



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of an **Environment** Committee Meeting held on  
Monday on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6.30pm

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**Present:**

**Chair**            **Councillor Susan Claris**

**Councillors:** **Hazel Barrett, Peter Hickman, Rosa Morris, Tim Prater & Nicola South**

**Clerk:**            **Gaye Thomas**

7 members of the Boules Club were in attendance.

1.     **Apologies for absence-** there were none.
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 were none.
3.     **Minutes of the last meeting** - that the minutes of the last meeting held on 8th January 2024 having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed.  
       **Proposed by Cllr Peter Hickman**  
       **Seconded by Cllr Tim Prater**

**Agenda item 12. Sandgate Park Toilet Block-** *It was proposed that because of the attendance of members of the Boules Club that this agenda item be discussed first.*

Cllr Claris acknowledged that the absence of toilets in any public area was not preferable and that issues of 'toilet dignity', should always be given serious consideration and Cllr Prater concurred with this view. However, it was noted that at present the parish could not fund the construction of a toilet block. It was agreed that it would be put on the wish list of projects that the Environment Committee would like to undertake and that if alternative funding streams, which were regularly investigated, became available, it would be discussed further..

It was noted that a Twinning event would be taking place between Sangatte and Sandgate Boules Club and a member of the club asked if there would be any financial aid available from the parish to provide toilets for this event.

**Action: It was noted that a quotation for toilet provision would be forwarded to the parish for further discussion.**

**4.     Sea testing**

It was noted that the report provided by Cllr Hickman highlighted correctly held assumptions that on a good weather day the water at Sandgate Bathing waters was excellent, but on a bad day it was not. It was further noted that there had been more 'bad days' than the Environment Agency had ever reported for Sandgate.

It was reiterated that the Environment Agency had been giving water testing results from the wrong area and this had resulted in perhaps inappropriate previous Seaside Award acquisitions. It was agreed that it was essential to inform residents the rationale for not applying for the Seaside Award this year, and use this opportunity to lobby for appropriate sewage treatment by Southern Water, which did not involve the discharge of sewage into the sea. It would also be an opportunity to lobby the Environment Agency to undertake water testing in the correct area.

It was noted that further water testing by SPC should be undertaken at the same time as the Environment Agency was undertaking tests. The provision of a sign on the railings by the swimming beach discouraging swimmer from bathing after heavy rain was further discussed. It was agreed that the sea water testing report should be put onto the website immediately and an open letter regarding the findings and recommendations should be agreed at the next council for dissemination.

5. **Carbon Action Plan** - It was noted a plan had now been circulated which focussed on actions that SPC could undertake to improve the climate crisis.
6. **Caretaker, Land Maintenance and Handyman tenders**- It was noted that the invitation to tender documents had been sent to FHDC for inclusion in the Kent and Government Tender websites.
7. **Environment Committee Budget**-It was noted that Cllr Horton would be confirming the current Environment Budget the next day.
8. **Wildflower Bed, Sandgate Park**  
It was noted that the bank had been seeded on 30th January and it was hoped that it would shortly be populated with wildflowers.  
**Action: A Christmas tree fly tipped on the bank to be reported for removal.**
9. **Toilets, Granville Parade-deep clean** It was noted that a request for a quotation had been made and it was hoped to be received soon.  
**Action: Clerk to investigate status**
10. **Village Green-cycle stands and bench**- It was noted that permissions for the installation of 3 cycle stands had been received from FHDC but that permissions from the parish insurers were being awaited.
11. **Hedgehogs** It was noted that the Sandgate Environment Action group would provide 50% of the cost of the Hedgehog arches of £125.00 and it was proposed that the remainder £125.00 should be provided from the Environment budgets.  
**Proposed by Councillor Susan Claris**  
**Seconded by Councillor Tim Prator**  
**Action: It was agreed that an article would appear on the parish website featuring the arches and including information about Hedgehog Highways**
12. **Sandgate Park toilet block- as above**
13. **20 mph**  
It was noted that currently the petition for 20 mph speed limit on the A259 had received around 400 signatures and it was proposed to extend the closing date beyond 13th March. A meeting had taken place between the Parish and leader of FHDC and an officer for transportation and parking to confirm their support for a 20mph area, and it was forthcoming.

A local expert was helping develop a 20mph scheme for Sandgate High Street that would meet most KCC criteria and it should be available for review soon. This would be a limited length scheme (to meet the KCC criteria on current traffic speeds), to be proposed to KCC with mitigation measures each side of the High Street to slow traffic on approach.

14. **Parking**

It was noted that if a 20mph zone was approved this would not result in the loss of any parking spaces on the High Street. It was noted that the loading bay was to be repainted and extended to three spaces, as previously discussed.

13. **Environment Committee-Annual Report-** It was noted that this had been circulated.

14. **Information** It was noted that potholes should be reported on the Kent Highways website and that it was then a legal requirement for Kent Highways to investigate the issue.

It was noted that bottle of wood preserver should be purchased for the Cannon at the Sir John Moore Memorial

It was noted that a grant of £20k had been awarded to the parish for the Play Equipment and Surfaces at the parks and that Councillors Claris, Prater, Horton and the clerk would visit the parks to consider the best use of these grant monies.

15. **Date of the Next Meeting** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 It was noted that Councillor Claris gave apologies for the next Environment Committee and that Councillor Hickman would be chairing.