



SANDGATE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2015 at 6pm

Sandgate Council Library & Offices, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate.

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**Present:**                      **Chairman**      **Cllr Robert Bliss**  
                                         **Cllrs**              **Nina Bliss, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Jan Holben and Tim Prater**  
                                                                                 **Nabin Siwa, Adrian Watts**

**Parish Clerks**   **Mrs A Oates and G Thomas**

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There were 37 members of the public in attendance.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Marjorie Findlay-Stone and Michael Fitch
2. **Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**
It was proposed that the Minutes of 13th May 2014, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by: Cllr J Holben
Seconded by: Cllr N Bliss
Agreed unanimously
3. **Chairman's Welcome and Yearly Overview**
3.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out a summary of what the parish council had achieved over the past year:

At the Recreation Ground:

- Final completion of the Multi-Use Games Area, funded by the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust
- Installation of outdoor fitness equipment
- Employment of caretaker to check the grounds, litter pick, carry out small tasks etc
- Creation of wildlife area and new fencing
- Porta loos provided throughout the summer

Funded by the High Street Innovation Fund:

- Flower planters put at entrances to Sandgate: full-sized boat off The Esplanade and 2 small ornamental boat planters – one on Sandgate Hill and one at the top of Enbrook Valley
- More 'Windows into the Past' boards put up in the village; notably ones informing about Sir John Moore, which are displayed on the side of the end house by the dedicated Memorial
- British, French flags and WWI centenary flags flown in the High Street throughout the summer and put up again in November for Remembrance Day
- 'War of the Words' exhibition opened in the high street
- Finger posts erected on the walkway

The beach and Esplanade:

- Awarded the 2014 Seaside Award
- New litter bins bought and placed on the seafront
- New cycle racks sited by the Sir John Moore Memorial
- Worked with Cycle Shepway re design and placement of signage in attempts to improve conditions on the walkway for cyclists and pedestrians
- Dog poster competition held: resulting in posters produced by children at Seabrook Primary School that were made into signage for the walkway

The War Memorial and Village Green:

- Major refurbishment of the War Memorial and surrounding pathway and seating area
- Installation of 3 stone planters, commemorating John and Ann Nevill
- Repairs and re-levelling of paving slabs at the village green

Ongoing Projects and Improvements

- Hanging baskets on lampposts in the High Street and in the Valley shopping centre – making the area attractive and welcoming
- Regular contact with SDC and KCC re beach, roads, pavements, street cleaning, drain unblocking, vegetation clearing etc. Spreadsheet kept of all faults reported to SDC and Kent Highways
- Regular contact with SDC Planning re planning applications
- Partnership working with various local groups, individual residents and businesses, including support of the re-issued Sandgate Society's Walks Around Sandgate leaflet
- Continued running of Sandgate Library – with grateful thanks to all the volunteers and to the various groups that meet regularly (Knit & Natter, Read & Rhyme, Sandgate Book Club and Creative Writing)
- Purchase of e-Readers; which library users can borrow – funded by KCC's Folkestone West Member
- Demolishment of the old dilapidated toilet block at the recreation ground
- Regular contact with residents and businesses via newsletters sent by email and letter drop

Events held:

- Family Fun Day at the recreation ground
- Sandgate Sea Festival
- Christmas Tree lights switch-on event with carol singing and appearance by Father Christmas and Christmas trees and Santa and Sleigh lit up in the Golden Valley

3.2 The Chairman then outlined plans for this year (2015-16):

- With funding from SDC's Cabinet Members' Fund, the parish will have:
 - New playground equipment at the recreation ground
 - Renovation of all the lampposts from Sandgate Hill through to The Esplanade
 - 30 new litter bins: to replace old and damaged bins throughout the parish
 - 24 allied forces flags flown from lampposts along the high street and Esplanade
- All the old litter bins will undergo full refurbishment, then be stored ready for use when needed
- Installation of 2 BBQ stands and metal bins at the recreation ground
- Anticipating good news for Sandgate of the 2015 Seaside Awards
- Full display of new Christmas lights in the high street

3.3 The Chairman announced that the success of being awarded the Seaside Award in 2013 and 2014 was, in part, the result of the tireless work of Marie Smith. Every summer season, she diligently keeps the beach and the walkway clean and tidy and is a great ambassador for the village. She is always smiling whatever the weather and has won the hearts of Sandgate residents with her dedication to her role. The council felt that her role and the way she carried it out were worthy of recognition and the Chairman was delighted to present her with the KALC Community Award 2015 certificate and a bouquet of flowers.

4. Guest Speaker – Euan Williamson

Mr Williamson spoke about Sandgate Society’s plans for working with the parish in 2015-16. He suggested that a member of Sandgate Society should attend the parish council’s planning committee meetings. *A full transcript is available on request.*

5. Guest Speaker – David Cowell

Mr Cowell spoke about the ‘War of the Words’ exhibition in the village. He asked that information on HG Wells be put on the council’s website. *A full transcript is available on request.*

6. Public participation and questions

Various matters were raised:

6.1 It was asked if the boules pitch could be re-surfaced. The Chairman responded that this would be looked into. He added that the Boules Club was a great success.

6.2 It was asked if the council was looking into the issue of cars being parked on the bend on Military Road by the recreation ground as more and more use was being made of the park. The Chairman responded that this was a key issue for the coming year and the council was looking to create a small car park.

6.3 Someone queried what had happened following the parking survey that the parish council had carried out. The Chairman responded that Shepway District Council had announced that they would be carrying out a consultation on parking in Sandgate and this would apparently commence in September.

7. Any information items – there were no further items of information.

8. Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting – this would be held on Tuesday 10th May 2016.

The Chairman invited the members of the public present to partake in light refreshments after the conclusion of the Annual Parish Council meeting, which would follow the Annual Parish meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.44pm.

The Chairman and Marie Smith posed for photographs.

Chairman of Council

Date