



Minutes

SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Date 12th November 2013. Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Sandgate Council and Library, Sandgate High Street.

Present:	Chairman	Cllr Robert Bliss (RB)
	Cllrs	Nina Bliss (NB), Gary Fuller (GF), Marjorie Findlay-Stone (MFS), Tom Heselden (TH), Michael Fitch (MF), Vanessa Reay (VR) and Tim Prater (TP)
	Clerk	Ms A Oates

The County Councillor for Folkestone West, Cllr Hod Birkby (HB), gave a presentation to the council. The KCC Scrutiny Committee, of which Cllr HB is a member, would be looking to commission various projects in this area and a report would be produced by March 2014. From his members' fund, Cllr HB would be supporting the replacement of trees, refurbishment of the Old Fire Station and installation of fitness equipment, a pedestrian crossing on Sandgate Hill and resurfacing work in Horn Street.

Cllr MFS raised the issue of cycling and safety on the seafront gangway and asked Cllr HB to support the concept of creating a boardwalk, to which he agreed. She also asked for his support for a 20mph speed limit through the village, with appropriate signage. Cllr HB explained that a speed limit could not be enforced but he agreed in principle with the suggestion.

Cllr TP stated that the Speed Watch initiative had been very useful as the A259 was a key route into the village. He agreed that, as a key route, it would be difficult to enforce a lower speed limit; however, he pointed out that Brighton had achieved this. Cllr TP asked Cllr HB to supply a list of the roads that have been earmarked for replacement trees. Cllr TP informed Cllr HB about the Sandgate Business Forum and asked if he would speak to the forum about any possible opportunities for the members.

Cllr Nina Bliss asked Cllr HB for support for a pedestrian crossing on The Esplanade, which was supported by Cllr TP. Cllr TP said that he had a great deal of information on this as it had been planned out and costed a few years ago but there had been no support from the previous parish council administration. Cllr HB said that his highways fund for this year had been spent but that he would support this proposal next year.

One question was posed by a member of the public, Dave Kesby, about Folkestone West station – he asked if it could be put on a bus service route. Cllr Birkby said he would look into this.

There was no PCSO in attendance.

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 7.16pm

2 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Leo Griggs; Richard Grundy and Jan Holben.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 8th October 2013 were proposed as a correct record.

Proposed by: Cllr Tim Prater

Seconded by: Cllr Nina Bliss

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

4. Chairman's opening remarks

4.1 The Chairman offered his thanks to Cllr Hod Birkby for the presentation.

4.2 The switching on of the Christmas lights was planned for 22nd November at 6.00pm. Father Christmas would be in attendance and mince pies and mulled wine would be given out at Escondido Restaurant. This event was being linked to Folkestone's switch-on.

4.3 Free weekend parking in Shepway's car parks would be on 7th, 14th and 21st of December and free weekend parking would also be available in the grounds of Saga.

5. Chairman's correspondence

5.1 A donation of £1,000 had been received from Ralph Nevill, Executor of Ann Neville's estate. It was to be viewed as a donation coming from both his parents. There was no request as to how the money was to be spent. It was agreed that the decision on how best to spend the bequest would be passed to the Environment Committee. The clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Mr Nevill.

5.2 Email from Collette Redmond and Paul Ramsell, dated 5th November: the owners of the end Coastguard Cottage would give their permission for two display panels to be erected on their end wall, subject to conditions that were read out. It was agreed that this should be passed to the Environment Committee. It was felt that the conditions were not unreasonable except that there should be clarification of the request to return the wall to its current state.

6. 2014-15 Budget

This item was deferred to be considered under item 13.

7. Renovation of Sandgate Memorial

A report on the two quotations received was presented to members. It was mentioned that any renovation of the plaques would need to be approved by English Heritage. The Cleverly and Spencer quote was the most competitive quote. It was proposed that this be accepted and the works be carried out in time for the commemorations next year.

Proposed by: Cllr T Prater

Seconded by: Cllr R Bliss

Agreed by all; subject to receiving a detailed specification from Cleverly and Spencer, including replacing the grate, etc, and the final details as to what is renovated to be agreed by the Finance Committee.

8. 2014 Events

8.1 There would be three events held at the Recreation Ground during 2014 as well as a series of petanque matches.

8.2 The Sea Festival would be held as usual over the August Bank Holiday.

8.3 Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone advised that the Sandgate Society was planning to hold a war-time tea event. The date would need to be noted so that the planned Fun Day event at the Recreation Ground was not held on the same day.

9. Landslips

Cllr Mrs Findlay-Stone had met with Nick Lewington of Shepway District Council, on behalf of the community, regarding the landslip in Radnor Cliff. It was possible that the planning period had expired. Mr Lewington had said that the plot would not need a building to help with stabilisation; however, he would speak to the owner about the condition of the site. Piran Cooper, SDC, was apparently compiling a list of recent landslips to inform future planning policy. All members were asked to inform Cllr MFS of any landslips. This item would be included in the next winter newsletter. Cllr MFS would liaise with Piran Cooper and would report back to the Planning Committee.

10. Twinning update

Cllr Griggs was absent from the meeting. A delegation from France had come over for Remembrance Sunday and some parish councillors went to France for their services. Five or six local residents had also travelled to France independently. A French magazine was available in the library for anyone to take.

11. Land Assets Management and MUGA update

This was as per the minutes previously circulated. It was clarified that the matter of the damage to the tarmac on one of the new courts would be rectified by the contractors at their own cost.

12. Finance update and payments for approval

There was nothing new to report.

13. Finance Committee Report

This was as per the minutes previously circulated. The draft budget for 2014-15 and first recommendation on the precept had been distributed for information only. This would be decided at the January meeting.

14. Environment Committee report

14.1 The minutes of the last meeting had not yet been circulated; they would be sent to members the following day.

14.2 HSIF Enhancement project: it had been decided to site the prows of boats only rather than the whole boat.

14.3 HSIF Windows project: **it was proposed** that the parish council should submit a planning application, should it be found to be necessary and **it was also proposed**, *further to discussions at 5.2 above*, that the council agrees in writing to the terms that the owners of the end Coastguard Cottage have requested, except that the wording should say ‘make good’ the wall, not ‘be returned to its current state’ by the definition that any fixings put into the wall would negate this but that ‘making good’ would be more accurate. Also, it may be more practical to put ‘the council would make every effort to effect repairs within 28 days’.

Proposed by: Cllr Marjorie Findlay-Stone

Seconded by: Cllr Nina Bliss

Agreed by all.

14.4 HSIF Signs: this project was nearing completion.

14.5 The anti dog fouling poster competition had been resurrected – the clerk would contact local primary schools.

14.6 The Sandgate Society’s wish to erect a memorial tree would be at no cost to the parish council.

15. Planning Committee Report

Cllr Fuller updated that there had been two meetings since the last council meeting. There had been four applications, none of which had been opposed. Concerns had been expressed about the planning department and the system itself, poor website etc. A letter of complaint would be sent to SDC, to be signed by both the Chairman of Planning and the Chairman of the Parish Council.

16. **Information** – The clerk informed members that DCLG has finally laid a Legislative Reform Order in draft form to Parliament to abolish the two signature rule that currently prevents local councils from using electronic payment methods. She would update on this when more information was known.
17. **Date of the next meeting** – Tuesday 10th December 2013 at 7pm and after the meeting, drinks and food would be served. Anyone in the parish could attend.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Minutes agreed and signed by:

Chairman of the Council..... Date 12th November 2013