



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 1st September at 7.00pm

Present: **Chairman** **Cllr Marjorie Findlay-Stone**
 Councillors: **Nina Bliss, Adrian Watts, Nabin Siwa, Guy Valentine-Neale and**
 Tim Prater
 The Chairman of the Council was also present
Clerk: **Mrs G Thomas**

Mr Kurt Stephens was invited to attend the meeting to speak on item 9 Business Support Report

These Minutes will only be deemed to be a correct record of the meeting when approved and signed at the next meeting
Meeting started 7.00pm.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr G Fuller
2. **Declaration of Interest** – none declared
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2015, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.
Proposed by: Cllr N Bliss
Seconded by: Cllr A Watts
Agreed: unanimously
4. **Communications**
 - 4.1 Email received 3rd August 2015 from Mr T Martin of KALC regarding business rates and toilets. **Action: clerk to write to Mr Damian Collins / Mr Martin giving SPC’s support to the business rates campaign.**
 - 4.2 Email received from Department of Communities and Local Government, 10th August 2015, regarding the Coastal Community Teams. **Action: clerk to put link to document onto next newsletter.**
 - 4.3 Email received 10th August 2015 from Mr Damian Collins MP in response to an earlier letter from SPC regarding Operation Stack. This was noted.
 - 4.4 Parish Clerk informed SPC of the appearance of a sinkhole in Sunnyside Road at the weekend. This was reported and the area is now coned off.
 - 4.5 Email received 1st September 2015 from Deborah Watkins, Highway Steward, regarding the cleaning of gullies in Military Road - to be discussed at item 8.3.
5. **Transport and Parking (TRAP)**
 - 5.1 Cllr Findlay-Stone said that she had contacted Mr Fred Miller and given him the outcomes of the parking survey and another request had been placed to include Military Road in the next consultation.
 - 5.2 Cllr R Bliss said that the traffic wardens had done an excellent job during the Sea Festival and that he intended to write a letter of congratulation and thanks for their sterling work to Mr Malcolm Dearden, district councillor at SDC.

6. High Street Innovation Fund

- 6.1 Phase Two Signage Project: Cllr Findlay-Stone said that the additional fingerpost was now in place and it was agreed that the location was an excellent choice.
- 6.2 Waterloo Boards: it was noted that a lower price of £97.50 had been agreed with SDC for this planning application and it was proposed that this sum should come from the Environmental Improvements fund.

Proposed by Cllr M Findlay-Stone

Seconded by Cllr N Bliss

Agreed by All

It was noted that when the date of the erection of the boards is agreed, Mr Chris Shaw would be informed so that the Shorncliffe Trust can have some involvement in the occasion.

Action: Clerk to contact SDC to ascertain their charging policy with regard to SPC and other parishes and town councils.

7. Beach Management Group

- 7.1 **Beach Advisory Group (BAG) update:** Cllr Watts said that once the kiosk was under the parish's tenure the BAG group would focus on how the area of the beach would best benefit from it and how the area could be best organised.
- 7.2 **Parking on the maintenance gangway:** Cllr Prater said that Giles Barnard at SDC had informed him that the maintenance gangway was owned by the Environment Agency.
Action: clerk to contact Mr Barnard to get confirmation and proof of ownership.
- 7.3 **Litter bins on the maintenance gangway:** Cllr Findlay-Stone said that she would like to have a meeting with Steve West of Veolia to discuss the supposed unsafe access for emptying some of the parish's litter bins. This was in response to information that Veolia was unwilling to empty some of the parish's bins because of health and safety concerns re: access.

8. Environmental Improvements

- 8.1 **Regimental boards - proposal to purchase boards:** It was decided that this item should be deferred to the next meeting following investigations regarding possible locations.
- 8.2 **Wheelie bins-update:** Mr Roger Joyce was making drawings of proposed wheelie bin screening. Cllr Findlay-Stone said that it had been made clear to Mr J Hunter, of the management company for Riviera Court, that SPC was prepared to pay for the design and planning application but not for the actual construction or siting of the screens.
- 8.3 **Street cleaning/ drains/ litter:** An email received from Kent County Council's highway steward indicated problems with cleaning the gullies on Military Road because the residents were ignoring no parking signs.
Action (1): clerk to contact Ms Watkins to suggest that parking notices are issued to stop parking on the road.
Action (2): clerk to write to SDC to request that all hills/ gullies are given more frequent cleaning to prevent the heavy build-up of debris and silt which accumulates on drain covers.

9. Business Support report

Mr Kurt Stephens told the committee that he had been speaking to local businesses regarding the Sandgate website business listing and that it was a priority to get the website business details updated. Mr Stephens said that one of his aims was getting businesses more involved in community activities. He proposed to write a report for the parish website to target enthusiastic businesses and to promote the business forum.

It was suggested that the 27th November would be a good date for the village Christmas event for the switch on of the Christmas lights and Cllr Prater suggested that that would be a good engagement date for businesses as they could support the event by being open in the evening and also festively decorate their windows. Cllr Findlay-Stone said that she had offered to take the lead for organising the Christmas event and that it would take place either in the SPC offices / library or St Pauls Church.

Cllr R Bliss said that the parish council could subsidise a lunch and get a guest speaker to talk to the forum. Cllr Findlay-Stone recommended forward planning of any events during the year to which the businesses could contribute.

10. Sandgate Society update

Cllr Findlay-Stone said that Sandgate Society's summer party had been very successful and the lease on the Fire Station was currently being reviewed.

11. Shorncliffe Development

It was agreed that as Cllr L Griggs was no longer on the Environment Committee that this item should be removed from future Environment agendas and have it as part of the main council agenda.

12. William Cotter VC Commemorative steering – there was no update

13. Events – Cllr N Bliss said that the Sea Festival had been very successful and that a lot of positive feedback had been received.

14. Information

Cllr Watts said that he felt that greater connectivity between all the different organisations was needed including the U3A, Sandgate Society and so on and that Streetlife could be a valuable medium.

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th October 2015

The meeting ended at 8:10pm

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