

St Nicholas-at-Wade & Sarre Parish Council

Draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Manor Hall, Manor Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade on Tuesday 11th August 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors Sarah McManus (Chair), Gordon Bryant, Ticia Cheniston, Alison Higginson, Val McManus (from item 80/15-16), Peter Radclyffe & Sonya Smyth.

Also present: Paul Drake (Clerk), Derek Crow-Brown & Ken Gregory (TDC District Councillors), Roger Latchford (KCC County Councillor) & three members of the public.

77/15-16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

78/15-16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for any items on the agenda.

79/15-16 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 14th July be approved (Proposed: Cllr Radclyffe Seconded: Cllr Bryant).

80/15-16 CHAIR'S REPORT

Cllr S. McManus reported that she had been away on a family holiday recently so her Council duties had been limited. She said that she and several councillors had attended a consultation on 15th July regarding a proposed development of forty houses in Manor Road and was alarmed to be told by the developer that the development was going to go ahead regardless of any potential u-turn in the Thanet Local Plan. She said that she subsequently contacted the TDC District Councillors and local MP Sir Roger Gale and received assurances from three of them that this was not the case. Cllr S. McManus also reported that she was aware that Manston Airport had been designated for use during Operation Stack and that TDC Leader Chris Wells had been critical of the plan. She said that the Parish Council would monitor the effect of any increased traffic on the villages.

RESOLVED: To approve the Chair's report (Proposed: Cllr Smyth Seconded: Cllr Cheniston).

81/15-16 CLERK'S REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on his main activities since the last meeting and priority issues he would be focussing on during the next month. His recent activities included the delivery of a defibrillator which was due to be installed soon outside the Village Hall. He said that a ninety minute awareness session about this important piece of life saving equipment would be held on a date to be arranged in the Village Hall and that any members of the public would be welcome to turn up on the night. The Clerk thanked ex-councillor Bernard Clayson who had stepped in to deliver all the Parish Council magazines with him following the recent resignation of the Community Ad delivery person.

Three items of correspondence were mentioned:

(i) A letter from St Nicholas Court Farm responding to comments made at the previous Parish Council meeting by members of the public about possible smells coming from the AD plant. The letter said the smells had been caused by the digging out of the waste potato lagoon by another company and had not come from the AD plant. Cllr S. McManus stated that eight separate complaints had been received from members of the public on different days and that the situation would continue to be monitored. Cllr V. McManus said that, rightly or wrongly, some local people she had spoken to were afraid to approach the owner of the plant directly to complain.

(ii) A letter from Kent County Council advising of a diversion to a public footpath near Belle Isle Road.

(iii) Kent County Council's consultation on its Environment Policy. Comments can be made until 25th September via <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/KESconsultation/consultationHome>.

82/15-16 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Radclyffe reported that he had mainly been installing new paving slabs and clearing up the area adjacent to the Village Hall. He said he had a number of jobs to do soon including varnishing of the two new benches.

Cllr Higginson had nothing to report.

Cllr Bryant reported that he and Cllr Cheniston had attended a New Councillor Induction course which he found useful. He said that the clustering of Parish Councils where they could work closely together on projects could prove beneficial and that he would be attending meetings held by neighbouring Councils. He also mentioned the continuing problem of fly tipping in Orchard Lane.

Cllr S. McManus reported that she had helped out at the School Fair which had raised nearly £2,000.

Cllr Smyth reported that the Thanet Rural Regeneration Group had met that morning and were likely to be re-branding themselves and become more proactive on issues such as the prevalence of solar and power farms, new housing developments and internet connectivity in the villages. She said that the WCSA were going to be painting some areas of the Pavilion on 11th October and other volunteers were welcome. She said that a Strawberry Fair event would be held on 22nd August and a fireworks display on 30th October in Bell Meadow. Finally she thanked ex-councillor Bernard Clayson for his continuing litter picking efforts around the villages and Cllr V. McManus who had recently stood down from arranging coffee mornings at the Pavilion.

Cllr Cheniston reported that she had been speaking with Minster Taxis about a community taxi service and that the possibility of having a nine seater minibus stopping in the villages four times a day was being investigated.

Cllr V. McManus reported that, after consultation with the Clerk, her husband was currently repairing the damaged picnic bench outside the Pavilion. The Clerk and Cllr S. McManus thanked him for doing this.

83/15-16 THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Crow-Brown gave a brief update on Government plans to use Manston Airport for Op Stack. He also reported that Kingdom had issued 456 fines for littering and leaving dog mess during June and July and 283 of these had been paid so far. He confirmed that Kingdom resources had mainly been targeting Margate and Ramsgate so far and that the trial was currently self financing from fines paid.

Cllr Gregory gave an overview of the current situation with the Thanet Local Plan. He said that results from the initial public consultation were being considered by TDC and that the next draft plan would probably be published for further consultation in December. He said that members of the public would have a couple of further opportunities to express their opinions on the plan before it was finalised by an independent Inspector and the Secretary of State. He also re-iterated that any new developments such as the ones in Manor Road would have to go through the normal planning process and that no decisions were a foregone conclusion.

84/15-16 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Latchford said that that TDC's UKIP councillors had been elected with a mandate to re-look at the Local Plan and that is what they were doing. He confirmed that RiverOak had recently deposited funds with lawyers which were intended to indemnify TDC against the cost of a CPO for Manston Airport if it was proceeded with. He clarified that local MP Sir Roger Gale was against the plan to use the airport for Op Stack but had now reluctantly supported the Government's decision and said that any impact on local traffic would need to be carefully monitored. He also reported that he had attended a site meeting that morning with the Clerk, a representative from the KCC Traffic & Safety Team and a local land owner to discuss a replacement bus shelter for Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade. Agreement had been reached so he was now going ahead with the purchase of a two metre bus shelter costing £3,000 which he would pay for from his Community Fund. He requested that a small plaque be installed on the shelter in due course to acknowledge that it was funded by KCC.

85/15-16 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT

Tony Gander reported that he had been heavily involved in Op Stack recently. He highlighted several local issues he had been involved with such as fly tipping in hot spots such as Orchard Lane and Potten Street Road, the seizure of dumped cannabis plants in Orchard Lane, the launch of Country Eye, liaison with TDC Dog Wardens and helping to tidy up the area adjacent to the Village Hall and the off road cycle track in Bell Meadow. He also said he had been involved in more speed checks with Sarre continuing to be the biggest problem and was trying to arrange for the villages to have their own portable speed indication device which could be stored locally.

86/15-16 KENT POLICE PCSO'S REPORT

Craig Raisbeck was not present and no report was submitted.

87/15-16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) The Clerk reported he had contacted Canterbury City Council Planning Department who confirmed that no formal planning application regarding the proposed Chislet wind farm had been submitted but that they were expecting one in October. He also highlighted that the survey in the Parish Council magazine was due to end on 31st August and that councillors would consider the results and their formal response to the planning proposal at the next meeting on 8th September. He mentioned recent press coverage about a public meeting in Chislet which had been criticised by the developer because some of the feedback comments had allegedly been stolen. The Clerk outlined the procedures in place for the St Nicholas-at-Wade & Sarre survey and gave re-assurances that the local survey process was safe from interference. Councillors agreed to remind villagers when they saw them to submit their survey forms before the deadline.

(b) The Clerk reported he had contacted Thanet District Council Planning Department who confirmed that no formal planning application for the proposed development of forty houses In Manor Road which was the subject of the exhibition on 15th July or the smaller one for fifteen houses which had been the subject of an earlier exhibition on 15th May had been submitted. He also confirmed that he had received no further contact from either developer.

(c) Application AS/RAM/28/15 – Old Oak Bakery, The Street, St Nicholas-at-Wade (pruning of various trees) was discussed and councillors were content to let the TDC Tree Officer make the decision.

(d) Application F/TH/15/0610 – Coastways House, Canterbury Road, St Nicholas-at-Wade (erection of single storey front and single storey rear extension) was discussed and councillors had no objections.

(e) Application F/TH/15/0663 – 15 Sandalwood Drive, St Nicholas-at-Wade (erection of pitch roof to garage, replacement of garage door with window, together with replacement of front hanging tiles with weather board and removal of door in side elevation) was discussed and councillors had no objections (Cllr S. McManus declared that she was a friend of the applicant and took no part in the decision).

88/15-16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There was one question from Graham Jackson regarding the possibility of Ramsgate port being re-opened to relieve some of the pressure from Op Stack. There was further general discussion about this topic where it was noted that the TDC Leader Councillor Chris Wells was in favour of re-opening the port but that there were issues with dredging of the harbour and the size of existing Dover ferries which might need to use it.

89/15-16 FINANCE

(a) The Clerk presented the monthly payment schedule which included the following invoices: British Gas (Pavilion gas bill) £125.03 / Countrywide (Bell Meadow maintenance) £210 / WCSA (Bell Meadow external lighting) £50 / P. Drake (Clerk's salary) £514.90 / C. Cole (Manor Hall hire) £15 / Nationwide (transfer of reserves) £10,000 / G. Bryant (course mileage) £18 / D. Buckett (internal audit) £249.30 / S. Emms (replacement for lost cheque) £15.19 / Phillpotts (Pavilion repairs) £2,022 / Phillpotts (Sarre bench installation) £42.

RESOLVED: To authorise payment of invoices included in the payment schedule (Proposed: Cllr Smyth Seconded: Cllr S. McManus).

(b) The Clerk presented the monthly reconciliation between the cash books and bank accounts.

RESOLVED: To approve the monthly bank reconciliation for June (Proposed: Cllr Higginson Seconded: Cllr S. McManus).

(c) Quotes obtained from four companies for various pieces of outdoor adult exercise equipment for Bell Meadow were discussed. Cllr V. McManus proposed that two items be purchased and this was supported by Cllrs Radclyffe, Higginson and S. McManus. Cllr Bryant supported the purchase of two items but questioned whether installation should wait until next year as any items purchased were unlikely to be installed until the Autumn. Cllr Cheniston proposed that four items be purchased. Cllr Smyth questioned the amount of local

consultation that had taken place, whether the equipment would be used regularly and the high cost of the project at about £5,500 so voted against purchasing the equipment. There was approval therefore to purchase two items of equipment on a majority vote. Cllr S. McManus suggested that the equipment should be an air skier and pedal cycle supplied by Wicksteed which were not the cheapest quote but were of a good quality and would offer the best value for money in the long term due to the exposed location they were going to be located. This choice was approved by those who had voted to purchase equipment.

RESOLVED: To purchase an air skier and pedal cycle from Wicksteed. (Proposed: Cllr S. McManus Seconded: Cllr Cheniston).

(d) David Buckett's internal audit report on the Parish Council's 2014/15 accounts and financial governance structures was discussed. The report did not highlight any issues to be addressed.

RESOLVED: To approve the internal auditor's report. (Proposed: Cllr S. McManus Seconded: Cllr Bryant).

90/15-16 ESTATES MANAGEMENT

Cllr Radclyffe gave more details of his plans to ask local people to sponsor and plant a tree or hedging plant in an area of Bell Meadow to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, person or animal. He said that he was still obtaining prices and was hoping to get lower quotes than he currently had. The Clerk reported that only one member of the public had expressed interest so far following advertisement in the Parish Council magazine. Cllr McManus said that the prices needed to be finalised at the next meeting so formal plans could be made for planting in October. Cllr V. McManus said she had been approached asking whether engraved plaques could be provided for any trees purchased and planted. She volunteered to look into the cost of such plaques.

91/15-16 PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The Clerk gave an update on short/medium/long term objectives suggested by councillors. Cllr S. McManus suggested that a small working group should take forward the suggestions and work towards incorporating them into a new Parish Plan. Cllrs Smyth and Bryant volunteered to join her on the working group.

92/15-16 REPRESENTATION ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

Representation on working groups and committees was discussed and the following was agreed:

Monthly bank reconciliation & payment checking: Cllrs Bryant & Higginson

Finance: Cllrs S. McManus, Bryant, Higginson & the Clerk

Parish Plan: Cllrs S. McManus, Bryant & Smyth

Footpaths & pot holes: Cllrs Cheniston & Radclyffe

Play areas: Cllr V. McManus & the Clerk

Village events: Cllrs V. McManus, Higginson & S. McManus

Website: Cllr S. McManus & the Clerk

Thanet Association of Parish Councils: Cllrs S. McManus & V. McManus

TDC Parish Forum: Cllr S. McManus & the Clerk

Wantsum Community & Sports Association: Cllr Bryant

Village Hall Committee: Cllr Radclyffe

Friends of the Church Group: Cllrs V. McManus & Radclyffe

Thanet Rural Regeneration Group: Cllr Smyth

St Nicholas Action Group: Cllr Cheniston

Standing Orders were suspended at 9.30pm to allow for the meeting to extend past two hours.

(Proposed: Cllr S. McManus Seconded: Cllr Radclyffe)

93/15-16 WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that Graham Jackson had been the only application following the advertisement for a volunteer website and social media moderator.

RESOLVED: To appoint Graham Jackson as the volunteer website and social media moderator. (Proposed: Cllr S. McManus Seconded: Cllr V. McManus).

94/15-16 ASSET REGISTER

The Clerk presented the updated asset register following its annual review. He highlighted the small number of changes since the previous year and queried whether the fixtures and fittings shown should be included in the register or whether they should be included in registers held by the WCSA and Village Hall committees. It was

agreed that the fixtures and fittings issue should be resolved by the Clerk slow time in discussion with both committees before the next review of the register in 2016.

RESOLVED: To approve the 2015 Asset Register. (Proposed: Cllr S. McManus Seconded: Cllr Higginson).

95/15-16 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr V. McManus gave an update on the plan. She said that she had attended a Village Hall Committee meeting and that they had been very supportive of her plans. She mentioned a draft public questionnaire used by other Parish Councils to collect details of local equipment, skills and resources and recommended it as a way forward subject to some revisions. There was general agreement that a small working group made up of councillors representing both villagers could develop issues around the Plan in due course. Cllr Smyth requested that a proper framework should be in place, the work should involve liaison with other agencies such as the Kent Resilience Forum and that those involved should consider any appropriate emergency planning training.

96/15-16 ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE VILLAGE SIGN

Cllr V. McManus raised the issue of the condition of the village sign on St John's Green. After giving the history of its financing, drawing by local artist Mike Taylor who had passed away since and installation by the Millenium Group, she said that Cllr S. McManus' husband had volunteered to take the sign down to see if it could be repaired or needed replacement. It was agreed that repairs would probably not prove to be too expensive whereas complete replacement might be.

RESOLVED: To remove the sign to assess whether it needs to be repaired or replaced. Repairs can be carried out if appropriate and a small plaque added to the post to commemorate Mike Taylor but if the sign needs replacing, the matter must be brought back before the Council for further consideration (Proposed: Cllr S. McManus Seconded: Cllr Higginson).

The remaining agenda item was carried over to the next meeting on Tuesday 8th September.

The meeting concluded at 9.45pm.