



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held on at 6.40pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

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

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|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | <b>Chairman</b> | <b>Councillor Tim Prater</b>                                           |
|                 |                 | <b>Councillors Michael Fitch, Nabin Siwa &amp; Guy Valentine-Neale</b> |
|                 | <b>Clerk</b>    | <b>G Thomas</b>                                                        |

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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**

- 1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Nina Bliss, Gary Fuller, Vicki Parsons, Vannessa Reay, Tracy Stephens, Adrian Watts & Lewis Whitnall
- 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 17th January 2023 having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
- 4. **Chairman’s remarks**

It was noted with disappointment the news of Saga’s departure from the Enbrook Park location. A commitment had been made in writing that during the remainder of Saga’s ownership, the Community Garden would continue to be supported and the grass area would remain open to the public. It was thought unlikely that the existing buildings would remain after any sale but that new builds might be expected. It was however, noted that the trees on the site are all TPO’d. The parish council would oppose any development of the green space/ park in any forthcoming discussions regarding planning applications.

It was noted with pleasure that the Folkestone Rowing Club had been successful in its bid to host the 2023 South Coast Championship for the first time since 2009. It was hoped that all business would be involved to support this event over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> September.

It was noted that the refurbishment works to the library had been completed, it was hoped that in the future additional S106 monies would be released for book stock. It was important to note that the refurbishment costs did not come from the precept but from S106 monies and an FHDC grant. Thanks, should be given to all staff & volunteers and Michael and Melanie.

It was noted that the library was gaining additional footfall because of the closure of the Folkestone Library, and that computer literacy was being supported by Saga computer buddies.

It was noted that Cllr Prater had been successful in his efforts to have a cycle rail installed between Pelham Gardens and Coolinge Lane.

**5. Planning Committee**

It was noted that minutes had been circulated. It was important to remain vigilant regarding any development of Saga as this would be a prime plot and needs to be suitable developed.

It was noted that works to cut down trees was underway on Military Road prior to the creation of the proposed housing.

**6. Environment Committee** It was noted that a meeting had not taken place since the last Full Council.

**6.1** It was noted that the Highways Improvement Plan had been received which was an opportunity to highlight the areas that the parish would like prioritised, although it would seem that there were no available monies to undertake the works. A meeting between Cllrs Prater & Watts had established 6 areas of concern including the need for better speed enforcement on the A259, a 20mph speed limit on Coolinge Lane, road resurfacing throughout and drains clearing to be assiduously undertaken to prevent ongoing flooding at every heavy rainfall.

Additional concerns were raised including cars exiting the High Street and driving up Military Road using the pavement which is flush to the road, and this would also be noted on the HIP.

**7. Resources** There had been no meeting since the last Full Council Committee.

**7.1** It was noted that Metrobank and Hampshire Bank investments were due for renewal. It was proposed to reinvest £85k of the Hampshire funds in a 1-year bond with guaranteed 3.7% interest and keep the residue in an accessible account. It was noted that the Metrobank had yet to make a firm offer of a bond, but it was recommended that £70k of this would be reinvested assuming that the interest rate offered was over 3%.

**Proposed Cllr Tim Prater**

**Seconded Cllr Michael Fitch**

**Agreed by all**

8. **Library Committee report** It was noted that a discussion regarding the KCC contribution to staff costs in the Service Level Agreement had taken place and an offer of an additional 15% had been made. It was proposed to accept this offer.  
**Proposed by Cllr Tim Prater**  
**Seconded by Cllr Guy Valentine-Neale**  
**Agreed by all**
  
9. **Sea Festival** It was noted that the Sea Festival would be taking place over the August Bank Holiday weekend and that it was hoped that sponsorship would be on a similar scale to the previous year. The initial paperwork had been submitted and a discussion regarding Sandgate Parish Council holding a permanent events permit would take place with FHDC on 24<sup>th</sup> February. It was noted that the Tonbridge Market would once again be invited to attend, as they provided a very efficient operation, setting up and providing staging etc.. It was further hoped that local businesses would take part throughout the village, providing refreshments and so on, and that perhaps more areas of the seafront could be utilised for stalls and activities.
  
10. **KALC** – It was noted that information and emails were being circulated as normal and that the clerk was now attending training in Cilca, a professional qualification, which could have benefits for the parish.
  
11. **Twinning-** None at this time.
  
12. **Information-** It was noted that the noticeboard on the village green needed refurbishment/ replacement. It was noted that the electoral period of purdah would start 27<sup>th</sup> March. The election would be taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> May.
  
13. Date and time of next meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 6.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....