



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on**  
**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7pm**

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**Present:**            **Chairman**                    **Cllr Mrs M Findlay-Stone**  
                         **Councillors:**            **Mrs N Bliss, M Fitch, T Heselden and Mrs J Holben**  
                         **Clerk:**                        **Mrs A Oates**

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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  
3 members of the public attended

1.     **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs L Griggs, R Grundy
2.     **Declaration of Interest** – none declared.
3.     **Minutes of the last meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.  
      **Proposed by:** Cllr Mrs N Bliss  
      **Seconded by:** Cllr T Heselden  
      **Agreed** unanimously.
4.     **Guest speaker** - Adel Wilson  
      Adel, who has won the Queen’s Guide Award, spoke about the ‘Think Big’ project, sponsored by O2, explained that she proposed to set up a year-long project, called ‘Together We Are Sandgate’ aimed at the youth of Sandgate. The aim would be for the group to share skills, meet new people, make friends, raise awareness of conservation issues and create a new magazine for young people. The council could show support by helping to promote the project. Thanks were given to Adel for speaking about the initiative.
5.     **Communications**  
      Someone from the MOD had offered to sit on the new Shorncliffe development working group. Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone has advised Cllr L Griggs of this.
6.     **Sandgate Information Boards**  
      Sandgate Society’s information boards are in need of repair. The society thinks that the parish council had agreed to maintain these boards in 2010. The clerk was asked to check minutes from that period. It was estimated that the boards would cost around £80 to repair.
7.     **Transport and Parking Advisory Group report**
  - 7.1    Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone has arranged a meeting with Paul Green of Saga about the car parking situation. No other councillor is able to attend the meeting with her so Zoe Varian will go with her. Thanks were expressed to Zoe.
  - 7.2    The clerk reported on a recent conversation she had had with PCSO Mark Ball asking him to pay particular attention to the inconsiderate parking in Castle Road. Zoe Varian (who sat in the public area) asked to speak about the access problems in that area. She regularly reports incidents with Maidstone and she is preparing a plan to deal with the problem, which Alan Lague from SDC will cost up. Everyone in the vicinity of Castle Road will be given a map

and be asked to feedback their comments to the parish clerk. It was anticipated that there will be plenty of comments.

**8. High Street Innovation Fund**

SDC has a fund of £100,000 and businesses and communities have been invited to bid for some of the money. Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone proposed that the council should engage with other groups, e.g. the Heritage Trust, Sandgate Society, Business Forum etc to have discussions on what to bid for. The deadline for submissions is 10<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone has the forms.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Mrs Findlay- Stone

**Seconded by:** Cllr Mrs N Bliss

Agreed unanimously.

**9. Beaches Advisory Group report and expenditure proposals**

9.1a There was no news as yet about the Seaside Award.

9.1b Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone (MFS) had made a strong complaint to Shepway DC regarding the state of the beaches, promenade and the village. Consequently, she met with Julie Thompson and another person from Veolia and they walked all around the area. They were horrified at how dirty it was so work on cleaning up would begin straight away. MFS was informed that Sandgate is zoned as an area with little footfall therefore there is less cleaning. Julie Thompson will ask that our zoning be re-evaluated. Maria will be back for beach cleaning from 1<sup>st</sup> April, but with Easter being early this year, cleaning will start before the Easter weekend.

9.2 MFS proposed that all the metal bins on the walkway be replaced with the non-metal ones, using the new ones and moving existing ones from other areas around the village. All bins to be repaired and tidied up as per the result of the audit, when received. Any metal ones still usable to be re-sited and, and the metal ones be moved to areas away from the walkway. Clerk to find out if this is feasible. It was proposed that the bins in the car park and two in Granville Parade are also replaced with plastic bins. The metal bins could be repaired off site. A request for a dog bin at Shorncliffe Cemetery has been made, and two litter bins at the Recreation Ground; the bin at Marine Point is missing a lid. It was proposed that two more non-metal litter bin and two dog litter bins are purchased..

**Proposed by:** Cllr M Findlay-Stone

**Seconded by:** Cllr N Bliss

**Agreed** by all

**Resolved:** that all metal bins be removed from the beach area and replaced with existing non-metal bins from other areas and the new bins; those metal bins requiring repairs to be repaired off site (if feasible) and then re-sited to where the non-metal bins had been sited; all metal bins not requiring repairs to be moved immediately to the sites where the non-metal bins had been sited before removal to the beach areas. Two new non-metal bins and two dog litter bins to be purchased.

9.3 None of the schools had responded to the competition request. Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone had spoken to Dan File at Sandgate Primary School who said that news of the poster competition had been put in the school's newsletter but Cllr Fitch had not seen any mention of it. MFS would put some words together for inclusion in next Sandgate News mailout.

9.4 The new signs are awaited.

**10. Business and Tourism Advisory Group Report**

10.1 Cllr T Prater advised that the theme for 'dressing' the village is to be nautical. Cllr Mrs Bliss reported that she had discussed the floral arrangements and colours with Longacre Nursery re the troughs and hanging baskets. Cllr T Prater agreed to get permission from KCC for flags to be flown from lampposts.

10.2 The storm drains along the seafront are blocked; this should be reported to KCC Highways.

**11. Village Design Statement report**

11.1 A copy of the latest draft had been circulated.

11.2 Help will be needed to distribute leaflets when they are printed.

11.3 A copy of email correspondence between Ben Geering, planning officer at Shepway DC and Zoe Varian had been circulated. This referred to a 'priority centres of activity, policy which could have been included as a reason for objecting to the loss of ground floor retail use in Sandgate. It was asked if reference to this policy could be included in the VDS. A recent application for change of use, which was approved, has probably set a precedent as the guidelines were not adhered to. It was proposed that the policy guidelines should be included in the VDS to ensure referral.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Mrs M Findlay-Stone

**Seconded by:** Cllr Mrs N Bliss

**Agreed** unanimously. Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone would pass this on to Catherine Hughes.

11.4 The formal launch of the VDS would be celebrated at the drinks event after the Annual Parish Council meeting in May.

11.5 MFS confirmed that the production of the VDS was in budget.

**12. Shorncliffe Camp Development Group update** – Cllr Griggs was not in attendance so no update was available.

**13. Chichester Memorial Hall update**

A funding bid is being put together and prices being obtained.

**14. Sandgate Society report (MFS)**

14.1 A possible amalgamation with the Heritage Trust is being considered, with agreement in principle. There is a need to have common aims and objectives.

14.2 A meeting has been arranged with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Sandgate Society and Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone to clarify some society and parish council matters.

14.3 £600 sponsorship has been offered from Saga for the Sandgate Byways and Landmarks leaflet, the estimated cost would be £1,700 plus VAT for 1000–1500 copies. Members felt that this was a Sandgate Society project and the parish council has not budgeted for this. Sandgate Society has not approached the council for funding.

14.4 A Blue Plaque will be commissioned to honour Reg Turnill. It was suggested that the parish council may wish to give a donation in his name to the HG Wells Festival. The Chairman would be asked.

14.5 The Society would like to run an event over the Easter Weekend - 'Down Memory Lane'.

**15. Information** – there were no other matters of information.

**16. Date of next meeting** – this would be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 at 7.00pm.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

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