



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7pm on Tuesday 14th July 2015

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

Present: **Chairman** **Cllr Robert Bliss**
 Councillors **Nina Bliss, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Leo Griggs, Nabin Siwa,**
 Guy Valentine-Neale and Adrian Watts

Clerks **A Oates**

The PCSO did not attend and had not submitted a recent report. There would be a PCSO surgery on Thursday 16th July 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 7pm

There were 3 members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Marjorie Findlay-Stone, Jan Holben and Tim Prater
2. **Declarations of Interest** – there was none.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2015, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.
Proposed by: Cllr Leo Griggs
Seconded by: Cllr Adrian Watts
Agreed by all
4. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**
 - 4.1 Jonathan Greenwall had sadly died. He had previously been a parish councillor for several years and was elected Chairman from 2006 to 2007. His funeral would be held on Friday 17th July at 11am in St Paul's Church.
 - 4.2 The chairman and parish clerk had met with Chief Inspector Ken Elmes to inform him about forthcoming events in the parish. It was hoped that the police would be present at the Sea Festival with their recruitment stand. The chief inspector was also informed about the VC commemorative event being planned for 6th March 2016; he was grateful for the advance notice as this would be a high profile event requiring involvement by the police operational planning department.
 - 4.3 The VC event working group had had its first meeting; the next meeting would be in September.
5. **Chairman's Correspondence**
 - 5.1 Letter from Taylor-Wimpey inviting all members to the private viewing of their exhibition on Wednesday 22nd July to inform local people about their latest phase re the development of Shorncliffe Garrison.
 - 5.2 Email from Mr Ray Johnson, dated 10th July: Mr Johnson was concerned about vehicles being parked half onto pavements along The Esplanade thereby obstructing runners of Folkestone's Half Marathon and other running events. He was also concerned about the vehicles being parked opposite the Rowing Club. He hoped that the parish council could do something about these obstructions. Mr Johnson's comments were noted. The clerk would respond that the parish council was having discussions with Shepway District Council.

6. Guest Speaker: Cllr Rory Love, Member for Sandgate and West Folkestone

Cllr Love outlined his current responsibility as Cabinet Member for Customers, Communications and Digital Delivery; this was a new portfolio at SDC. His previous portfolio had been to do with recycling for which the district council had received award-winning status. His new portfolio would cover broadening communication with residents and making information more accessible, via digital and non-digital means. Currently anyone attending council meetings can digitally record the proceedings and, later this year, council meetings would be live streamed.

Re Ward matters, he consults regularly with Cllr Jan Holben on local planning applications and together they are developing the Ward Plan, which gives a summary of the key issues in the Ward. They were also assisting residents in The Acers re pavement access problems.

There were several questions from the members about the planning portal not being ‘fit for purpose’. Cllr Love explained that there were constraints regarding the site as it was part of a national site; however, he would look into the councillors’ concerns to see if any in-house changes could be made. He asked the councillors to send him examples of problems when they arise. There were further questions about other digital technology; Cllr Fuller would send details in an email to Cllr Love.

The lack of a hard copy of the Village Design Statement at planning meetings was mentioned as this was in line with SDC’s paper-less policy. Cllr Love suggested that the parish council should therefore refer to the document in all their comments on planning applications.

When asked whether there were plans to send out regular digital communications to residents about the council’s achievements, services and events etc, Cllr Love said that the district council did not promote tourism any more – this was covered by FolkestoneTown Centre Management; however, the district council’s achievements and services were mainly promoted via the district-wide Shepway Today publication.

Cllr Watts mentioned that, as in the example at Bybrook Field, homeowners were increasingly seeing the value of their homes being devalued as properties in the vicinity were being developed, and these properties were then increasing in value. He felt that, in view of the Government’s relaxing of planning law, this should be flagged up at a national level. If all councils spoke with ‘one voice’ this might make an impact. Cllr Love asked to be kept informed should the parish council decide to take this matter up and write to the Local Association of Parish Councils to ascertain its support.

- 7. Parish Council’s 4-Year Plan** – the second draft, provided by Cllr Prater, had been previously circulated. It was generally felt that it should not be called a ‘plan’ but should be called ‘Aims & Objectives’. The chairman welcomed the amended draft; it gave excellent details but he also felt that there should be a shorter version highlighting the key points. It was also felt that the aims and objectives should be measurable. This would be taken back to full council to discuss at its September meeting.
- 8. Granville Road toilets update** – a meeting with SDC officers had taken place that day. SDC had agreed to the changes requested by the parish council and they would now re-draft the lease.
- 9. Sandgate Library / KCC & SPC Service Level Agreement** – there were some issues with the current lease between KCC and SDC that need to be looked into before it can be transferred to SPC. The parish council was therefore seeking legal advice. It was felt that this was now very close to conclusion.
- 10. Christmas lights** – the clerk updated that the application to Kent Highways for permission to hang lights on their lampposts had been submitted; however, it could not be concluded until the electrician used by Harmers and Sons had obtained the required Kent Highways certification to be allowed to access the lampposts. It was believed that the electrician would be attending a training session on

20th July and would then gain the accreditation. The clerk assured members that the missing cabling would be replaced.

When KH has approved the application, it was proposed that the parish clerk should have delegated responsibility to go ahead and purchase the garland lights and any associated accessories.

Proposed by: Cllr Nina Bliss

Seconded by: Cllr Leo Griggs

Approved by all

11. **Land Assets Management Sub-Committee report** – there had not been a meeting since the last main council meeting; it would take place the next day. The key matter to discuss and decide upon was the appointment of the contractor to take forward the plan to create a car park at the recreation ground.
12. **Finance update and payments for approval** – there was no update.
13. **Finance Committee report** – there would be a meeting the next day, therefore there was nothing to report.
14. **Environment Committee Report and Shorncliffe Development Update** - the minutes of the last meeting were not ready for circulation and the committee chairman was not present so there was no update.
15. **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, which include a full update on issues regarding Land Adjoining 14 The Corniche.
16. **Information**
 - 16.1 Cllr Nabin informed members that his group had carried out the litter clean-up; it had taken about 90 minutes. The chairman thanked him; it was an excellent initiative.
 - 16.2 The clerk was asked to inform Taylor Wimpey of the names of the new councillors and to get the ex-councillors taken off their mailing list. Cllr Watts announced that he would be attending the forthcoming exhibition.
 - 16.3 The clerk would shortly circulate the updated members’ contact sheet to all councillors.
22. **Date of next meeting** – this would be Tuesday 8th September 2015.

The meeting ended at 8.24pm.

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