



## Minutes

### SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Date 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Sandgate Council and Library, Sandgate High Street.

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**Present:**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Cllr R Bliss</b>
<b>Cllrs</b>	<b>Mrs N Bliss, Mrs M Findlay-Stone, M Fitch, G Fuller, L Griggs, and T Prater</b>
<b>Clerk</b>	<b>Ms A Oates</b>

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A member of the public asked about the Belisha beacon crossing which he feels is a dangerous crossing and that the beacons cause light pollution. He stated that a Pelican crossing would be better and safer for residents. The Chairman agreed that the council would take this matter up.

PCSO Mark Ball, who has been covering Sandgate since Gary Carr was posted to another area, introduced the new PCSO for Sandgate, Laura Zazo. He presented the report for February, previously circulated; there are still parking issues and he pointed out that anyone parking and causing an obstruction will have a notice posted on their car window. He will provide an update on any cars targeted and any fines given out by police. Laura Zazo introduced herself and the Chairman welcomed her to Sandgate. He mentioned key events during the year where her presence would be requested. The PCSOs mentioned that they could bring a mobile unit be used at the Sea Festival, which could be a lost children point. The new MUGA was mentioned, due to open in June; the clerk to advise Laura of the dates.

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**These Minutes will only be deemed to be a correct record of the meeting when approved and signed at the next meeting.**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm

2 members of the public were present.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Holben, R Grundy and T Heselden.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were proposed as a correct record.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone

**Seconded by:** Cllr Mrs N Bliss

**Agreed** unanimously. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

**4. Chairman's opening remarks**

4.1 Everything was going well with the MUGA, a major project for the council.

4.2 Everything was in hand with the initial clearing works on the toilet block.

4.3 A complaint had been received about a grit bin that had not been refilled. He pointed out that KCC fill the bins installed by KCC but the ones installed by the parish council have to be filled by the council. The bin in question had been topped up that day. The council would look at how best to keep the council's grit bins refilled. This could be linked to the handyman's duties.

4.4 Snow closed Sandgate Hill yesterday and there was an accident in Military Road due to the weather.

**5. Chairman's correspondence**

The Chairman outlined the proposed changes to the library which would be considered by KCC's Cabinet on Thursday of this week. Two libraries are running as pilots – Sherwood and Sandgate. There was a legal problem about the council taking over running of the library but the legal teams are working on this. The recent consultation resulted in 52 for and 2 against. When all the training was completed, the clerk would have nine volunteers ready to work on a rota.

**6. Purl Queen's Grant Application**

There was a general discussion on the application received from Di Burns of Purl Queens for a grant of £1,000. She had been given a grant before but there had never been any report on the outcome of the project. It was felt that £1,000 was a lot of money and the applicant had not given sufficient information about the outcome of this project; more information should have been supplied. It was queried that this may link too much to another project which would not be Sandgate-based. Two councillors felt that she should have been invited to attend the meeting to present her application and answer questions. It was proposed that the application should be rejected.

**Proposed by:** Cllr M Fitch

**Seconded by:** Cllr Mrs N Bliss

**For:** 5, **Abstentions:** 2

**7. Twinning Update**

Cllr Griggs reported that there had been insufficient time before this meeting for the Twinning Working Group to meet; however, a return boules match in France on 18<sup>th</sup> May was being arranged and he felt that there was enough interest to have another match in Sandgate later in the year.

**8. Land Assets Management and MUGA updates**

8.1 The minutes of the last meeting had been distributed to members. Cllr Fitch queried the membership of the committee as he felt it was too similar to the Finance Committee. It was pointed out that the Finance Committee was the body that made decisions on expenditure and it that two members were not on both committees.

8.2 The supplier list was queried and it was explained that, in principle, local businesses were used for the smaller contracts. Details of all offers of contracted work were posted on the parish council website and mentioned in the Sandgate News email updates. For larger contracts, like the MUGA, these are posted on the South East portal to attract larger contractors. The supplier list was continually being added to by the clerk when any new company names were suggested.

**9. Finance update and payments for approval – presented by the RFO/Clerk**

9.1 The schedule of cheque payments was presented (cheques 100805 to 100809) and signed by the Finance Chairman.

9.2 A query was raised about the payment to V Knight – this is the clerk's assistant who works on Wednesday mornings; this would end when the full team of volunteers for the library was up and running.

9.3 A query was raised about the payment to H G Wells Festival – this was the council's tribute in memory of Reg Turnill and was from the Chairman's expenses budget.

9.4 The latest bank reconciliation was presented and signed by the Finance Chairman.

9.5 The latest receipts and payments account was presented.

The report was received and approved.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Mrs N Bliss

**Seconded by:** Cllr T Prater

**Agreed** unanimously.

**10. Finance Committee report**

- 10.1 The report had been received and noted.
- 10.2 It was explained that the forthcoming by-election would cost only £400-£500 if not contested but could cost up to £5,000 if it was contested.
- 10.3 It was reported that only hot drinks from the drinks machine were provided at the recent art exhibition preview evening, no further expenditure had been incurred.

The report was received and approved.

**Proposed by:** Cllr T Prater

**Seconded by:** Cllr L Griggs

**Agreed** unanimously.

## **11. Environment Committee report**

- 11.1 Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone presented the minutes of the last meeting, which had not been previously circulated.
- 11.2 The Sandgate Society had stated that the parish council were to take over the maintenance of their information boards and that this had been minuted in 2010. Clerk to check minutes from that period.
- 11.3 Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone reported that the meeting with Saga had been fruitful; however, Saga had no intention of increasing car parking spaces on site. The possibility of a feasibility study had been discussed on the parking situation on Military Road. A 'share your driver' scheme had been proposed and it was suggested that this could be promoted in the council's newsletter. Cllr Bliss suggested that drivers' insurance would need to be checked. Another option was Saga's offer of free parking over the weekends between 9.00am and 6.00pm.
- 11.4 Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone had sent notes of the meeting to Saga for approval and these will subsequently be circulated to members.
- 11.5 Cllr Prater had emailed a draft proposal to all councillors for the High Street Innovation Fund. This could not be discussed as it was not on the agenda but members were asked to look at the ideas proposed. Three ideas were likely to form the nucleus of the bid. It was agreed that this item would go on the agenda for the full council meeting in April.
- 11.6 A serious issue of blocked storm drains along the seafront was raised and Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone informed members that both she and Veolia had reported this to Kent Highways. Cllr Prater agreed to raise this matter at the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board and advised that the drainage system was not regularly maintained, just yearly checks.
- 11.7 A query was raised by Cllr Bliss as to whether or not Sandgate's lampposts were safe. Cllr Prater advised that they had all been checked and had been passed as safe.
- 11.8 There would be 5 drafts, not 10, of the Village Design Statement. The distribution of leaflets had been resolved.
- 11.9 An objection had been raised by Sandgate Society on SDC's decision to grant planning consent re 78 Sandgate High Street, a copy of which would be circulated to members.
- 11.10 A meeting had been held with the Sandgate Society to discuss the society's concerns about some perceived overlapped responsibilities of the parish council and the society. It was all resolved; however, the clerk was asked to still look back in past minutes at any mention of the society's two information boards.

The report was received and approved.

**Proposed:** Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone

**Seconded:** Cllr T Prater

**Agreed** unanimously

## **12. Planning Committee Report**

- 12.1 Cllr Fuller presented the report.
- 12.2 The planning committee had met earlier this evening. The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. 78 Sandgate High Street had been called in but the application had been approved by Shepway District Council.

The report was received and approved.

**Proposed:** Cllr M Fitch

**Seconded:** Cllr L Griggs

**Agreed** unanimously.

**13. Information**

13.1 Cllr Prater would contact KCC about the possible provision of a pelican crossing in place of the beacon crossing on the High Street. This item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

13.2 The clerk advised that she would be absent from work for a period of between four to six weeks from mid-April through May due to unforeseen circumstances.

**14. Date of the next meeting** – this was confirmed to be Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

**Minutes agreed and signed by:**

**Chairman of the Council..... Date 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013**