



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 25th September 2023 at 6.30pm

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

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**Present**

**Chair:** Cllr Guy Valentine-Neale (*the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council in the absence of the Chairman Cllr Tim Prater*)

**Councillors:** Susan Claris, Michael Fitch, Peter Hickson & Simon Horton.

**Clerk:** G Thomas  
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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 absences: Cllrs Hazel Barrett, Gary Fuller, Rosa Morris, Tim Prater, Nicola South & Tracy Stephen.**
2. **Declarations of Interest Members** are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Council's Code of Conduct and by the Localism Act 2011.- **There was none at this time.**
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 31st July 2023 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
Proposed by Cllr Simon Horton
Seconded by Cllr Peter Hickson
Agreed by all
4. **Chair's opening remarks & correspondence**
 - It was noted that there had been two very significant events in Sandgate, the Sea Festival and the South Coast Rowing Championship. Both events had benefited from good weather and both visitors, residents and local businesses were very complimentary about their organisation.
 - It was noted that thanks were given to all councillors, staff and volunteers that organised and assisted the Sea Festival, particularly Nina Bliss and Deputy Clerk/RFO, Julie Tugwood.
 - It was noted that Sea Testing kits had now been purchased which would provide evidentiary information regarding the quality of the bathing waters in Sandgate, prior to the next application for a Seaside Award. Cllr Peter Hickman would be taking samples of sea water over the next twelve weeks, and this would be sent away for laboratory testing.
5. **Planning Committee report** – minutes of meetings had been circulated. It was noted that a letter had been sent by Cllr Guy Valentine-Neale, on behalf of Sandgate Parish Council, to the Chief Planning Officer, Llywelyn Lloyd, conveying the concern and disappointment that many planning applications fail to include reference to the Sandgate Design Statement. The letter requested that the district planning

process embeds this requirement and that planning officers are proactive in ensuring its inclusion in applications.

6. **Environment Committee report** – it was noted that the minutes had been circulated.

It was noted that the four key priorities of:

- Solar Panels for the Boat House
- Development of the Solarium
- 20mph speed limit in the parish
- Purchase and usage of Sea Testing Kits

had been discussed at the previous meeting, and ,as noted in agenda item 4, Sea Testing kits had now been purchased. It was noted that there were also ongoing actions by councillors regarding the other identified areas of priorities.

7. **Finance Committee report**

It was noted that the minutes had been circulated, and that the next meeting of the committee would be on 16th October. This Finance Committee agenda would include the second quarterly financial report, which would provide, when taken in concert with the prior year's budget, a strong basis for the forecasting and formulation of a budget for the coming year.

It was noted that the AGAR was expected by the end of the week and needs to be posted by 30th September to meet our reporting requirements.

It was noted that there was an anticipated receipt of a report disclosing an 'other matter' which would be in respect of an under quoted deposit account balance.

7.1 Tree Inspection

It was noted that a paper had been circulated regarding the necessity to change the time of year that the tree inspections would be undertaken in the future. This was so that any predicted budgetary issues raised could be included in the coming year's budget, and the report would now include a new area for inspection purposes, Wilberforce Green.

To bring this process in line, going forward, it was proposed that the Clerk instruct Invicta Arboriculture to produce a tree inspection report for Wilberforce Green for £175.00 and an updated tree inspection report for Sandgate and Fremantle Parks for £75.00. It was noted that a full inspection would then take place in the following September at a cost of £650.00.

Proposed by Cllr Simon Horton

Seconded by Cllr Peter Hickman

Agreed by all

8. **Library Committee report-**

It was noted that minutes had been circulated. It was noted that the Summer Craft Club had been highly successful, and thanks had been given to the Sandgate Society. It was noted that a Halloween Craft Club would be taking place on Friday 27th October for the under 11s.

9. **Sea Festival / Events report**

It was noted that the minutes had been circulated. The next meeting of the Sea Festival / Events Committee would take place on 2nd October, and that the plans for next year's events would be discussed in details.

It was proposed that Cllr Simon Horton become a member of the Sea Festival / Events Committee

Proposed by Cllr Michael Fitch

Seconded by Cllr Guy Valentine- Neale

Agreed by all

10. **Information**

It was noted that there were still several potholes present on Romney Avenue and the clerk was asked to contact Highways regarding this matter.

The ongoing presence of scaffolding on Gloster Terrace on the Esplanade was raised and this was noted.

11. **Date of next meeting 23rd October 2023**

Signed by the Chair.....Date.....