



Minutes

SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Date 9th April 2013. Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Sandgate Council and Library, Sandgate High Street.

Present:	Chairman	Cllr R Bliss
	Cllrs	Mrs N Bliss, Mrs M Findlay-Stone, M Fitch, G Fuller, L Griggs, Mrs V Reay, T Heselden and T Prater
	Clerk	Ms A Oates

A member of the public asked for an update about the Belisha beacon crossing. Cllr T Prater reported that Kent Highways have said that a new, controlled crossing would be prohibitively expensive as it would cost in the region of £60,000 - £80,000. There is no budget for this but from 2nd May county councillors would have £25,000 each to fund highways work in their own areas. In the short term, new painting is to take place and Kent Highways have fitted new cowls on the bulbs which should have helped on the light deflection. After 2nd May, a decision could be made on whether or not this crossing was sufficient or whether a case should be made for a controlled crossing. For Kent Highways, this crossing is not a high priority. The member of the public asked whether the cost quoted could be challenged as he felt this was very high and also whether other measures could be put in place to slow traffic down. The Chairman stated that if this council decides to take on this project, they would request very firm and accurate costings before going ahead.

The new PCSO for Sandgate, Laura Zazo had been unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report via email which the Chairman read out to the members. The only issues that had needed attention were criminal damage to fencing at Saga and in Oxenden Road and criminal damage to a vehicle in the Esplanade. PCSO Mark Ball and Laura Zazo had had a meeting with Saga to discuss issues likely to arise in the new future with youths gathering around the site and at parks and on the seafront. They have also spoken to wardens in the Lower Leas and will be patrolling the area regularly both on foot and by bicycle. A further email detailing safer summer measures will be sent to all neighbourhood watch areas and the parish council.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.10pm

2 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Grundy.

2. Receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office from newly elected Councillor Vanessa Reay was received and she was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr T Prater mentioned election of officers to other committees and Cllr V Reay was duly elected on to the Environment Committee.

Proposed by: Cllr R Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr T Prater

Agreed unanimously.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of last meeting held on 12th March 2013 were proposed as a correct record.

Proposed by: Cllr R Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr Mrs N Bliss

Agreed by all except Mrs J Holben as she had not attended the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

5. Chairman's opening remarks

5.1 The Chairman reported that Amanda Oates, the parish clerk, had had her operation and was now recuperating at home. A large bouquet of flowers had been sent to her home on behalf of the parish council. Thanks were expressed to Valerie Knight for holding the fort in Amanda's absence.

5.2 The MUGA contractors start on site next week, 15th April. Work will take around eight weeks and should be completed by mid-June. An opening event will be arranged by Cllr Mrs J Holben.

5.3 Work on the toilet block at the Recreation Ground will now be carried out after completion of the MUGA.

6. Chairman's correspondence

An email had been received from Bobbie Allen which the chairman read out to the meeting. It concerned the felling of a tree on Wilberforce Green which was felt to be unnecessary and without warning. The matter was passed to Cllr J Holben for investigation as to who had carried out this work.

7. Twinning Update

Cllr L Griggs reported that a twinning fair, with arts and crafts, will be held on 11th May following by Petanque the following Saturday, both events in Sangatte.

8. Land Assets Management and MUGA updates

8.1 The toilet block has to be made structurally safe, for which there is a budget allowance, but there is no further budget available to carry out any remedial works.

8.2 Work on the MUGA starts next week, as previously advised, and a project meeting was held earlier this week with the surveyor who will supervise the works on the council's behalf. It is planned to hold a community event in early July to publicly launch the MUGA.

8.3 Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone asked about the possibility of toilets being provided for the increased numbers of people expected to use the MUGA facilities. There is no budget available for renovation of the old toilet block but it was confirmed that portable toilets would be provided for the community event.

9. Finance update and payments for approval – presented by the Acting Clerk

The schedule of cheque payments was presented (cheques 100810 to 100821) and signed by the Finance Chairman.

The report was received and approved.

Proposed by: Cllr Mrs N Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr Mrs J Holben

Agreed unanimously.

10. Finance Committee report

There was nothing to report as there had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last parish meeting.

11. Environment Committee report

- 11.1 The notes of the last meeting had been previously circulated. A meeting was held with Saga over the parking issues and a letter is to be sent regarding free use of their grounds at weekends. It was proposed a letter be sent to Stagecoach asking for subsidised travel, and a submission to Shepway District Council requesting parking permits for up to 25 Saga employees to use the Castle Road car park. Cllr Prater asked for the backing of this committee for this proposal but Cllr R Bliss pointed out that other businesses in Sandgate may want similar benefits. Concern was expressed about the parish council approaching Shepway on behalf of one business when other local businesses would be interested. The proposal would also need to be considered by the Local Business Forum. The Chairman agreed that the parish council could write to Shepway on behalf of one specific business as if others wanted similar facilities, that could be considered as and when. The letter to Shepway should not imply or suggest support from the parish council. After a response has been received from Shepway, there would need to be a full discussion around the whole matter. Saga had been asked if additional parking spaces on their site would be considered if this could be externally funded. This proposal is to be considered by Saga.
- 11.2 No official notice has yet been received but unofficially we have been advised that Sandgate has been awarded the Quality Coast Award. We will be able to display flags from 1st May (but as yet do not have any flagpoles). Keep Britain Tidy will advise on what has to be done.
- 11.3 The Village Design Statement consultation process is currently under way and will continue until 14th April. A copy of the VDS was shown to the committee.
- 11.4 Cllr T Prater had already circulated an email on the High Street Innovation Fund. Additional funding for the display of flags on the street lampposts promoting events e.g. Folkestone Air Show and if they can be used to promote Sandgate, has been requested. The final bid has to be submitted by 10th May.
- 11.5 Summer Flags – Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone has been in touch with Visit Kent, Discover Folkestone, Hythe & Romney Marsh and is getting information on flag pole sizes for next year's theme in the village which will probably be on a military theme to celebrate the centenary of the start of World War I. Further work is in progress on this issue. The Imperial War Museum is proposing that all town and parish councils in the UK get together to celebrate the centenary and a proposal has been made to have a small museum at the Battery Point shelter.
- 11.6 There is apparently £27million of lottery funding available for coastal areas, but bids have to be submitted by 13th May which is a very short lead time. Cllr Findlay-Stone to speak to Shepway District Council.

The report was received and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs M Findlay-Stone

Seconded: Cllr Mrs J Holben

Agreed unanimously.

12. Planning Committee Report

- 12.1 Cllr Fuller presented the report.
- 12.2 The planning committee had met earlier this evening when seven planning applications were considered, received since the last meeting. Objections to two have been submitted.
- 12.3 Correspondence from the Sandgate Society had been received expressing concern over the approval of the application on 78 High Street.
- 12.4 Contact had been received from Roger Joyce about the plans for Eversley College stating that insufficient notification can be given about the consultation.
- 12.5 Cllr Griggs reported on a meeting he had attended with the Shorncliffe Development Group. He advised that the project will be over 12-13 years minimum, phased in six sections, with the first phases likely to be in the Cheriton area, rather than Sandgate. The development will be in line with Shepway District Council's masterplan and existing open spaces will be retained as is. The Group is happy with the VDS. There was some discussion about the bridge at the top of Horn Street). Shepway would need to approve the project working plan.

12.6 The next Planning committee meeting will discuss the Community Report.
The report was received and approved.

Proposed: Cllr G Fuller

Seconded: Cllr L Griggs

Agreed unanimously.

13. Information

13.1 The Chairman raised the issue of the Sandgate Society wanting their notice/information boards repaired. Cllr Findlay-Stone confirmed that these had been repaired and the bill sent to Sandgate Society and confirmed that the information boards do belong to the Society.

13.2 New signs are to be erected by Shepway District Council along the seafront in the next few weeks.

14. Date of the next meeting – this would be the Annual General Meeting and was confirmed to be Tuesday 14th May 2013. Time to be confirmed at a later date by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Minutes agreed and signed by:

Chairman of the Council..... Date 14th May 2013