



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on
Monday 11th November 2024 at 6.30pm

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**Present:**

**Chair**                      **Councillor Susan Claris**  
**Councillors:**        **Peter Hickman, Rosa Morris & Nicola South**  
**Clerk:**                    **Gaye Thomas**

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 8<sup>th</sup> October having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed.  
      **Proposed by Cllr Peter Hickman**  
      **Seconded by Cllr Nicola South**
  
4.    **Update on Priority Actions:**

**20’s Plenty Initiative**

It was noted that the extents plan is currently under review by the Kent Highways Design Team. Once this plan is finalized and approved, a local consultation will be conducted to engage the community on the matter. Project funding has been secured through Kent Highways and a Ward Members Grant from Councillors Tim Prater and Gary Fuller, with any additional costs to be funded from the precept. Additionally, the project will include the installation of a Speed Watch camera.

**Sea Water Quality**

In 2023, a decision was made not to apply for the Seaside Award due to the Environment Agency testing sea water at the incorrect location—Battery Point instead of Sandgate Beach and this decision remains in effect. It was agreed that strong advocacy with DEFRA and the Environment Agency would be necessary to relocate the testing site to the more appropriate area of Sandgate Beach outside the Rowing Club. A sea water testing protocol has been established for future testing activities, and water quality signage has been installed along the seafront.

## **Solar panels on the Boat House**

It was noted that planning permission has been granted for the installation of solar panels on the Boat House. Confirmation of the installation technique from the panel providers, along with a structural survey to verify site integrity, would be required prior to any grant fund drawdowns or discussions with UK Power Networks regarding the transfer of ownership of their portion of the property.

## **Sandgate Sprucing and greening.**

It was noted that a tidying of the planters at the Sir John Moore Memorial and the flower bed outside Riviera Court was conducted on 16th October by councillors and SEA members. Another sprucing exercise is proposed for 5th December, with plans to reach out to Kent Coast Volunteering to invite their participation.

**Action: Clerk to contact Kent Coast Volunteering.**

5. **Cycle Parking** – It was noted that new cycle racks have been installed outside the library and on the Village Green, and it is encouraging to see they are already in active use.

6. **Noticeboard on the Boat House** - It was noted that much of the information on the Boat House noticeboard is outdated. It was agreed to obtain updated notices and timetables for installation as soon as possible.

## 7. **Information-**

It was noted that dogs on the beach walkway could pose a potential hazard to the public; however, this concern could also apply to cyclists. It was agreed that responsible behaviour and caution are essential for both dog owners and cyclists when using the paths.

It was noted that it had previously been agreed that the installation of an island on Military Road would remain a priority, if funding could be secured, and there were additional areas in the parish in which speed calming measures should be considered.

It was noted that dropped kerbs in the parish would be included within the Highways Improvement Plan.

It was noted that there had been concern regarding the safety of the crossing on the Esplanade, with reports from residents of near-miss incidents. Residents are encouraged to report these incidents through the Highways website and to the police.

**Action: The Clerk to contact Kent County Council (KCC) to determine if the crossing is marked as clearly and effectively as possible**

8. **Date of the Next Meeting: Monday January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**