

## SANDGATE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

# Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2013 at 6.30pm

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

**Present:** Chairman **Cllr R Bliss** 

> Cllrs Mrs N Bliss, G Fuller, Mrs M Findlay-Stone, L Griggs, R Grundy,

> > M Fitch and T Prater

Parish Clerk Mrs A Oates

There were 16 members of the public in attendance.

**Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Mrs J Holben, Mrs V Reay and T Heselden. 1.

#### 2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed that the Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Proposed by:** Cllr G Fuller **Seconded by:** Cllr Mrs N Bliss

**Agreed** unanimously

#### 3. Chairman's Welcome and Yearly Overview

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and listed the achievements of the Parish Council (SPC) over the past year:

Events: Olympic Torch Relay through Sandgate, Lighting of the Jubilee Beacon, Sandgate Sea Festival and fireworks display, Rock Pooling with White Cliffs Countryside Project, Shepway Play MAP free games & activities on Military Road and Freemantle recreation grounds, Poetry competition, judged by the Sandgate Creative Writing Group and the Christmas Lights switch-on with Father Christmas.

<u>High Street project</u>: Windows into the Past – the successful window displays of old photographs showing the shops and businesses in former times.

Grants awarded to: Sandgate Community Trust for the new free Broadband service and Sandgate Football Club for a large sit-on mower.

Grants received from: KCC towards the Olympic Torch Relay event and Roger De Haan Charitable Trust for the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on the recreation ground – work has started and it is expected to be completed in five to six weeks' time.

New acquisitions: SPC has taken over land on 40-year leases from SDC for: Military Road recreation ground, the village green and Memorial and the Wilberforce Road green. From this April, SPC manages the grounds maintenance for these areas – grass cutting, weeding, pruning etc.

<u>Twinning:</u> SPC signed the second part of the Charter with Sangatte in France; various events are planned – especially for boules/petanque matches.

<u>Beach management</u>: new notice boards have been put up on the promenade by Granville Parade; the beaches have been cleaned when requests were put forward to the district council; SPC applied for the Seaside Award – results to be announced on 22 May.

<u>Communications:</u> there have been regular emails to residents and businesses – informing about events, parish council meetings and business and general Sandgate news. Printed newsletters were distributed to all householders in the parish.

<u>Library</u>: this is continuing to be used regularly with weekly Read & Rhyme sessions, groups meetings for 'knit and natter', book club, creative writing etc and use of the library computers, the free wi-fi service and book lending. SPC is still providing free hot drinks.

<u>Village Design Statement</u>: the VDS work began over 12 months ago and it followed recommendations from the Parish Plan and previous members of SPC, which this parish council is still committed to implementing. It has engaged the whole community in thinking deeply about Sandgate – its past, present and future. The draft document was produced in April, after much hard work by the Steering Committee. Today sees the end of the statutory 6 week consultation on the draft. This is what will happen next: all responses are being collated; these will be summarised and published; any changes to the document would then be made. This will be followed by a two-week consultation period on the changes.

The document will then go the SDC's Scrutiny Panel on 10<sup>th</sup> June; then to Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> June. SPC will then receive notification that SDC will adopt the document as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Chairman gave thanks to the VDS Steering Committee for all their hard work and to all the parish council committees, sub-committees and working groups for their work over the past year.

The Chairman invited everyone to stay for the Annual Parish Council meeting, which would follow at 7pm, and to stay on afterwards for drinks and light refreshments.

4. Guest Speaker – Chris Kirkham, Discover Folkestone, Hythe & Romney Marsh (DFHRM)

DHFHRM is now working more with Visit Kent with increased marketing and tourism opportunities.

The new website has been launched as well as a new leisure guide. Mr Kirkham extolled the virtues of Sandgate saying it is a very marketable village being by the sea and with many independent shops in the high street. Festivals this year include the Folkestone Festival, War & Peace Revival at Folkestone Race Course and the Hythe Venetian Fete.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kirkham Chris for his interesting talk.

### 5. Public participation and questions

Members of the public felt the presentation by Chris Kirkham had been very positive, although it was agreed to be a shame that the airshow would now not go ahead this year.

Some comments were made about the loss to Folkestone town centre of big names like BHS and Marks & Spencer but the Chairman responded stressing that residents should shop locally to aid the local economy.

A query was received about whether a discount scheme could be introduced; Cllr Findlay-Stone explained that there is a local village Business Forum and there is a group in Folkestone that represents the larger businesses; the enquirer's suggestion would be passed on.

Another member of the public suggested that more combined news needs to be available, to include the whole of Shepway. The enquirer was informed that Shepway District Council produces a twice yearly magazine called Shepway Today.

All the comments would be passed on to Chris Kirkham.

A final query was made about whether public transport could be improved; Cllr Tim Prater advised that the Sandgate Community Trust was submitting a funding bid to have a local community minibus.

## 6. Any information items

The meeting closed at 7pm.

A letter of thanks had been received from Margaret Turnill for the donation made by the Parish Council to the H G Wells Trust in memory of Reg Turnill.

7. Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting – this will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

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

<b>Chairman of Council</b>	 Date