



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 11th December 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

**Councillors:** Hazel Barrett, Susan Claris, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Peter Hickman,  
Simon Horton, Rosa Morris & Nicola South

**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 Tim Prater and Tracy Stephens.**
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.-
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th November 2023 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
Proposed by Councillor Simon Horton
Seconded by Councillor Michael Fitch
Agreed by all.
4. **Chair's opening remarks & correspondence**
 - It was noted that a fatal collision had occurred on the Esplanade and the parish council wished to give their condolences to the family of William Brown.
 - It was noted that the Christmas event on 1st December was very successful and attended by over 100 children in the valley and in the library. David Cowell organised the Christmas Craft Fayre at the Chichester Hall and a wonderful a cappella choir with choir leader Katrina, from Folkestone School for Girls provided the entertainment. The lights on the High Street, in the Valley, outside the former Riviera car showroom and Christmas tree on the Village Green, are beautifully displayed.
 - It was noted that the thanks of the parish council were offered to all those who facilitated and organised the activities and events, including the hosts at the Golden Arrow, David Cowell at the Chichester Hall, Katrina and the choir of Folkestone School for Girls and Harmer and Son. A final very big thank you was offered to all the staff, volunteers and councillors who assisted in sign posting and providing Santa with little helpers.

- It is noted that Julie Tugwood has resigned as RFO/Deputy Clerk, and the parish council wished her well on her retirement. She would be succeeded by Chani Sanger on 2nd January as Finance Officer/ Deputy Clerk, and in the interim the Clerk will take on the RFO role.

5. **Planning Committee report** – minutes of meetings had been circulated.

6. **Environment Committee report**

It was noted that a committee meeting minutes had been circulated.

It was noted that the Councillor Susan Claris had attended a Carbon Literacy course and a Carbon free plan for the parish would be produced.

It was noted that meeting between Councillors Susan Claris and Tim Prater and Highways Steward Kieran Doble took place on Friday 8th December to discuss the updated Sandgate Highways Improvement Plan. Discussions topics included ‘20 is Plenty’ speed restrictions, a possible pedestrian refuge on Military Road and other matters from the plan.

It was noted that the solar panels project was now reaching the Planning application stage with initial pre-planning advice being sought from FHDC.

7. **Finance Committee report**

It was noted that the minutes had been circulated, and that the next meeting of the committee would be on 15th January.

- **Budget 2024-25 – update**

It was noted that the budget was now in its sixth iteration, and that the precept figures had just arrived. These figures would warrant a seventh budgetary proposal, as the present proposal was predicated on an uplift and included projects and expenditures which would now need to be reviewed. The precept figures were effectively a flat line with no uplift and would leave the present budgetary proposals £6,000 adrift.

8. **Library Committee report**

It was noted that the Christmas event had taken place in the library on 1st December and that additional games had been added to the stock for the Games Club on a Tuesday Morning.

It was noted that S106 monies from the Shorncliffe Development had been drawn down by KCC and a significant sum had been allocated to the renewal of book stock of both Sandgate and Cheriton Library. This renewal was the result of a legal agreement between the Secretary of State and Taylor Wimpey, and therefore it was assumed that in the near future, significant improvements to the book stock of Sandgate Library would materialise. It was noted that the Librarian was in communication with Libraries, Registration and Archives to ensure that this matter was expedited.

9. **Seaside Award application**

It was noted that Keep Britain Tidy organisers, who run the Seaside Award, had visited Sandgate, and the bathing beach and environs scored very highly. It was noted however that the KBT assessment was predicated on incorrect sea testing data, as the Environmental Agency had allocated an area by the BP garage on Seabrook as Sandgate Beach, and so any sea testing results therefore related to that area, and not the actual Sandgate bathing area in Sandgate.

It was noted that the results of recent sea water testing, undertaken under the advocacy of Sandgate Parish Council, in the actual Sandgate bathing water, had raised a number of questions with the parish council as to whether it would be appropriate for the application for the award in 2024 to be submitted. It was noted that the testing was occurring during autumn/winter and so seasonal changes in water quality due to heavy rainfall would be reflected in the results of the tests but that the fluctuations in water quality were disturbing.

It was therefore proposed that there would be no application for Seaside Award next year and that a report would be written and disseminated to elucidate the rationale regarding this decision.

Proposed by Councillor Susan Claris

Seconded by Councillor Rosa Morris

Agreed by all.

It was noted that in other areas of the country, some beaches had visual display units giving up to date water quality information.

10. Christmas Events Feedback

It was noted that it was a very good event, that the High Street looked beautiful, many businesses having Christmas decorations, with the Doghouse meriting a special mention for its display. It was noted that possibly in the future some of the businesses might work in concert to decorate their shops.

11. Information

12. Date of the next meeting- 22nd January 2024

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