

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of last meeting held on 12th March 2013 were proposed as a correct record.

Proposed by: Cllr R Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr Mrs N Bliss

Agreed by all except Mrs J Holben as she had not attended the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

5. Chairman's opening remarks

5.1 The Chairman reported that Amanda Oates, the parish clerk, had had her operation and was now recuperating at home. A large bouquet of flowers had been sent to her home on behalf of the parish council. Thanks were expressed to Valerie Knight for holding the fort in Amanda's absence.

5.2 The MUGA contractors start on site next week, 15th April. Work will take around eight weeks and should be completed by mid-June. An opening event will be arranged by Cllr Mrs J Holben.

5.3 Work on the toilet block at the Recreation Ground will now be carried out after completion of the MUGA.

6. Chairman's correspondence

An email had been received from Bobbie Allen which the chairman read out to the meeting. It concerned the felling of a tree on Wilberforce Green which was felt to be unnecessary and without warning. The matter was passed to Cllr J Holben for investigation as to who had carried out this work.

7. Twinning Update

Cllr L Griggs reported that a twinning fair, with arts and crafts, will be held on 11th May following by Petanque the following Saturday, both events in Sangatte.

8. Land Assets Management and MUGA updates

8.1 The toilet block has to be made structurally safe, for which there is a budget allowance, but there is no further budget available to carry out any remedial works.

8.2 Work on the MUGA starts next week, as previously advised, and a project meeting was held earlier this week with the surveyor who will supervise the works on the council's behalf. It is planned to hold a community event in early July to publicly launch the MUGA.

8.3 Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone asked about the possibility of toilets being provided for the increased numbers of people expected to use the MUGA facilities. There is no budget available for renovation of the old toilet block but it was confirmed that portable toilets would be provided for the community event.

9. Finance update and payments for approval – presented by the Acting Clerk

The schedule of cheque payments was presented (cheques 100810 to 100821) and signed by the Finance Chairman.

The report was received and approved.

Proposed by: Cllr Mrs N Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr Mrs J Holben

Agreed unanimously.

10. Finance Committee report

There was nothing to report as there had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last parish meeting.

11. Environment Committee report

- 11.1 The notes of the last meeting had been previously circulated. A meeting was held with Saga over the parking issues and a letter is to be sent regarding free use of their grounds at weekends. It was proposed a letter be sent to Stagecoach asking for subsidised travel, and a submission to Shepway District Council requesting parking permits for up to 25 Saga employees to use the Castle Road car park. Cllr Prater asked for the backing of this committee for this proposal but Cllr R Bliss pointed out that other businesses in Sandgate may want similar benefits. Concern was expressed about the parish council approaching Shepway on behalf of one business when other local businesses would be interested. The proposal would also need to be considered by the Local Business Forum. The Chairman agreed that the parish council could write to Shepway on behalf of one specific business as if others wanted similar facilities, that could be considered as and when. The letter to Shepway should not imply or suggest support from the parish council. After a response has been received from Shepway, there would need to be a full discussion around the whole matter. Saga had been asked if additional parking spaces on their site would be considered if this could be externally funded. This proposal is to be considered by Saga.
- 11.2 No official notice has yet been received but unofficially we have been advised that Sandgate has been awarded the Quality Coast Award. We will be able to display flags from 1st May (but as yet do not have any flagpoles). Keep Britain Tidy will advise on what has to be done.
- 11.3 The Village Design Statement consultation process is currently under way and will continue until 14th April. A copy of the VDS was shown to the committee.
- 11.4 Cllr T Prater had already circulated an email on the High Street Innovation Fund. Additional funding for the display of flags on the street lampposts promoting events e.g. Folkestone Air Show and if they can be used to promote Sandgate, has been requested. The final bid has to be submitted by 10th May.
- 11.5 Summer Flags – Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone has been in touch with Visit Kent, Discover Folkestone, Hythe & Romney Marsh and is getting information on flag pole sizes for next year's theme in the village which will probably be on a military theme to celebrate the centenary of the start of World War I. Further work is in progress on this issue. The Imperial War Museum is proposing that all town and parish councils in the UK get together to celebrate the centenary and a proposal has been made to have a small museum at the Battery Point shelter.
- 11.6 There is apparently £27million of lottery funding available for coastal areas, but bids have to be submitted by 13th May which is a very short lead time. Cllr Findlay-Stone to speak to Shepway District Council.

The report was received and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs M Findlay-Stone

Seconded: Cllr Mrs J Holben

Agreed unanimously.

12. Planning Committee Report

- 12.1 Cllr Fuller presented the report.
- 12.2 The planning committee had met earlier this evening when seven planning applications were considered, received since the last meeting. Objections to two have been submitted.
- 12.3 Correspondence from the Sandgate Society had been received expressing concern over the approval of the application on 78 High Street.
- 12.4 Contact had been received from Roger Joyce about the plans for Eversley College stating that insufficient notification can be given about the consultation.
- 12.5 Cllr Griggs reported on a meeting he had attended with the Shorncliffe Development Group. He advised that the project will be over 12-13 years minimum, phased in six sections, with the first phases likely to be in the Cheriton area, rather than Sandgate. The development will be in line with Shepway District Council's masterplan and existing open spaces will be retained as is. The Group is happy with the VDS. There was some discussion about the bridge at the top of Horn Street). Shepway would need to approve the project working plan.

12.6 The next Planning committee meeting will discuss the Community Report.
The report was received and approved.

Proposed: Cllr G Fuller

Seconded: Cllr L Griggs

Agreed unanimously.

13. Information

13.1 The Chairman raised the issue of the Sandgate Society wanting their notice/information boards repaired. Cllr Findlay-Stone confirmed that these had been repaired and the bill sent to Sandgate Society and confirmed that the information boards do belong to the Society.

13.2 New signs are to be erected by Shepway District Council along the seafront in the next few weeks.

14. Date of the next meeting – this would be the Annual General Meeting and was confirmed to be Tuesday 14th May 2013. Time to be confirmed at a later date by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Minutes agreed and signed by:

Chairman of the Council..... Date 14th May 2013