



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 22nd July 2024 at 6.30pm**

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

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**Present**

**Chair: Cllr Tim Prater**

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

**Clerks: G Thomas**  
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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: Gary Fuller, Kirsty Hogben, Nicola South & Guy Valentine-Neale**
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.-** Simon Horton declared a historic pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 and would take no part in the voting process.
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th June 2024 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
Proposed by Michael Fitch
Seconded by Simon Horton
Agreed by all.

4. **Chair’s opening remarks & correspondence**
It was noted that at the beginning of July, Tim Prater attended the Joint Transportation Board, of which he is now Chair, to present the case for 20mph speed limit in Sandgate High Street. It was noted that this presentation was deemed persuasive and that it met with the unanimous support of the JTB but that at present there was no monies available within East Kent Highways for the scheme, although it was possible that the parish might be able to fund it within certain parameters.

It was noted that there was ongoing correspondence with KCC regarding the appropriate allocation of CIL monies for Sandgate Library and that an invitation to the Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives had been proffered to meet with the officers in both the legal and planning teams of FHDC who formulated the original agreement.

It was noted that there was considerable progress in improving the optics of the High Street and Esplanade; sleepers had been replaced on the Village Green and bollards in the High Street and the Sir John Moore Memorial had been primed before repainting. Tim Prater had rejuvenated the telephone exchange cabinet in the High Street.

5. **Planning Committee report**

It was noted the minutes to the previous Planning Committee had not yet been circulated, but a draft had been produced.

6. **Environment Committee report**

It was noted that the minutes of the previous Environment Committee, and key actions and priorities had been circulated.

It was noted that the Priorities for the Environment Committee for the forthcoming year would continue to be:

- The Solarium on the Esplanade
- 20 mph in the High Street
- Sea testing

It had been agreed to add Hanging Baskets/Planting to the Priority list, as it had been noted that this year the installation had been late, and watering had also been delayed. It was agreed that other ways for watering and planting for next year should be discussed.

- **Sea Water Bathing Sign**- it was noted that signage to inform residents should be produced and installed along the sea front and the appropriate wording was agreed.

A quotation for £38.00 for four correx A3 signs presented for proposal and agreement.

Proposed by Susan Claris

Seconded by Tim Prater

Agreed by all.

7. **Finance Committee report.**

It was noted that the last Finance Committee had taken place on 15th July and draft minutes had been produced. It was noted that there was a very tight budget and that certain budgetary adjustments would be needed (agenda item 8). It was noted that when two defibrillators had been purchased from CIL monies two years ago, that VAT had been claimed both as part of the CIL return and from HMRC. To rectify this a recommendation is being made to move the appropriate sum of £762.90 from General Reserves into CIL reserves.

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Tim Prater

Agreed by all.

8. **Budgetary amendments**

It was noted that a report had been circulated in which several budgetary adjustments were recommended, identifying areas where surpluses and deficits of budget were occurring. It was noted that this process of looking at how the budget was performing and making minor adjustments during the fiscal year would occur more frequently. This would be a budget neutral process, but was dynamic and critical, and would improve financial reporting. Some of the budget amendments would be one off for this year and others would possibly feature going forward and this would be considered as part of the annual budget process later this year.

It was proposed to approve the identified adjustments to the budget.

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Tim Prater

Approved by all.

9. **Library Committee report**

It was noted that the new carpet had finally been laid in the Children's Library after a delay of two years because of water ingress. It was hoped that this issue had now been resolved and colleagues at FHDC were to be thanked for their efforts to find a resolution to the problem.

10. **Play Surfaces at Sandgate and Fremantle Parks- discussion and approval for expenditure.**
 It was noted that the majority of the play surfaces at Sandgate and Fremantle Parks require replacement in the near future, although regular inspections of the surfaces had been undertaken by the RoSPA qualified contractors to ensure safety compliance.
 Quotations for replacement of surfaces were received from three reputable Kent based companies. The initial expectation was that only a limited number of the surfaces could be replaced within budget, approximately 5/8ths, but on receipt of all the quotations, one gave the option of replacing all the necessary surfaces.
 It was noted that a report and summary of quotations received had been circulated with a recommendation by the clerk.
It is proposed to accept the quotation recommended by the clerk which would replace all areas in Fremantle Park with a two colour surface (clerk to be delegated responsibility for choosing this), and a one colour option at Sandgate Park, with an area with a hopscotch (or other similar game) imprinted in an area formally used by the adult swings.
Proposed by Tim Prater
Seconded by Susan Claris
Agreed by six
Abstention: one
11. **Repair of Speed Watch**
 It was noted that some of the LEDs on the Speed Watch were not functioning, and it was proposed that £135.00 be allocated to repair the speed display screen.
Proposed by Tim Prater
Seconded by Simon Horton
Agreed by all.
12. **Information**
 It was noted that the Sea Festival would be taking place between 25/26th August and all offers of assistance with stewarding the event would be gratefully received from members.
 It was noted that there were several different issues with broken pavements, missing signage and that the clerk would report these to the appropriate departments.
 It was noted that productive discussions with UKPower Networks had resulted in an offer to purchase their portion of the building and lease back at a peppercorn rent. This would enable the solar panel project to take place if certain financial arrangements and processes were successfully undertaken and agreed. It was noted that initially the clerk would complete a Planning Application as this was essential to the process being able to proceed.
13. **Date of the next meeting 23rd September 2024**

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