



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7pm on Tuesday 10th February 2015

At Sandgate Parish Council/Library Offices
James Morris Court, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate.

Present: Chairman Cllr Robert Bliss
Councillors Nina Bliss, Marjorie Findlay-Stone, Michael Fitch, Leo Griggs,
Richard Grundy, Tom Heselden, Jan Holben, Tim Prater

Clerks Ms A Oates and G Thomas

Sandgate's PCSO Sarah Leivers was not able to attend; however she had sent a written report which had been circulated; the Chairman read out a summary of her report. Cllr JH requested that future reports includes rolling 12 month figures so that the trend can be tracked; Cllr MFS asked if she could also include some details as to the numbers of caught and sentenced offenders.

These Minutes will only be deemed to be a correct record of the meeting when approved and signed at the next meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.05pm

1 member of the public was present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Gary Fuller and Vannessa Reay.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllrs Holben and Grundy expressed a non-prejudicial interest in items 6 and 7 (*changed to 4 and 5*) as they are members of SDC's Development Control Committee.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2015, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.
Proposed by: Cllr Marjorie Findlay-Stone
Seconded by: Cllr Tim Prater
Agreed by all

The Chairman changed the order of the agenda, bringing the two guest speakers forward swapping items 4 and 5 with 6 and 7.

4. **Guest speaker: Dr Katharine Harvey**
Dr Harvey gave a short presentation on SDC's Draft Economic Development Strategy which sets out the ambitions for economic growth in Shepway over the next five years. The four priorities are:
(1) Building on current and emerging economic strengths; (2) Boosting productivity and supporting business growth; (3) Promoting further investment by maximising the value of assets and stimulating confidence; (4) Improving education and skills attainment. There was concern by members that Sandgate is not mentioned specifically in the documents. This was acknowledged. There was also concern that SDC did not seem to be on board at trying to discourage change of use of high street premises from commercial to residential. Copies of the documents were handed out and would be available in the library and the electronic version was available via SDC's website: www.shepway.gov.uk/economicstrategy. The consultation runs until 20th February and Dr Harvey would welcome completion of the comments form.

5. Guest speaker: Dave Shore

Mr Shore gave a short presentation on SDC's Places and Policies Local Plan consultation which is on-going until 11th March. The key issues were: (1) Housing and the settlements; (2) Economic development; (3) Town centres; (4) Gypsies and travellers; (5) Infrastructure; (6) Local green spaces; (7) Heritage. Mr Shore summarised the details and handed out hard copies of the documents. The consultation runs until 11th March and he hoped that the council would put a representation together saying what was important to Sandgate and complete and submit a comment form. One member asked whether the final Plan will have SHLAA (*Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment*) included. Mr Shore answered that once this first phase was completed, SHLAA would be updated. SPC has previously submitted its list of sites; DS agreed that it was important to identify any sites that are deemed to require protection. SPC should include these sites in the comment form. Members were concerned that there was no specific mention of Sandgate; DS said that there was nothing to prevent SDC having a specific policy for Sandgate. This is the sort of input that SPC should give in its submission.

6. Chairman's Opening Remarks

6.1 Thanks were extended to both guests for their presentations.

6.1 E-Readers - all the e-readers are set up with 42 free books. Sandgate library staff will soon be trained on how to add books that customers wish to read. The scheme will be officially launched on Tuesday 24th March. This initiative will be the first in Kent.

6.2 Elections - KALC has sent out information on how to promote the parish council elections. Posters will be displayed in the library and on notice boards about Being a Local Councillor and What Local Councils do. Purdah commences on 30th March; this won't affect our work here in Sandgate – except that councillors cannot be named in any publicity during the Purdah period.

6.3 Business Support - letters have been printed and will be delivered to all homes in the parish, which ask residents and businesses to keep in touch with the council by email, to go to the regular Farmers' Markets and to support Sandgate Library. With each letter, there will be a Farmers' Market calendar. Thanks were extended to Cllr Prater.

6.4 Pedestrian Crossing on Sandgate Esplanade - during the last administration, councillors looked at the feasibility of the construction of a zebra crossing somewhere on The Esplanade. This should be re-looked at and it was agreed that the parish clerk should write to Hod Birkby to ascertain whether he would give this scheme his backing and any available funding. The clerk should include any supporting information, especially accident statistics if obtainable.

7. Chairman's Correspondence

7.1 Email from Fred Miller, dated 09 February, in response to the query sent on behalf of a resident on Military Road re vehicles parking on the road and obstructing vision. Members were not happy with Mr Miller's response. It was agreed that this area was a 'death trap'. A reply should be sent to Mr Miller requesting that this particular area should, at the very least, have double yellow lines put in urgently and not wait until a serious accident has occurred. The chief executive should be copied in. The clerk would prepare the letter for the Chairman to sign.

7.2 Email from PSMA, dated 04 February – our request to have the incorrect 'Cycle Way' marking on OS maps removed has been successful. The mapping team have removed the route from their data. Members agreed that this was very good news.

7.3 Local Government Boundary Commission – they have requested that we display posters which announce the start of their consultation. These will go up in the library and public notice boards.

7.4 Email received from Deborah Watkins, 10 February: she is the Highways Steward for KCC and would like to arrange a meeting to discuss any issues we may have in our parish. This should be set up with Cllr MFS and the parish clerk.

8. Granville Road Toilets and ‘Kiosk’

The draft Heads of Terms from SDC had been received and circulated to all parish councillors. SPC was still awaiting the requested information on the maintenance costs but **it was proposed that the council should now agree the terms in principle with the details being finalised by the Finance Committee, to be ratified by full council.**

Proposed by: Cllr Tim Prater

Seconded by: Cllr Jan Holben

Agreed by all

9. Sandgate Library / KCC & SPC Service Level Agreement

The documents from the last meeting with KCC and the follow-up notes had been circulated to all members. There were a few sticking points, which included the issue of the electrics but, in general, negotiations were almost completed. Cllr TP pointed out that this was a good plan for Sandgate as it would probably be a long term safeguard for the library and the Chairman said that this would be an excellent deal for the parish. **It was proposed that, subject to the final points, the new arrangement for delivering the library service in Sandgate should be agreed in principle.** The final details should be looked at by the Finance Committee and be presented to full council in March for implementation at the start of the new financial year.

Proposed by: Cllr Robert Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr Tim Prater

Agreed by all

The clerk informed members that she had ascertained an approximate cost from Zurich Insurance for including this building under our public liability indemnity and that this would be in the region of £150 per annum.

10. Easter event

Cllr Holben wished to organise an Easter event – to be held in the Saga Pavilion if the weather was bad or in the Saga grounds if the weather was fine. There was surplus money in the events budget and there would be a small charge for the children to hunt the eggs; however, the use of the pavilion was subject to Saga not charging for its use. Subject to this, **Cllr Holben proposed that the event be agreed by council.** The clerk would chase up Saga for an answer; if the pavilion cannot be used, the event would not go ahead.

Proposed by: Cllr Jan Holben

Seconded by: Cllr Leo Griggs

Agreed by all

11. Land Asset Management Sub-Committee report – there had not been a meeting since the last parish council meeting. There was nothing to report except that the caretaker was continuing to look after the rec well; notices had been put up informing about the wildlife area and asking people not to climb fences and a surplus holly tree had been placed by the fence which would be a good prickly deterrent to potential fence climbers. The clerk was asked to contact Kirk Alexander for an update on when he would plant the trees.

12. Finance update and payments for approval – there was nothing to report.

13. Finance Committee report - there had not been a meeting since the last parish council meeting and there was nothing to report.

14. Environment Committee Report and Shorncliffe Development Update

14.1 The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. Cllr MFS added that the plan to fly flags in the high street from 1st May was progressing well.

14.2 Cllr LG updated that the letter to Ben Geering re the back door training area at Shorncliffe had been sent and a response had been received. He would follow this up. Cllr JH said that there

was a petition on Facebook to stop the removal of the old Officers' Mess but some members felt that the building was not a significant building to keep. The status of the racquets courts was asked but this would be part of phase two of the development. The Chairman asked that Cllr LG continues to keep an eye on the whole development.

15. **Planning Committee Report** – the minutes of the meeting on 20th January had been previously circulated, and the latest meeting had taken place earlier, prior to the main council meeting, and some of those present had attended that meeting. There was nothing further to report.
16. **Information** – the clerk had added the parish council to the new social networking website, Streetlife. There seemed to be quite a lot of local people now signed up who were discussing local issues and it would seem to be an excellent way for the parish council to inform residents and businesses about a variety of matters relevant to Sandgate.
17. **Date of next meeting** – this would be Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8.21pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....