



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an *Environment* Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 3rd September 2013 at 7pm

Present: **Chairman** **Cllr Mrs M Findlay-Stone**
 Councillors: **T Prater, Mrs N Bliss, L Griggs, Mrs J Holben, G Fuller,**
 Mrs V Reay, T Heselden
 Minute Taker: **Miss A Sanders**
 The Chairman of the Council also attended

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. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs M Fitch, R Grundy
2. **Declaration of Interest** – none declared.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2013, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.
 Proposed by: Cllr Mrs M Findlay-Stone
 Seconded by: Cllr Mrs N Bliss
 Agreed: unanimously
- 4 **SDC Coastal Co-ordinator – presentation by Alex Sansom**
 Ms Sansom presented two areas for discussion: The Coastal Strategy (a brief explanation outlining the need for ideas and input) and the Coastal Forum (to meet and deal with coastal issues). There was no budget for the latter so funds would be raised externally. Ms Sansom explained that there would need to be a list of projects and she would therefore like feedback and ideas as to what issues should take priority. Some issues and questions were raised:
 - 4.1 Water standards: the parish council would like to know exactly what the current standard is and whether the grade would fall from ‘excellent’ to ‘good’ after the new regulations.
 - 4.2 What areas will the Coastal Strategy cover? Will this include the sea and beach as well as the village? It was explained that at the moment this is just down to a feeling of judgement, i.e. areas that have a ‘coastal feel’. Ms Sansom would like feedback as to which specific areas should be concentrated on.
 - 4.3 Maintenance Gangway: the restriction of the gangway’s width is obstructing promotion of leisure and industry. It is important that the maintenance gangway is therefore controlled; vehicles have begun to park over water tanks. Perhaps the coastal groups could be used to help with this issue. Ms Sansom also suggested ‘chunking’ the coast into separate areas.
 - 4.4 Clearing the sea bed: it was suggested that perhaps this could be considered in the future.
 - 4.5 Currently, Cllr R Grundy is on the Coastal Forum.
5. **Communications:**
 - 5.1 Email regarding the new flags in the high street – this had been responded to.
 - 5.2 Email - concerns that glass was found on the beach opposite Bar Vasa. The question as to why plastic glasses are not used was raised. The situation had been followed up.

- 5.3 Highway Improvements: road resurface on 26/09/2013 for 8 nights between 7pm and 2am. It was suggested that an email notification about the resurfacing be sent to high street residents and other residents in Sandgate. Also, the question was raised as to where the equipment for these works would be placed, i.e. the green should not be used - the Parish Clerk to inquire about this.
- 5.4 Change of use of properties in the high street regarding the consultation of relaxing development law: the council expressed concern – if this law was relaxed the situation may snowball. There was a strong opposition to having more residential properties in the high street. Councillors expressed the need to protect the heart of the village – the shops etc were essential to this. However, a house is better than a derelict property. The information regarding these regulations would be circulated again via email. Also, it would be sensible for the parish council to be backed by the Village Design Statement information; the relevant paragraph in the VDS would also be circulated.
- 5.5 Heart Forum – Roger Joyce, Heritage and Tourism Forum. Cllr Mrs J Holben was on the forum so could provide feedback on progress regarding the centenary. Ideas for centenary events were discussed, for example an open air concert at SAGA. Also a ‘soldiers march’ pathway from Shorncliffe. There was also a discussion about potential activities in response to historical events, for example, liberation of Paris. There would need to be a business plan of events in relation to moments in history. A compilation of dates, bank holidays etc, and a timeline of historical events would be ideal. This would help to match up event ideas with possible dates. Cllr T Prater would begin dealing with this. It was also seen as essential that local businesses were engaged.
- 5.6 Letter from Ros McCarthy regarding the William Cotter memorial, commemorative paving slab: in response to this letter, the parish council was enthusiastic to go ahead with the memorial; the Parish Clerk to respond to this.
- 5.7 Removal of John Moore Statue: It had been suggested that the statue be moved to Sandgate. All councillors were very much in favour; the Parish Clerk to respond to this.

6. **The Redoubt – update on listing / Shorncliffe Trust Memorial Statue**

- 6.1 Any view on looking at The Redoubt regarding listing would be done by English Heritage.
- 6.2 The statue had been covered under 5.7.

7. **Fire Hydrants**

KCC had asked SPC to locate all fire hydrants in Sandgate and make sure they were visible. The council agreed that this could be a difficult task to complete effectively so were not prepared to carry out this inspection.

8. **Transport and Parking Advisory Group**

There was no further update – communications with SAGA needed to be established regarding parking.

9. **High Street Innovation Fund**

- 9.1 **Flags** - There had been positive and negative comments about the flags. Cllr Mrs M Findlay-Stone explained the restrictions in having vertical and double sided flags.
- 9.2 **Boats enhancement** – proposal to spend the £990 from the High Street Innovation Fund and submit an application to the Finance Committee for £1,100 for siting of rowing boat, landscaping and planting of surrounding area. The proposal was not upheld. Three options had been proposed by SDC; option 3 was the preferred one, which required commissioning an artist, as this would cost nothing to be maintained. The committee would first like to obtain a specific cost for this option before funding is discussed.
- 9.3 **Saga parking** - to be discussed at a later date.
- 9.4 **Windows into the Past** – proposal to spend £360 from the High Street Innovation Fund on boards for the Coast Guard Cottages and Sea wall.

Proposed by: Cllr Mrs M Findlay-Stone

Seconded by: Cllr L Griggs

Agreed: unanimously; on condition that planning permission be sought for the Sea Point Cafe boards to be secured.

- 9.5 **Wells project update** – business/event plan: the funding needed to be addressed - the legality, proper auditing and book keeping etc. The key point at the moment would be to secure premises for the pop-up shop for an April/May opening.
- 9.6 **Phase Two** - £3,900 worth of signage had been obtained. The next step was to commission signs.

10. Beaches Advisory Group

- 10.1 **Seaside Award** – the inspection would take place on or around 11th September
- 10.2 **Sandpit** – proposal to have costed and seek permission for a sandpit on the beach at Granville Parade. The committee agreed that there was a risk attached to this due to maintenance. Also the sandpit may impede on the proposed gangway. The proposal was not upheld.
- 10.3 **Litter Bins** – proposal to purchase 2 double bins for Granville Parade and screening of bins on the high street. These would be placed outside the car park and on the corner of Granville Parade. The finance could be obtained from the environment budget. All agreed that this proposal should be put to the finance committee.
- 10.4 **Maintenance Gangway - (pedestrians/cyclists accessibility)** – proposal to make representation to MP Damian Collins to consider central government support for a boardwalk from Marine Point to the end of Coast Guard cottages to alleviate congestion on the walkway together with appropriate barriers and signage. The committee was happy to accommodate cyclists but proposals to do so needed backing. Suggestions included: barriers at the entrance to the walkway as well as clear and specific signage, eg: ‘cyclists dismount’ and ‘shared access’. It was agreed that these specifics do not yet need to be discussed – if the boardwalk was accepted then these details could be addressed.
- 10.5 **Request for more information from SDC re kiosk on Granville Parade** – Alex Sansom had provided some information: she reported that a formal offer for the kiosk could be made to the council. Ideally SPC would need some information regarding costs of the public toilets – income, expenditure and usage from the last twelve months.

11. Business and Tourism Advisory Group report – there was no update.

12. Village Design Statement update – the working group was still awaiting the schedule of changes. The Finance Committee had agreed to a print run of 100 copies.

13. Sea Festival update – it was reported that the event was a great success. The firework display had to be postponed due to the bad weather.

14. Chichester Memorial Hall update – there was no update.

15. Information

- 15.1 The community event at the Recreation Ground went well.
- 15.2 Recreation Ground - the tennis court and MUGA (multi use games area) had been completed. There were now four picnic tables and new bins and more benches and sign posts to come soon. An adult fitness area had also been suggested.
- 15.3 Wheelie Bin Screening – putting screens in place for the wheelie bins outside Riviera Court. It was agreed that improving the outside appearance would be in the interest of the owners.

16. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 1st October 2013

The meeting ended at 8:45pm

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