



Minutes

SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Date 14th January 2014. Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Sandgate Council and Library, Sandgate High Street.

Present: **Chairman** **Cllr Robert Bliss**
 Cllrs **Marjorie Findlay-Stone, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Richard Grundy, Tom Heselden, Jan Holben, Tim Prater and Vanessa Reay**
 Clerk **Ms A Oates**

The new PCSO, Lis Jepson, was not able to attend but sent a report, which was read out. This included an update on the number of crimes in Sandgate over the last four weeks; issues of parking on Military Road and near the primary school. She would be looking into possible solutions with the NSL Traffic Enforcement Officer.

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 7.02pm

No members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Nina Bliss and Leo Griggs.

2. Declarations of Interest – there were none.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 14th January were proposed as a correct record.

Proposed by: Cllr Tim Prater

Seconded by: Cllr Tom Heselden

Agreed by all. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

4. Chairman's opening remarks

4.1 Although there had been a lot of reports of blocked drains, flooding, litter on the beach and streets etc, it should be noted that the recent, and on-going, bad weather was some of the worst ever recorded and, together with very high tides, some resulting problems were to be expected. However, the parish council would continue to inform both SDC and Kent Highways of incidents of damage, flooding and debris and it was hoped that, when the worst of the bad weather was over, Sandgate would be back to looking tidy and well managed. It was noted that the beach works had already started.

4.2 The parish council had had 10 presentation plaques made (*one was passed around to members*). These would be given out as and when required to visiting guests or to people who the council would particularly like to thank for specific services to the parish.

4.3 The council now possessed the printed copies of the Sandgate Design Statement (*a copy was passed around to members*). The local community would now have a stronger voice in the planning decisions that affect the village and this document would be referred to at all parish council planning meetings. It was an excellent piece of work and money well spent. Well done to everyone who helped to put this together – local people and SDC and a special thank you to Marjorie Findlay-Stone.

4.4 The Chairman attended the service last month to mark the 205th anniversary of the Corunna conflict. The council would be doing more with the various groups; next year would be the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. At this year's Sea Festival, there would be a firing of guns. Cllr Findlay-Stone mentioned she had heard that Chris Shaw was hoping to get Sandgate designated as a Heritage Village. Cllr Prater asked what this meant; Cllr Holben would find out; she would be meeting with Damian Collins on 7th March.

5. Chairman's correspondence

There was one item: an email received from Adel Wilson was read out. She updated on a recent sponsored walk – she raised £71. She would be giving a harp performance at a residents' home soon and a community clean-up event was being arranged by Young Sandgate and the Sandgate Cubs for Saturday 15th March. Members agreed that these were good news items and should be included in the next newsletter.

6. Folkestone Airshow

The clerk informed that she had had a request from the organisers of the Folkestone Airshow to help with their fund-raising. As with last, year, this would take the form of having greeting cards and mugs on sale in the council offices/library. **All agreed.**

7. Town & Parish Council Planning User Group

It was proposed that Leo Griggs be appointed as the council's representative.

Proposed by: Cllr T Prater

Seconded by: Cllr R Grundy

All agreed.

8. Land Assets Management and MUGA – Cllr Jan Holben gave an update

8.1 There had not been a meeting since the last council meeting.

8.2 The clerk was asked to give an update on the grounds maintenance – all was continuing as contracted; the specification for the services from April would be completed and sent to LAM members soon.

8.3 The MUGA contractor had accepted responsibility for the mares tail on the tennis court; all growth had been removed and taken away; the whole quarter of the court would be dug up, treated with insecticide and re-laid.

8.4 The grass on the football pitch was growing well; it would be repaired and re-seeded as needed.

8.5 Several examples of outdoor fitness equipment had been looked at; a decision on which company to go with had not yet been made.

8.6 Cllr Findlay-Stone mentioned the recent Community Compact seminar she had attended. One item might be of interest – the 'Community Right to Buy' concept. It was suggested that perhaps the parish council should submit a list of land or property. The clerk was asked to contact Matthew Mellor at SDC to request what the procedure would be for the council to submit a list.

8.7 There was no update as yet on the toilet block. There would be temporary toilets installed for the summer.

9. Finance update and payments for approval – there was no update from the clerk/RFO.

10. Finance Committee Report - there had not been a finance meeting since the last parish council meeting and there was nothing to update.

11. Environment Committee report

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated earlier; the only updates were that Cllr Findlay-Stone had reported the blocked drains by Spencer Court to Kent Highways and there was a discussion on the memorabilia filling one of the benches along The Esplanade – this was in hand to be reported to SDC. It was also mentioned that SDC would be carrying out an audit of all the benches in Shepway and would be mapping them.

12. Planning Committee Report

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated; there was nothing further to add.

13. Information

13.1 The clerk reported that the advertisement for the new job would be in the local papers this week.

13.2 Cllr Reay reminded the clerk that she had not yet received the information already compiled on the Emergency Plan; the clerk would send this to her.

14. Date of the next meeting – Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Minutes agreed and signed by:

Chairman of the Council..... Date 11th March 2014