

SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 18th January 2022

At Sandgate Parish Council/Library Offices James Morris Court, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate.

Present: Chairman Councillor Tim Prater

Councillors Nina Bliss, Michael Fitch, Vicki Parsons, Guy Valentine-Neale,

Adrian Watts and Lewis Whitnall

Clerks G Thomas

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 6.30 pm

- 1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Nabin Siwa, Gary Fuller, Vannessa Reay, Tracy Stephens
- **2. Declarations of Interest** none at this time
- **3. Minutes of the last meeting** the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th December having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Agreed by all who had been present at the meeting.

4. Chairman's opening remarks & correspondence

'Library roof: we now have a letter alongside the Library lease from our landlords making it explicit that repairs and refurbishment to the library roof are the responsibility of our landlord, F&HDC, and not Sandgate Parish Council.

Precept: I made an enquiry regarding the number of new homes in the Parish following the issue of our draft tax base with the District Section 151 officer. Following a review, they agreed the tax base was incorrect and too low, with a number of new houses in the Shorncliffe development misallocated to Folkestone. The revised and increased tax base has been issued and was considered by Resources Committee last week, and has had around a £3,000 positive impact on our annual precept income.

Access slope from Castle Road Car park to the seafront: has been under construction since Monday, following the agreement of its funding by District Council grants from myself and Gary Fuller via the Sandgate Society. We understand concrete is to be poured tomorrow, and then when that has hardened, handrails etc to be fitted. The existing "wave wall" at the top of the ramp and "dog leg" access will be retained, each of which will hopefully encourage people to approach the seafront slowly down the ramp.

St Pauls' Church: I have been invited to represent the Parish at the 200th anniversary celebration at St Paul's Church, Sandgate, on Sunday 12th June at 10:30am. I have confirmed I will be delighted to attend.

Lack of street lighting in North Road and West Road. Some years ago, Kent County Council removed / turned off the limited street lighting in North Road and West Road as a cost saving measure. With the increasing number of houses being built that exist onto those roads, I've had requests that lighting is reinstated. I have raised with the District Planning department if there is anything that can be done by way of planning conditions with Taylor Wimpey on this as they continue to build, but the responsibility lies with KCC. I suggest therefore we formally ask the Clerk to contact our KCC member and ask him to assist in getting new lighting for those roads.

Enbrook Stream: there has been another pollution incident in Enbrook stream running though the Saga grounds, with the stream "running white" (as it enters the park) and clearly polluted with something. The photos were passed to us, and then onto the Environment Agency. They have subsequently sent it onto Southern Water. Investigations are ongoing, but the more reports, with photos, dates and times, the better.

Library flood: Over Christmas despite the new roof works above the library, there was a leak in the ceiling in the area mainly above the public computers. The contractors have attended, think they have diagnosed and fixed the fault (a blocked drain in the centre of the roof) and have assisted with reinstatement including cleaning the library carpet.

Community fridge: Leonie has suggested that launching a community fridge initiative may be interesting locally, where people can deposit and collect unwanted / near to date / excess food that they may have. I have previously seen this in action in Cornwall, and it works best where the fridge is outside, but clearly protected from the elements, and it needs housekeeping as it can otherwise become a dumping ground for rotten food quite fast! Gary Fuller had mentioned the use of apps like Olio to make an impact on this locally, and then perhaps using a fridge alongside that as a community collection point 9rather than needing people to collect from homes. I suggest we trial a scheme of promoting Olio locally, via website / Social Media etc, and assess the support and potential take-up for a collection fridge as part of the scheme.

Sir John Moore Commemoration Day and launch of SJM Library fundraiser: was delighted to attend the 213th anniversary of SJM's death at the memorial on Sunday and lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish. The Shorncliffe Trust also launched a £500,000 fundraiser to seek to raise money to buy and refurbish the SJM Library at Shorncliffe. I know we wish them well in their goal.'

https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/shorncliffe-make-history-save-history-foundations

It was noted that Cllr Watts expressed displeasure that the MOD had sold the land on which the library stands,to Taylor Wimpey and felt that pressure, including political pressure, should be placed on the company to turn the venue into a community hub.

It was agreed that the efforts to save the library and its rich heritage should be communicated to the community via newsletters and the parish email. The formation of a joint venture of Shorncliffe Trust, Sandgate Society and SPC was discussed and it was noted that if a grant application was received from the Shorncliffe Trust as part of the fundraising, this would be considered by the parish council.

5. Budget 2022/23 - for agreement by Full Council

The draft budget and proposed increase in precept to £88,002 were considered following the recommendations of the Resources Committee. The budget proposed a 1.99% increase in the precept to £88,002 based on the Sandgate Tax base figure of 2,002.44 for 2022/2023. 1.99% is a rise in Band

D equivalent Precept from £43.09 to £43.95 a rise of 86p a year. With that precept income the proposed budget show a surplus of £2292.00 which is recommended to be added to the General Reserves.

Proposal. To accept the recommendation of the Resources Committee that the draft budget as circulated, and proposed precept figure of £88,002 (based on a 1.99% increase in Band D equivalent Council Tax), for 2022/23 be approved.

Proposed by: Cllr Adrian Watts **Seconded by:** Cllr Tim Prater **Agreed by all present.**

- **6. Planning Committee** It was noted that the minutes had been circulated.
- 7. **Environment Committee** It was noted that no committee had taken place since the previous Main Council.
- **Resources Committee report**. It was noted that the minutes had been circulated. It was noted that there was major increases in utility costs for the Boat House and that the use of solar panels was to be investigated. An electricity sub meter was to be installed to establish the division of usage between toilets and Boat House.

It was noted that the Green Canopy aspect of the Platinum Jubilee was being celebrated via the planting and commemoration for two orchards. It was agreed that plans for that Jubilee evening should be agreed and organised as soon as possible. It was hoped that a piper would be available at the lighting of the beacon at 9.45pm on 2nd June 2022.

Action: Jubilee events to be on February Agenda

- **9. Library Committee report -** It was noted that no committee had taken place since the previous Main Council.
- 10. KALC It was noted that all KALC bulletins were being regularly received by the members
- 11. Twinning-
- 12. Disposal of stored assets and removal from asset register A number of items are currently be stored on behalf of SPC by Harmers (at a cost). The proposal is to dispose of the items, remove from the asset register (as they now have zero value) and let Harmers have the space back with a possible reduction in storage costs. Items to dispose of are the Christmas decorations formerly used in Golden Valley (but not since 2019), a number of plastic bins that have been removed from service over time, and broken parts of benches bought as part of a job lot last year (good bits have been taken for spares / repairs).

Proposed by: Cllr Tim Prater Seconded by: Cllr Adrian Watts

Agreed by all

13. Bench on Risborough Way, junction with Enbrook Valley/Ferne Way The proposal is for the refurbishment of a bench, which is just in Sandgate Parish on Shorncliffe Road, at the junction with Enbrook Valley and Ferne Way. A quotation had been received from Harmers for refurbishment including Materials and Labour: £157.00 + VAT

Proposal: to proceed with this, funded from the Environmental Improvements budget in this year.

Proposed by: Cllr Tim Prater

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Seconded by: Cllr Adrian Watts

Agreed by all

14. Information-

- It was noted that two quotations should be sought for the redecorations of the Boathouse
- It was noted the clerk should investigate whether the CIL money could be used for the refurbishment/deep clean of the toilets and updating of locks.
- It was noted that the clerk would establish whether the Solarium area near the Sir John Moore Memoria could be used for the Safari Sale.

15. Date of next meeting 15 th February	2022	2
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Cionad by the Chairman	
Signed by the Chairman	