (Fisher) | £60.00 |
| Grave 682 - Headstone | £50.00 |
| KCC - Grant: BMP bar refurb | £300.00 |
| BMP - Pitch Hire (Fisher) | £60.00 |
| Plot 72 - headstone | £70.00 |
| BMP - various | £250.00 |
| Roberts Stonemason - Headstone | £50.00 |

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

(Proposed: Cllr Dore, Seconded: Cllr Pugh)

145/23-24 HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The HIP had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk advised she had met with Lezanne Cesar the Highways Officer, to discuss the review of the HIP. Whilst being supportive of the scheme, it had been suggested that the Parish Council consulted with the village with regard to the installation of double yellow lines at The Length/A28 and The Street/Manor Road junctions. The Clerk had put together a survey, which would be distributed throughout the village to gauge opinions/support/comments from residents. Once the surveys had been completed, the results would be fed back to KCC.

146/23-24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- No issues were raised.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman at 8:40pm.