

# SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held at 7pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 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, Jan Holben, Tim Prater, Nabin Siwa, Guy Valentine-

**Neale and Adrian Watts** 

Clerk A Oates

There were no members of the public present. The PCSO was not able to attend but she had submitted a short report. The report included crime statistics for September this year compared with September last year. More information was requested on the violence/sexual offences statistic. The clerk would ask for clarification on this.

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 7.03pm

There were 0 members of the public present.

- 1. Apologies for absence: there was none; all councillors were present
- 2. **Declarations of Interest** there was none
- **3. Minutes of the last meeting** the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.

**Proposed by:** Cllr T Prater **Seconded by:** Cllr M Fitch

Agreed by all

### 4. Chairman's Opening Remarks

- 4.1 The Remembrance Day service had gone very well on Sunday. There was a contingent from the Mayor of Sangatte's office and there was a very good turn out from the parish councillors.
- 4.2 Cllrs Griggs and Watts would be attending the ceremonies in France tomorrow.
- 4.3 Our French Twinning partners were very keen to be involved in next year's first Sandgate Music Festival; they have an excellent orchestra. The event will be held from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June.
- 4.4 Cllr Watts would be attending the KALC AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> November. He will present the council's motion on planning law, which is: 'that KALC and NALC should lobby Government to amend planning legislation so that developers compensate those established adjacent individual owners whose property values maybe negatively affected by any new development. This process should be independent and rigorous and based on a clear equitable criteria.'
- 4.5 A meeting had been held today with Fred Miller, Transport Manager at SDC. Cllr Findlay-Stone had subsequently drafted a letter to be sent to Cllr Malcolm Dearden. It was agreed that this letter be sent.
- 4.6 Shorncliffe Trust would be hosting a series of lectures on Saturday at the Tower Theatre. Anyone could purchase tickets. Chris Shaw extended an invitation to all parish councillors to attend as his guests. Anyone wishing to go should inform the parish clerk.

## 5. Chairman's Correspondence

- 5.1 Email dated 21<sup>st</sup> October from Piron Cooper re the Shepway Heritage Strategy: councillors were requested to send any comments to the parish clerk.
- 5.2 Email dated 5<sup>th</sup> November from Sandgate Society: they would be carrying out a survey of buildings with a view to getting them reviewed by English Heritage for statutory listing. The Chairman responded that they would need to be careful as the listed status could alter the value of the properties. This was not a matter for the parish council.
- 5.3 Email dated 5<sup>th</sup> November from Sandgate Society regarding their intention to restore plaques in the parish; they requested support from the parish council. It was not known what this support involved. The email was noted.
- 5.4 Email from Folkestone Town Council re a new Sandgate and Cheriton map: asking for financial support. It was agreed that a decision could not be made re funding as it was not on the agenda but that an in principal message of support could be sent to FTC. Some members had identified errors and omissions in the map; the clerk was asked to send these to FTC.
- 5.5 Email dated 9<sup>th</sup> November from Gary Whittaker at SDC re funding arrangements for 2016/17; SDC had approved a recommendation to provide grants to town and parish councils for the 2016/17 financial year; this was very good news.
- 5.6 Email dated 9<sup>th</sup> November from KALC giving information on the new Pensions scheme; this would be studied and discussed by the Personnel Committee.

## 6. Granville Road toilets update

The Chairman reported that the lease had been signed. The locks to the toilets had been removed; the next step was to start preliminary works to the kiosk in accordance with the planning consent conditions. The cleaning organised by SDC would continue for three months, the clerk was arranging this. A member of the public had sent an email complaining about the disabled toilet not working but it was felt that this was probably sorted with the removal of the locks. It was important that the council now works on the tender process for procuring a sub-let of the kiosk. The clerk was asked to set up a working group meeting as soon as possible and all councillors should be invited to attend. A public request for expressions of interest should be actioned.

#### 7. Sandgate Library / KCC & SPC Service Level Agreement

The main update was that the council was querying the length of the agreement with KCC and was still waiting to receive an update on the situation of the electrics. A Library Committee meeting had been arranged; the agenda would be circulated this week.

#### 8. Christmas Event and Christmas lights

Members were updated that all was progressing well. The primary school choir could not attend the event but it was anticipated that the Mission Gospel Choir would attend. The new garland lights were scheduled to be put up onto the lampposts at the end of next week and the Santa and sleigh lights in the valley would also be installed shortly.

### 9. William Cotter VC

The Chairman reported that all was progressing well with the event for next March. A site meeting would take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The steering group had been informed that an invitation would be extended to L/Sgt Johnson Beharry VC to attend the event; it would be an honour to have his presence at the commemoration event.

# 10. Setting of Aims & Objectives

10.1 Cllr Valentine-Neale had previously circulated the final version of the Aims and Objectives and proposed that these be adopted.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Guy Valentine-Neale

Seconded by: Cllr Tim Prater

Agreed by all

10.2 Cllr Valentine-Neale had previously circulated the 4-year Action Plan. There were various queries which were highlighted in red. He requested that councillors have a read-through and respond to the highlighted areas which were relevant to their areas of responsibility and respond back

to him accordingly. This plan should then go back to full council at the next meeting to be signed off. The Chairman of the Council thanked Cllr Valentine-Neale for his work on this plan, as well as Cllrs Prater and Watts for their inputs.

- 11. Land Assets Management Sub-Committee report – the minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated; there was no further information.
- 12. Finance update and payments for approval – there was nothing to report.
- 13. **Finance Committee report** - the minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated; there was no further information.
- 14. **Environment Committee report** – the minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated. Cllr Findlay-Stone updated on the wheelie bin screening: designs had been received from Roger Joyce; these would be shown to the Riviera Court residents.
- 15. Shorncliffe Development update – Cllr Griggs reported that he would be making a presentation to Hythe Town Council at its next full council meeting. Cllr Prater reported that he had had a preliminary discussion with Folkestone Town Council and it looked promising that FTC would give its support. SDC was also discussing this matter. It was reported that Damian Collins would give his support to this initiative.
- **16. Planning Committee report** – the minutes of the past meeting had been previously circulated. Cllr Fuller reported that a response from Alistair Stewart had been received; the members were not impressed with his response; it was unfair that he could not give any information on the procedures that had been enquired about.
- 17. KALC Report – Cllr Fuller reported that he had not yet completed the NALC National Improvement Survey but this would be done soon.
- 18. **Information** 
  - Cllr Fitch asked about the damaged bus shelter; this was on-going, the clerks were in regular 18 1 contact with SDC.
  - 18.2 Cllr Fuller informed members that he had started a new group on the Sandgate Facebook page. It was suggested that a link to the Facebook page should be added to the council's website.
  - The clerk informed the council that Ben Kosh of The Computer Shop was about to start full-18.3 time employment with a company so he would no longer be able to provide IT support to the council.
- ks

19.	<b>Date of next meeting</b> – this would be Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2015, followed by the Christmas drin and finger buffet reception afterwards; the food was being provided by Loaf. The Chairman hoped that all councillors would attend.
The m	eeting ended at 8pm.
Signed by the Chairman	