



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7pm on Tuesday 9th June 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, Gary Fuller, Leo Griggs, Tim Prater, Nabin Siwa, Guy Valentine-Neale and Adrian Watts
Clerks	A Oates and G Thomas

The PCSO was not able to attend. The last report submitted was over a month old; an up-to-date one had not been received. There would be a surgery on Thursday 11th June in the library.

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 7.04pm

There were 2 members of the public present.

1. Appointment of two new co-opted councillors

Following the interviews held before the council meeting, the members had voted in Leo Griggs and Guy Valentine-Neale. All the members around the table introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Jan Holben

3. Declarations of Interest – there was none.

4. Minutes of the last meeting – the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting meeting held on 12th May 2015, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.

Proposed by: Cllr Tim Prater

Seconded by: Cllr Michael Fitch

Agreed by all

5. Chairman's Opening Remarks

5.1 The Chairman welcomed the two new councillors; Cllr Griggs was a returning councillor, having served on the council for the past four years.

5.2 The two newly elected district councillors, for Sandgate and West Folkestone, were Jan Holben and Rory Love. Cllr Love was in the district council's cabinet and Cllr Holben was the new chairman of SDC. Cllr Love would be invited to attend the next parish council meeting. The Chairman informed all members that there would a summer break of meetings in August.

5.3 Since the last meeting, it had been announced that Sandgate beach had been given the 2015 Seaside Award. This was excellent news and a big accolade for Sandgate. Warm thanks were extended to Cllr Findlay-Stone for all her hard work in ensuring that all the criteria were met. She would be looking for a team to support her with next year's application. This was the only beach in Shepway awarded with this distinction.

5.4 The council was very fortunate to be awarded nearly £40,000 from SDC's Cabinet Members' Fund. Three initiatives have been completed:

5.4.1 The renovation of the lampposts along the high street and Esplanade – except that some of the lampposts are already showing rust so these will be re-painted. Also, the hanging basket brackets had been cut off and thrown away and the Christmas light cables had

been cut off and all but 4 of the 25 fixings had been misplaced. All replacements would be purchased by KCC; the baskets will go up as soon as the new brackets have arrived.

- 5.4.2 Thirty new litter bins have been received and are being sited along the promenade to replace old and broken bins.
- 5.4.3 The array of flags flying from some of the lampposts – these represent a sample of allied forces flags of countries which supported Britain in WWI. A press release would go out shortly. Plans for which flags to fly next year would be put together by the Environment Committee.
- 5.4.4 The fourth project is the purchase of new playground equipment for the recreation ground – works to install this will take place in the next few weeks.

6. **Chairman's Correspondence**

- 6.1 Letter dated 2nd June from Folkestone Town Council inviting the Chairman to attend Canada Day on 1st July. He is unable to go and asked for someone to represent the council. Cllr Prater offered. He would lay the council's wreath. Anyone else who would like to go should contact the parish clerk.
- 6.2 Email from Mike Winsborrow, dated 5th June, re smiley face speed cameras: he asked that the council considers installing one sign at either end of the village. It was suggested that Kent Highways be contacted to ask if a replacement sign would be accepted. This matter would be passed to the Environment Committee.
- 6.3 Letter from Kent Legal Services, dated 3rd June, re an application for a Stopping Up Order at North Lane, Shorncliffe Camp. This would be passed to the Planning Committee Chairman to respond to.

7. **Annual Return for financial year ended 31 March 2015**

This was presented by the parish clerk for approval and signing. It was proposed that the Annual Return be agreed and accepted.

Proposed by: Cllr Nina Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr Marjorie Findlay-Stone

Agreed unanimously. The Annual Return was signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk. The report by the Internal Auditor, previously circulated, was received and noted.

8. **Committee memberships – review of appointments made at the Annual Parish Council meeting**

The committee members, lead members of working groups and appointments to outside bodies were proposed and agreed (*appendix 1*)

Proposed by: Cllr Robert Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr Tim Prater

Agreed unanimously – no one was elected to be the lead member for 'Speedwatch' nor for 'Community Events'. These would be reviewed at a later meeting. It was agreed that the VC Steering Group would report to the Environment Committee.

9. **Confirmation of the 2015-16 Budget**

The budget, which has been previously agreed at the January meeting, had been reviewed by the Finance Committee and, subject to some changes as per the 3rd June 2015 Finance Committee minutes, it was proposed and agreed that the budget be approved.

Proposed by: Cllr Leo Griggs

Seconded by: Cllr Nabin Siwa

Agreed unanimously

10. **Re-appointment of Accountants**

It was proposed and agreed that the current accountants, Philip Gambrill & Co of Hythe, be re-appointed.

Proposed by: Cllr Nina Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr Marjorie Findlay-Stone

Agreed by all

11. **Parish Council's 4-Year Plan** – a first draft had been previously circulated. The chairman asked the members to study the plan and to send any recommendations for changes to the parish clerk who would collate all the comments and send these out. The plan and comments would be then reviewed at the next parish council meeting.
12. **Granville Road toilets update** – SDC has agreed in principle to hand over the operation of the toilet block to the parish council, under a lease agreement. The first draft of the lease had been received but it had been refused due to various clauses that needed to be changed. The parish council's queries had been sent to SDC and the parish council was awaiting an update. The clerk was setting up a meeting with Paul Marshall, of Property Services, and the chairman.
13. **Sandgate Library / KCC & SPC Service Level Agreement** – a copy of the current lease with KCC and SDC had been received. There was no mention of the promised clause that stated that the landlord was responsible for the lighting and members were especially concerned that there was a clause stating a change to the 99-year lease at the 25-year period. The parish clerk would seek clarification of this clause from the council's legal advisors.
14. **Christmas lights** – the clerk updated on the two garlands already purchased. One was shown to members but it was not possible to show it lit up. The garlands should go back to Vic Harmer and confirmation should be sought as to what connectors were required. The application to Kent Highways should be submitted as soon as possible.
15. **Outline proposal for a kiosk on The Esplanade by local business provider**
A local business provider had submitted a draft proposal, previously circulated, and asked for the parish council's in principle support for the initiative. There was a discussion by members and, although there were some doubt and queries, the members agreed to give their support, subject to seeing the planning application.
Proposed by: Cllr Nina Bliss
Seconded by: Cllr Nabin Siwa **Agreed by all**
16. **Pedestrian Crossing on The Esplanade** – the clerk read out the reply from Cllr Hod Birkby (previously circulated) to the council's request for support; he agreed to give some financial support but highlighted that funding would be limited. The total cost of the installation would be in the region of £25,000. The chairman would follow this up with Cllr Birkby.
17. **Land Assets Management Sub-Committee report** – the minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated. Since that meeting, the caretaker had submitted his latest report. Everyone agreed that he did an excellent job; it was just a shame that he had to clear up so much litter that people left around.
18. **Finance update and payments for approval** – the clerk presented the up-to-date bank reconciliation, which was approved.
Proposed by: Cllr Nina Bliss
Seconded by: Cllr Tim Prater **Agreed by all**
19. **Finance Committee report** – the minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated. There was nothing further to report.
20. **Environment Committee Report and Shorncliffe Development Update** - the minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated. Cllr Griggs informed members that he would have an update on the Shorncliffe development for the next meeting.
21. **Planning Committee Report** – the minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated; Cllr Fuller informed members that there would be a planning committee meeting the following Tuesday.
22. **Information** – Cllr Findlay-Stone mentioned the damaged bus shelter and that this would be further discussed at the next Environment Committee meeting.
23. **Date of next meeting** – this would be Tuesday 14th July 2015.

The meeting ended at 8.21pm.

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