



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 4th February 2014 at 7pm

Present: **Stand-in Chairman** **Cllr Tim Prater (TP)**
 Councillors: **Nina Bliss (NB), Gary Fuller (GF), Leo Griggs (LG), Richard Grundy, Jan Holben and Vanessa Reay (VR)**

Robert Bliss (RB), 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 no members of the public in attendance.

1. Due to the absence of the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Cllr Prater was voted to be stand-in chairman.
 Proposed by: Cllr Robert Bliss
 Seconded by: Cllr Nina Bliss
 Agreed by all.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Marjorie Findlay-Stone (MFS) and Tom Heselden. *Cllr Fitch had sent his apologies but this was not known at the time of the meeting.*
3. **Declaration of Interest** – none declared
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2014, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.
 Proposed by: Cllr Nina Bliss
 Seconded by: Cllr Vanessa Reay
 Agreed: unanimously
5. **Communications**
 - 5.1 KCC had begun its roll-out of its Safe and Sensible Street Lighting plan. Although this would only affect North Road in Sandgate, the new part-time lighting system would affect more parts of the parish; Cllr TP would look out for the two weeks' notice that KCC would send out prior to implementation.
 - 5.2 Email from Mark Weightman re cleaning of drains, gullies and gutters, especially in Castle Road and along The Esplanade - this was being pursued with Kent Highways.
 - 5.3 Email from Paul Smith regarding shingle on footpaths – this had been taken up with SDC and Kent Highways. The works to the drainage problems would be dealt with by the end of the month.
 - 5.4 Email from Jeremy Pinington re shingle on pathways – this had been followed up as with item 5.3 above.
 - 5.5 Survey carried out by the Wilsons at the beach clean-up event on 26th January listing details of litter picked up; anyone wishing to view the survey could contact the clerk.
 - 5.6 The Wilsons were planning to organise a clean-up around the Sir John Moore memorial on 15th March. The clerk was asked to contact Longacre Nursery to check that it would be alright for the young people to tidy up the planters.
 - 5.7 The blocked drain at Varne Court had been dealt with; the one at Ocean Glen had not.

- 5.8 Cllr MFS had reported to Kent Highways that there was no lighting at Radnor Cliff; the response received stated that one lighting column had been removed as it did not meet their guidelines. It would be replaced at some time.
- 5.9 Tony Jewell thanked the parish council for helping to get the street light outside his home repaired.
- 5.10 Cllr MFS was liaising with the management of Riviera Court as their six wheelie bins have no lids and are, therefore, open to the wind and gulls.
- 5.11 The clerk had received complaints that the Granville Road toilets were not working; she had reported this to SDC.

Cllr TP ended this item stating that, although there were several reports of blocked drains, flooding, debris etc, it should be noted that the recent bad weather was some of the worst ever recorded and, together with very high tides, some resulting problems were to be expected.

6. **Transport and Parking Advisory Group ('TRAP')**

- 6.1 The next meeting would be on Thursday at 6pm.
- 6.2 In the notes of the first meeting, it stated that a traffic island on the Esplanade had been agreed in principle by Cllr Hod Birkby. Whereas it should have read that Cllr Hod Birkby had agreed in principle to give his support to a proposal to have a pedestrian crossing on the Esplanade.
- 6.3 The clerk was progressing to get permission from SDC for SPC to site a cycle rack outside the front of the library; SDC was the owner of the building and forecourt.

7. **High Street Innovation Fund – TP updated on projects:**

- 7.1 **Sandgate Entrance Enhancement** – Michael Lyons had two boat prows that he had kindly offered to donate and he had offered to pay for their conversion to planters. There was £1,900 in the budget for this project: £1,000 from Cllr R Bliss's district councillor fund and £900 from the HSIF. The siting of the boat would be approximately £950 so it was felt that the balance of the funds was sufficient for the planting up of the full-sized boat and boat hulls. Cllr MFS was arranging to meet with Michael Lyons and would get the boat hull dimensions; then the clerk would pursue obtaining permission for the siting of the two hulls – one location was on private land and the other on SDC land. It had been suggested that sponsorship could be sought for a carved rower for the rowing boat; it was felt that this should wait till the other actions had been completed.
- 7.2 **New Parking Signage to Saga** – approval of the new sign had been received from Saga. MFS was liaising with Saga as to who would put the sign out each Saturday morning and remove it each Sunday evening. The cost of the sign would be £125; all agreed that this could proceed.
- 7.3 **Windows into the Past** – LG informed that the planning application had been submitted to SDC but another application was required as one of the properties was listed. Otherwise, all seemed to be progressing well.
- 7.4 **Wells, Wells, Wells** – Sandgate Passage was a potential location for a six-month exhibition and shop in Sandgate. TP and Sandgate Community Trust were working on the full project proposal; this would be ready in two to three weeks' time.
- 7.5 **Phase II Signage Project** – TP and MFS had still not met to discuss this project.

8. **Beaches Advisory Group ('BAG')**

- 8.1 The next meeting would be on Thursday 13th February when David Taylor, Chair of Shepway Cycle Forum would make a presentation. Tom Lord from Natural England had been invited to attend re recent applications for footpath designations. Everyone was invited to attend the meeting.
- 8.2 The notes of the last Cycle Forum meeting had been read and the clerk reported that the notes of the BAG meeting were an accurate account.
- 8.3 The clerk reported on the results of the land ownership application to Land Registry: the land was owned by Radnor Estates. The clerk was requested to find out who the new agent at Radnor Estates is and to write to him/her to ask if they are aware of vehicles parking on the gangway.

- 8.4 Seaside Award – the 2014 application was in hand; all agreed that delegated responsibility be given to Cllr Findlay-Stone and the clerk for completing and submitting the form.
- 8.5 There was a discussion about the vast amount of shingle on the walkway; the idea of creating a boardwalk and any other possible solutions would be looked at by BAG.

9. Maintenance Gangway / Cycling issues

MFS had attended the recent Cycle Forum meeting; matters arising and the land ownership matter had been covered under item 8 above.

10. Environmental Improvements

- 10.1 Four cast iron litter bins had been left outside the library; it was assumed that these had been held in store by the previous handyman. Harmer & Sons had been contacted and had taken them to their storage unit. Re the broken doors on the bins sited on the gangway at Granville Parade, the clerk reported that this matter was being dealt with.
- 10.2 Cllr RB mentioned that SDC has a large sum of money for litter bins and queried whether SPC was missing out on this. It was agreed that RB would write to SDC in his capacity as both Chairman of SPC and as a district councillor; the clerk to draft the letter.
- 10.3 The clerk reported that the new litter bin, supplied by SDC, had been installed outside Shorncliffe Cemetery.
- 10.4 Cllr JH mentioned that there was a dog litter bin at the recreation ground that needed to be replaced with a standard litter bin; the clerk was dealing with this.
- 10.5 Cllr MFS had reported to Environment Services that domestic rubbish bags were being dumped in the public bins.
- 10.6 The Community Payback team had done some shingle clearing work; thanks had been sent to SDC.
- 10.7 Blocked drainage grills outside Castle Glen and the library had been reported to KCC.
- 10.8 Works to the blocked drains causing flooding along The Esplanade would be carried out by Kent Highways at the end of the month.
- 10.9 There was a bench on The Esplanade that was continually covered in memorial flowers and other items; the clerk was requested to ask SDC to clear the bench and to ask what the permanent solution could be.
- 10.10 A request had been received from the family of the late Ann Nevile to be involved in the project to install planters in the village as a permanent memorial to their parents; the eldest son was a stone engraver and could produce the memorial plaque.
- 10.11 MFS had established that SDC was responsible for the footpath leading from Radnor Cliff up to The Leas; the clerk had been asked to request that SDC clears the path as it was covered with debris and silt.

11. Christmas Lights

A working group was needed in order to look at the current provision of Christmas lights and at any other options. Cllrs Nina Bliss, Tim Prater and Vannessa Reay agreed to form this group. As much as possible would be discussed between them via email and then recommendations would be submitted to the Environment Committee.

12. Facebook – Sandgate pages

Cllr Fuller agreed to circulate the link to the Sunny Sandgate page and TP offered to add a link to the council's website. It was suggested that a strapline 'find us on Facebook' could possibly be added to correspondence. This was noted.

13. Places and Policies – call for sites

It was noted that the clerk had submitted a response from the parish council to SDC by the due date.

14. Business and Tourism Advisory Group report

It was reported that the Forum was not meeting very frequently and not many members turned up to those meetings that were held. It was suggested that an e-forum may be more successful. There was a new budget in the new financial year to help with promoting Sandgate businesses; there was also some unspent funding from the HSIF Flags project; this should go on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion and proposals.

15. Village Design Statement Update

15.1 The printed copies were now in the library, available to buy at £5 each. The clerk would write to SDC asking how many copies to send for reference purposes.

15.2 There was a discussion about whether the parish council should produce a Neighbourhood Plan as there was funding available. An officer had been appointed at SDC regarding the new Community Infrastructure Levy; the clerk was asked to find out who this is and to request a paper on Neighbourhood Plans and whether he/she views our Design Statement as a suitable document for conversion to a Neighbourhood Plan.

15.3 The clerk was asked to write again to SDC (to Piran Cooper) requesting that SPC be involved in discussions about funding – both CIL and Section 106 monies as the Shorncliffe Development was a significant project.

16. Shorncliffe Development

16.1 LG reported that he had been contacted by two Cheriton residents requesting to be included in the working group.

16.2 Taylor Wimpey would shortly be submitting their outline planning application to SDC.

17. Information

17.1 Cllr Robert Bliss asked if SPC had a map of the parish boundary and he was answered that there is one on display in the library. It was stated that, although the SDC boundaries had changed, the parish boundary was unaltered; it was not co-terminus with SDC boundaries.

17.2 Cllr VR mentioned that there were potholes and debris on the high street – near the road island by the library; the clerk would report this.

17.3 Cllr LG reminded members that the sign in Enbrook Valley (by Risborough Lane) had still not been cleaned or repaired. The clerk informed that this had been reported to Kent Highways but she had been informed that this work would only be carried out in the spring and providing there was sufficient funds to do so. Cllr TP said that he would clean the sign himself.

17.4 Cllr VR mentioned that the works by the electric sub-station on Military Road had been completed but now there was no fence to hold the soil back.

17.5 Cllr VR asked members to start thinking about the next edition of Sandgate News and to send any news items to the clerk.

17.6 Cllr MFS had asked for it to be mentioned that she was very concerned about the state of the properties on the north side of Castle Road and whether there was anything the parish council could do about this. Members felt that there was not.

17.7 The clerk reported that Cllr MFS was attending the Community Compact seminar that evening, which was why she was not able to chair the environment meeting.

18. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 4th March 2014

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

Signed by the Environment Committee Chairman.....Date.....