

# SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held at 5pm on Tuesday 16 06 2020

Via Zoom Conferencing and broadcast live on Facebook

**Present:** Chairman Councillor Tim Prater

Councillors Nina Bliss, Robert Bliss, Gary Fuller, Vannessa Reay, Nabin Siwa,

Guy Valentine-Neale, and Adrian Watts

Clerks G Thomas & S Horton

There was no report from the PCSO.

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

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

- 1. Apologies for absence: Councillors Michael Fitch, Tracy Stephens and Lewis Whitnall
- **2. Declarations of Interest** There were none
- **3. Minutes of the last meeting** the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 05 20, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed on behalf of the Chairman by the Parish Clerk

Agreed by all who had been present at the meeting.

#### 4. Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed new meeting protocols of hand raising and use of first name appellation.

#### 5. Chairman's Correspondence

It was noted that a number of emails had been received and a summary had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman expressed the wish that in future the correspondence would also be published on the website with the meeting's agenda.

#### Mid-end May

- Email exchanges with Jess Harman about the unacceptable use of play equipment after it had been taped up this resulted in an increase in visits by enforcement officers and PCSOs
- <a href="http://www.sandgatepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/sandgate-park-playground-and-adult-play-equipment-remain-closed-to-all-under-government-rules/">http://www.sandgatepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/sandgate-park-playground-and-adult-play-equipment-remain-closed-to-all-under-government-rules/</a>
- Exchange of emails regarding bins & litter at Saga Park with Paul Thornton Land Maintenance Officer further discussions regarding more bins and placements to take place
- Receipt of emails from FHDC confirming the acquisition of leases for the additional lands, Freemantle Park, the Solarium and Battery Point.
- Receipt of email from resident regarding anti-social behaviour on the sea front- (reported to Jess Harman)

- Continuing exchange of emails with Jess Harman regarding the developing problem at Sandgate Park, and request for use some regular Police / PCSO assistance-Possibility of 'detached working; raised.
- Notice to staff and councillors regarding 'Staying safe while working for or representing Sandgate Parish Council'
- Request by the press for further information regarding the anti-social behaviour at the park. <a href="https://www.kentonline.co.uk/folkestone/news/its-a-potential-covid-infection-machine-228608/">https://www.kentonline.co.uk/folkestone/news/its-a-potential-covid-infection-machine-228608/</a>
- Press release Freemantle Park and emails from residents offering support and assistance
- Exchange of emails with residents of Sandgate Park regarding further and increasing antisocial behaviour in Sandgate Park. Residents encouraged to phone 101 to report anti-social behaviour

**ACTION:** It was agreed that the formation of a working group, to explore solutions to the ongoing problems within the park, would be convened. Cllr Prater, Cllr Reay, Cllr Valentine-Neale and Cllr Watts to form the initial group, with the addition of members of the public at a later stage. Cllr Watts expressed a wish to work with Cllr Siwa regarding Freemantle Park in the future.

- Email cc'd by Ione Yerburgh regarding Coastal Park, lack of social distancing, parking and barbeques. It was noted that since this time a ban on BBQ had been instituted and the Lower Leas Car Park locked from 8.00pm to 8.00 am..
- Request from Jennifer Childs for information regarding the legal fee payments for park transference it was noted that SPC had made a payment of circa £300 for the lease to their park, while FTC would be leasing an number of parks and so the payments would be proportionately higher
- Re-opening the High Street Fund Offer received
- Email from a resident questioning the necessity of the 'no dogs on beach' ban for the summer months and cycling speed limit along the sea front. It was noted that the speed humps at Whitstable had been very effective. It was also agreed that Cllr Prater would research possible 'slow down' roundels and signage stickers for attachment to the pavement.

ACTION: Clerk to include cyclists and speed deterrents on the Environment Agenda

- It was noted that Marie and Phil who have industriously cleaned the Sandgate beaches for a number of years were now giving their notice. Cllr Prater had already emailed FHDC and Veolia to express his disapprobation. The possibility of the use of Community Payback was raised but it was noted that this was not taking place at present in Kent.
- Email received regarding litter from Little Fish and Chip Shop and other takeaways. It was noted that Cllr Prater would be meeting with the owner of the fish shop tomorrow to discuss the way forward. The owner had been very positive about exploring reasonable options and signage regarding litter removal had already been erected.

# **6.** Planning Committee

Page 2 Chairman's initial & date .....

It was noted that hardcopy versions of the revised SDS had now been published and Cllr Valentine-Neale would be distributing them to individuals who had been part of the editorial process, and also to FHDC Planning, as all future applications should refer to this document.

#### 7. Environment Committee

It was noted that the minutes had been circulated.

7.1 To note the consultation on the proposed revisions to the operating hours and conditions of the Sandgate CPZ in Radnor Cliff and Radnor Cliff Crescent as part of a series of measures intended to alleviate traffic pressure caused due to the width of the road and volume of visitors accessing the Coastal Park and Lower Sandgate Road West car park.

#### The details of the proposed revisions are as

at <a href="http://www.sandgatepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/proposal-notice-changes-to-cpz-restrictions-in-radnor-cliff-and-radnor-cliff-crescent-sandgate/">http://www.sandgatepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/proposal-notice-changes-to-cpz-restrictions-in-radnor-cliff-and-radnor-cliff-crescent-sandgate/</a> We understand notice of the consultation will be sent to all households in Radnor Cliff and Radnor Cliff Crescent. This Council believes that if the majority of households responding to this consultation by 3rd July support the proposed changes, they should be implemented by F&HDC / KCC as soon as possible. If the majority are against the proposed changes, the proposed changes should not be implemented and the current arrangements left in place unaltered

It was noted that a number of issues had occurred regarding the Lower Leas Park and these had been resolved to some extent with the banning of BBQs, overnight closure of the Lower Sandgate Road West car park, addition of 6 enormous bins, wardens and improved signage.

The consultation would seek to ameliorate the problems caused by the influx of visitors to the park and the area and would offer the possibility of visitor permits and remove the two-hour free parking arrangement.

- **7.2** It was noted that there were concerns that the problem would reoccur in other parks including Sandgate if visitors to the area felt unable to use the Coastal Park.
- **7.3** It was noted that the BBQ bins had been removed and were now in storage, it was felt that it would be useful to have one in Sandgate Park

#### **ACTION: Cllr Prater to investigate this option**

- **7.4** It was also noted that the placement of a BBQ bin on the beach with clear signage regarding disposal of BBQs would be advantageous to all beach users.
- **7.5** It was noted that there were large illuminated parking signs in the parish which it was felt were not particularly well placed.

#### 8. Resources Committee report

Minutes of RC meeting 9th June had been circulated.

**8.1** The RFO referred to the to the AGAR document that had been circulated prior to the meeting. RFO reported that Resources Committee had considered the document in detail including the advice of the internal auditor.

Resources committee were recommending for approval:

1/ Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

2/ Section 2 Accounting Statements for 2019/20

Proposal to adopt the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

Proposed by: Councillor Robert Bliss Seconded by: Councillor Nina Bliss

Approved by all

The Chairman and RFO attended the meeting from the Parish Office and signed the Annual Governance Statement immediately the proposal had been adopted.

Proposal to adopt the Accounting Statements for 2019/20

Proposed by: Councillor Tracy Stephens Seconded by: Councillor Vannessa Reay

Approved by all

The Chairman signed the Accounting Statements for 2019/20 immediately the proposal had been adopted.

RFO advised that we were operating within the overall budget but highlighted monies being spent at Freemantle Park which were not included in our budget for this year. A summary of costs incurred/going to be incurred had been circulated prior to the meeting which also showed the dowry of £6125 which has been received. Resources Committee have considered the information and request that consideration be made to Vire £3000 from the Dowry to the Environmental Improvements Budget..

Proposed by: Councillor Robert Bliss Seconded by: Councillor Tracy Stephen

Approved by all

**8.3** RFO advised that the internal auditor had advised that the Financial Regulations which were last updated in 2019 contained reference to a superseded act of Parliament and required updating. The revised Financial Regulations had been considered by Resources Committee and were recommending for approval:

Proposed by: Councillor Nina Bliss Seconded by: Councillor Nabin Siwa

Approved by all

- **8.4 It** was noted that there were delays with the implementation of CCTV and lack of speedy updates for the supplier.
- **8.5** It was noted that a new accounts management system had been adopted, which was used by many parish councils and should give significant time saving.

# 9 Library Committee report

It was noted that at present there was not a confirmed date for the re-opening of the library. Initial Tier 1 opening of one library per district was being trialled by Kent LRA, but Sandgate library was in a much lower tier so it was unlikely to open until late summer. While disappointment was expressed, it was noted that the delays in opening were for reasons of the health and safety of all the users and staff and as such it were crucial.

It was noted that a number of groups attended the library and it was felt that a mailout to residents regarding the delays and supporting the groups would be helpful.

- **10. Twinning-** no information at this time
- 11. KALC

It was noted that all communications sent by KALC and NALC were being circulated as required and that the recipient of the Community Award would be presented with this accolade at the first 'in person' meeting of the full council.

# 12. Information

**13.** 

12.1 It was noted that the Walking Tours were hoped to begin on 18<sup>th</sup> July with 10 tours of limited numbers, and only bookable in advance. Mapping of various paths in the parish was underway with indications of levels of suitability for different abilities, and it was hoped that some of these maps might be used for the walks.

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm.	
Signed by the Chairman	Date

**Date of next meeting** – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 5.00