

SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2014 at 7pm

Present: Chairman Cllr Marjorie Findlay-Stone (MFS)

Councillors: Nina Bliss (NB), Michael Fitch (MF), Gary Fuller (GF), Tom

Heselden, Tim Prater (TP)and Vannessa Reay.

The Chairman of the Council also attended

Clerk: Ms A Oates

These Minutes will only be deemed to be a correct record of the meeting when approved and signed at the next meeting There were three members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Leo Griggs, Richard Grundy and Jan Holben

2. **Declaration of Interest** – none declared

3. Minutes of the last meeting – the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2013, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.

Proposed by: Cllr Nina Bliss **Seconded by:** Cllr Tim Prater

Agreed: unanimously

4. Communications

- 4.1 The Chairman wished to congratulate Tim and Claire Prater on their recent marriage.
- 4.2 Letter from KCC requesting expressions of interest to host the Kent Cultural Baton this was noted.
- 4.3 Email from Sam Stevens, KCC Highways Steward regarding recent problems with reporting faults. This had been rectified and the clerk had recently reported three faults: silted up drains, broken footpath sign and potholes.
- 4.4 Cllr VR reported that the pavement by the noticeboard on the village green had a big dip and the end bricks on the retaining wall were damaged. The clerk would report these to SDC.
- 4.5 Karyl Rimmer (dog warden) had replied that she would not be able to attend the Environment Meeting due to work commitments.
- 4.6 The clerk reported that she had had a phone call from SDC offering empty sandbags for local residents to use. These had been delivered to the library. SDC did not offer filled bags; anyone wanting bags would have to get them filled themselves.
- 4.7 There was a discussion on the Emergency Plan that a previous councillor had been working on. Cllr VR offered to take the lead on this. The clerk would forward all information that had been gathered and give the contact details of the Emergency Plan representative at SDC.
- 4.8 The clerk was requested to ask Kent Highways to deliver another one tonne bag of sand/salt.
- 4.9 The clerk reported that SDC would shortly be siting a new litter bin near Shorncliffe Cemetery, which could also be used for dog waste. This was in response to a request by a member of the public.

5. Transport and Parking Advisory Group ('TRAP')

The first meeting of the newly formed group would be on 16th January. This would primarily be to discuss and put together a parking strategy for Sandgate. The strategy would be submitted to the parish council for approval and then be submitted to SDC. It was advised that the process to produce the strategy should not take more than two months.

6. **High Street Innovation Fund** – update on projects

- 6.1 **Sandgate Entrance Enhancement** MFS reported that Vic Harmer was proceeding with the placement of the full boat on the previously agreed area. Michael Lyons was kindly looking to find the two boat prows.
- 6.2 New Parking Signage to Saga there was nothing to report.
- 6.3 **Windows into the Past** the parish council would be submitting a planning application to SDC. MFS expressed disappointment that the Sir John Moore boards wouldn't be in place in time for the commemoration service and event being held on 18th January, which was being organised by the Shorncliffe Trust. However, she would try to arrange to have the boards there for everyone attending the event to see, as long as the weather was not inclement (re safety).
- 6.4 **Wells, Wells** TP reported that a property for the pop-up shop had been viewed that day which looked hopeful but alternatives would be looked at. One other property (the old bank building) was ruled out as the owner had informed TP that it would not be available as he was proceeding with converting the property into flats.
- 6.5 **Phase II Signage Project** MFS and TP would set up a meeting to discuss ideas very soon.

7. Beaches Advisory Group ('BAG')

- 7.1 MFS reported on the first meeting of the newly re-formed group. It had been a very good meeting. The key issues identified were cycling, dog mess, litter and parking on the maintenance gangway.
- 7.2 MFS and the clerk should get together soon to start working on the Coastal Award renewal application.
- 7.3 David Taylor, Chairman of Shepway Cycle Forum, would make a presentation at the next meeting on the forum's plans that would involve Sandgate.
- 7.4 The next meeting of 'BAG' would be on 13th February and an open meeting to consult with local people on the plans would be held on 24th April.

8. Maintenance Gangway / Cycling issues

- 8.1 It was agreed that the Chairman of the Parish Council would write to the Environment Agency acknowledging that its works to the beach in Sandgate had worked; in the recent storms, there were no reported incidents of flooded properties by the sea.
- 8.2 The clerk was asked to continue with finding out about land ownership at Land Registry.
- 8.3 It was acknowledged that the vast amount of shingle on the gangway had a positive aspect there had been no cyclists.

9. Environmental Improvements

- 9.1 A request to purchase a new double bin, in the new financial year, had been put to the Finance Committee.
- 9.2 Street cleaning this was being impeded due to parked cars; the cleaner cannot get at the debris and it is being compacted by the cars, making the problem worse. This should be looked at by 'TRAP'.
- 9.3 The Wilsons have now 'adopted' the beach at Granville Parade so it will be litter-picked as part of their initiative with the Environment Agency.
- 9.4 VR reported that the fence is down by No 5 on Military Road, by the substation. The clerk would report this.
- 9.5 It was reported that the drains are blocked at Varne Court and Ocean Glen, off The Riviera. This is private land but the property management committee should be informed and asked to remedy the problem. MFS would liaise with the clerk in how best to do this.

| 10. | Business and Tourism Advisory Group report There had not been a Business Forum meeting since the last Environment Committee meeting so TP agreed to organise one before the next Environment meeting. |
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| 11. | Village Design Statement Update MFS reported that the printed documents were not of good quality so the designers had arranged have a reprint and to include a better finish for the cover. |

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- 12. **Shorncliffe Development** – there was no update.
- 13. **Information** – there was no further information.
- **Date of next meeting** Tuesday 4th February 2014 14.

The meeting ended at 7:35pm

| Signed by the Environment C | ammittaa Chairman | Date | |
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