



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an **Environment Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 5th November 2013 at 7pm**

Present: **Chairman** **Cllr Marjorie Findlay Stone (MFS)**
 Councillors: **Nina Bliss, Leo Griggs, Gary Fuller, Jan Holben, Tim Prater and**
 Vannessa Reay
 Clerk: **Ms A Oates**
 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:** Cllr T Heselden and M Fitch.
2. **Declaration of Interest** – none declared.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2013, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.
 Proposed by: Cllr T Prater
 Seconded by: Cllr Mrs N Bliss
 Agreed: unanimously
4. **Communications**
 - 4.1 Letter from Canon Dilnot about the conditions of the area surrounding the Scout hut – Cllr MFS had established that the late Fred Moore was the owner of the hut but there were no documents supporting this. The insurers had reported that the hut did not have proper foundations. Mr R Baker did not want the Fred Moore commemorative board re-installed on his property so it had been suggested that the board could be displayed on the scout hut instead. There was some discussion about the condition of the trees and the mess around the hut. Cllr MFS would attend a meeting with Sterling Insurance to get more information and to see how the parish council could possibly help.
 - 4.2 The Sandgate Society had proposed that bidding to the Heritage Lottery Fund for reprinting of some of their publications might be made jointly with the Parish Council. The members agreed that this proposal should be looked at on a case by case basis.
 - 4.3 A reply had been received from Damian Collins, the local MP, confirming that he would be interested in attending a Beach Advisory Group meeting about the boardwalk. He had suggested that a Friday meeting would be best for him.
 - 4.4 Cllr MFS reported on the minutes of the Cycle Shepway group and proposed that Cllr Tillson be invited to the parish council’s December meeting to speak on the issues raised.
 - 4.5 It was reported that Mandy Pile (SDC/DDC) had agreed to walk around Radnor Cliff to decide on whether or not a mechanical road cleaner would be appropriate to clear the gullies and drains of leaves.
 - 4.6 Cllr Prater had drafted a response to KCC Highways survey for town and parish councils; the clerk would circulate this to all councillors.
 - 4.7 There had been an email exchange between Nick Lewington of SDC and Cllr MFS regarding the undeveloped land at Radnor Cliff. Mr Lewington had attended a meeting with residents and this matter would be on the agenda of the next full council meeting.

5. **Budget Proposals for 2014 – 2015**

Cllr MFS produced a first draft proposal for the 2014-15 Environmental Improvement budget:

- 5.1 Re-paint the boards at the top end of the high street, budget allocation: £100. It was agreed that as the hoarding was owned by Geoffrey Boot, a letter should be sent to him requesting that he has the hoarding repainted. The budget allocation was not approved as the council should not be paying for works to privately-owned property.
- 5.2 Seaside Award flags – the existing ones are getting torn in the wind; budget allocation: £450. It was suggested that Tidy Britain should be contacted to find out if there were any storm flags available. Cllrs Bliss and Prater would take the existing Seaside Award flags down to stop any further damage. The clerk would check the prices of new flags. The budget allocation was approved, subject to checks on the cost.
- 5.3 Litter bins – another double bin; budget allocation: £1,000. It was agreed that the bins outside the Ship Inn were very unsightly and smelled badly; the parish council should write to the proprietors of the Ship bringing this matter to their attention – the clerk to liaise with Cllr MFS. It was agreed that another double bin should be purchased. The budget allocation was approved.
- 5.4 Litter bin maintenance – budget allocation: £500. This allocation was approved.
- 5.5 Contribution towards placement of the rowing boat; budget allocation: £500. It was agreed that the cost of the enhancements should not exceed the grant awarded under the HSIF. The budget allocation was not approved. Cllr R Bliss praised that lots of things have happened and that the area was much improved.
- 5.6 Business lunch/breakfast; budget allocation: £100. This was agreed as it was felt that the council should help to promote local businesses.
- 5.7 Improvements to area around Riviera Court; budget allocation: £500. Cllr MFS would attend the management's AGM. It was agreed that some new planters could enhance the area; subject to suitable locations. The budget allocation was approved.

A revised budget proposal of £2,550 was agreed. This would be submitted to the Finance Committee.

Proposed by: Cllr Marjorie Findlay-Stone

Seconded by: Cllr Nina Bliss

Agreed: unanimously

6. **Sandgate Heritage and WW1 Commemorations**

Cllr T Prater would circulate a list for 2014 of important HG Wells / WW1 / WW2 event dates that perhaps could be marked during the year.

7. **Transport and Parking Advisory Group**

- 7.1 Cllr MFS had attended a meeting with Saga and reported that they do not want official highway parking signs. The council would need to have the signs re-made, saying 'Free Weekend Parking' and they would then be put up and taken down each weekend by Saga staff. Cllr MFS was asked to obtain this in writing from Saga.
- 7.2 It was reported that Saga was offering its employees interest-free loans to buy season tickets on the buses and 100 employees were interested in the offer from Stagecoach.
- 7.3 It was reported that bus stops have to have a kerb to enable access for the disabled, otherwise there would need to be signs erected stating that the bus stop is not suitable for the disabled. Stagecoach to give contact details for further information to Cllr MFS.

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

- 8.1 **Sandgate Entrance Enhancement** - There would be three prows plus a spare. Cllr MFS to continue with the project.
- 8.2 **New Parking Signage to Saga** – Cllr MFS to progress.
- 8.3 **Windows into the Past** – A meeting had been held with the owners of the end property of the Coastguard Cottages. They would agree to a reduced number of boards being erected on their house, subject to conditions that were given in an email from them (dated 05/11/13). The clerk would ensure that the email would be submitted to full council.

8.4 **Wells, Wells, Wells** – A meeting had been held with SDC officers managing the High Street Innovation Fund. Sandgate Trust had produced a sample of the accounting process they would use. This had been sent to the internal auditor for approval. The cost of auditing the accounts could be in the region of £200 – it was suggested that this cost should be factored into the Trust’s accounting. Reasonable progress had been made to date.

8.5 **Phase II Signage Project** – this was planned to be in place by summer 2014.

9. **Beaches Advisory Group**

The clerk reported that about ten people had agreed to be in the newly reformed group. The first meeting would be set up soon. Cllr Heselden had apologised that he would be absent from the first meeting; however, he would be able to resume leader of the group in the New Year.

10. **Beach Poster Competition**

Cllr MFS informed members that SDC still had funding for new signs about beach litter and suggested that the council resurrects the poster competition. It was agreed to proceed with this. It would need to be completed by March 2014. Cllr Vanessa Reay would include a mention about the competition in the next newsletter.

11. **Maintenance Gangway**

It was noted that there were several cars still parking on the maintenance gangway, especially a white van. There were four vehicles parked on Sunday. It was agreed that the parish council should establish ownership of this land with the Land Registry; the clerk would action this.

12. **Memorial Tree**

The parish council had been asked if it would be possible to have a tree planted in memory of Chares Bryant. It was agreed that the recreation ground would be a good place for the tree – Dave Sephton at SDC to be asked to advise on which tree would be suitable.

13. **Environmental Improvements**

There was some discussion about litter bins. Street cleaning had been mentioned earlier, under item 4. It was suggested that this item be included in the next newsletter with residents being asked to help to clear storm drains areas outside their properties. Kent Highways were dealing with these matters but this is a very leafy area with lots of trees, which exacerbates the problem, so residents’ help should be encouraged.

14. **Christmas Event** – All arrangements were in hand with a start time of 6.00pm.

15. **Business and Tourism Advisory Group report**

15.1 Cllr Prater reported that the free advertisement offer had been well received and that several businesses had updated the website. There were a lot of businesses to list. He would circulate the draft advertisement.

15.2 Concerns were expressed regarding the apparent lack of interest in renting No. 78 Sandgate High Street.

16. **Village Design Statement Update** – All editing was now complete. A digital version would be sent to SDC for approval of the changes then the document would be printed.

17. **Information**

17.1 Cllr Griggs reported on the Shorncliffe Development Steering Group and advised on a meeting that Taylor Wimpey was organising. The clerk was requested to write again to Chris Lewis at SDC regarding Section 106 in Sandgate. English Heritage had looked again at the whole site and identified 11 buildings as being important; the clerk was asked to write to Peter Kendall at English Heritage with a request that the parish council be involved in any discussions on these properties.

- 17.2 The clerk reported that Kent Highways had delivered a free bag of sand/salt and this would be collected and the contents put into the two grit bins purchased by the parish council – one in Valley Road and one in the shopping centre in Enbrook Valley.
- 17.3 The Mayor of Sangatte and other civic dignitaries would be attending the Remembrance Day service at St Paul’s Church.

18. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 3rd December 2013

The meeting ended at 8:53pm

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