



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 28th October 2024 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, Peter Hickman, Simon Horton & Nicola South**

**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.

Proposal to elect a chair for the duration of the meeting: Cllr Guy Valentine-Neale

Proposed by: Cllr Susan Claris

Seconded by: Cllr Peter Hickman

Agreed by all.

1. **Apologies for absences: Cllrs Gary Fuller, Rosa Morris & Tim Prater**
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 Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd September to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
Proposed by Cllr Simon Horton
Seconded by Cllr Nicola South
Agreed by all.
4. **Chair's opening remarks & correspondence**
It was noted that the Play Surfaces have now been installed in Fremantle and Sandgate Park and are being used regularly whenever the weather permits.
It was noted that the new signage for Sea Bathing and for the Play Surfaces has arrived and would be in situ shortly.
It was noted that the Christmas event on 6th December was now fully planned, and it was hoped that all shops in the parish will take part. There would be 'Meet Santa at 5.15-6.00 in the library' and the Chichester Hall would have a Christmas Fayre with the Military Wives' choir singing carols.
It was noted that the 20 is Plenty scheme in the High Street is moving forward with an informal consultation to begin shortly. It was noted that Kieran Doble, Community Engagement Officer, and the Sandgate Society should be thanked for all their assistance with the process. It was noted that the cost of around £5k for the addition plans and consultation would be met by Councillors Tim Prater and Gary Fuller's Ward Members Grants.
5. **Planning Committee report** It was noted the minutes to the previous Planning Committee had been circulated. An application for the development of the Sir John Moore Library had been considered by SPC and passed without objection. It was noted that although it would have been preferred that the

building had been retained as a community asset, it was agreed that the application for a conversion to a 4 bedroom single dwelling had been particularly good.

6. **Environment Committee report**

The minutes of the previous Environment Committee meeting, including key actions and priorities, had been circulated.

The primary focus of the 8th October meeting was the discussion regarding applying for the Seaside Award designation. After careful consideration, it was decided not to proceed with the application. This decision was due to the Environment Agency conducting sea water quality tests at an incorrect location, Battery Point, rather than Sandgate Beach. Consequently, the water quality for Sandgate Beach could not be verified.

As indicated in the Chair's comments, signage regarding the current sea water quality would be installed soon, and the rationale for not applying for the Seaside Award designation would be shared on social media for public awareness.

It was noted that the next Environment Committee meeting was scheduled for 11th November. The committee would address several key priorities, including:

- 20 is Plenty campaign.
- Sea water quality monitoring & Seaside Award- and getting Sandgate Beach designated as a Water Quality testing area
- Installation of solar panels on the Boathouse
- The parish-wide sprucing initiative- It was noted that the first sprucing event had taken place on 16th October with participation from SEA and the Sandgate Society and that Cllr Rosa Morris was constructing a list of places to spruce.

Additionally, the committee will discuss the inclusion of dropped kerbs within the Highways Improvement Plan.

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

7. **Finance Committee report.**

It was noted that the last Finance Committee had taken place on 14th October and the minutes would be circulated soon. The six-monthly report, which is an integral part of the budgeting process, would also be circulated.

7.1 Budget 2025/26-items to be discussed for inclusion.

Committee members were advised to identify and propose any projects or items anticipated to require resources in the upcoming year. Members were requested to submit these proposals promptly to enable consideration of such requests as part of the budget forecasting process.

It was noted that the potential purchase of high-visibility tabards bearing the Parish logo and relevant information was discussed. These tabards would serve to make officers and volunteers easily identifiable at all events and activities. Additionally, the acquisition of clipboards and high-quality torches was deemed essential for supporting safety and operational efficiency at future events.

It was also noted that future Sea Festival budgets would be presented with enhanced transparency, providing greater itemization of costs.

Finally, it was acknowledged that the 2025/26 fiscal year is anticipated to be financially constrained, with significant planned expenditures, including essential tree maintenance and other outlays.

7.2 Items for retrospective approval

It was noted that in accordance with the Financial Regulations, that any expenditure outside the delegated budget requires approval by Full Council for retrospective payment. A list of these payments were provided to Full Council for formal retrospective approval.

It was proposed that the retrospective payments for these items should be noted and approved.

Proposed Councillor Simon Horton

Seconded Councillor Susan Claris

Agreed by all.

8. Library Committee report

It was noted that Sandgate Parish Council and KCC Libraries, Registration and Archives had reached an agreement regarding the library being provided with dedicated S106 funding towards improved stock provision. Purchase of stock by the Librarian with the assistance of Library staff would begin the first week of December and a scheduled time each fortnight would be allocated to reviewing new stock and placing orders.

The committee noted with deep sadness that a valued member of the library volunteer team is gravely ill. The Parish Council extended its heartfelt best wishes to the individual during this difficult time. The Librarian also expressed her sincere appreciation for the cherished friendship they had shared.

9. Noticeboard at Shorncliffe – It was agreed and recommended that a new noticeboard be installed at the Shorncliffe development. It was agreed that, where feasible, the noticeboard should be constructed from recycled materials.

Action: The Clerk was assigned to research available options and associated costs for the noticeboard, with findings to be presented to the council at the next meeting or to the Environment Committee on 11th November.

10. Remembrance Day and Christmas events- update

It was noted that at present the safe position for the erection of a Christmas tree at the Shorncliffe development could not be found.

It was noted that discussions about Christmas event collaborations with Saga and colleagues in Folkestone were discussed.

Action: It was agreed that the clerk should contact the organization managing the Folkestone Living Advent Calendar to determine their availability for participation in the December 6th event or other Christmas activities in Sandgate.

Action: Clerk to contact Saga to discuss the possibility of coordinating the lighting of their tree illuminations with the event on December 6th.

It was noted that the Remembrance Day event would take place at St Paul's Church on 10th November and members had been asked to confirm their attendance.

11. Information

It was noted that the Government is consulting on introducing powers for local authority members (i.e. parish councils) to apply to the relevant authority for a dispensation to attend formal council meetings remotely and vote by proxy in certain circumstances. This consultation would last for 8 weeks from 24 October 2024.

Action: It was agreed that when further information was received that this should be included on the appropriate agenda.

It was noted that Speed Watch data indicated concerning levels of speeding in areas outside those previously prioritised for attention. Speed Watch events in West and North Road had resulted in findings that over 20/25% of motorists were travelling at speeds over 30mph.

12. Date of the next meeting 25th November 2024 at 6.30pm

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