



SANDGATE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2018 at 6.30pm
Sandgate Council Library & Offices, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate.

Present: **Chairman** **Cllr Robert Bliss**
 Councillors **Nina Bliss, Marjorie Findlay-Stone, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller,**
 Tim Prater, Nabin Siwa, Kurt Stephens and Adrian Watts

Parish Clerks: **Mr P Savage and Mrs G Thomas**

There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Councillors Jan Holben and Guy Valentine-Neale and from Laurielle Hampton.
2. **Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**
It was proposed that the Minutes of 9 May 2017, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by: Councillor N Bliss
Seconded by: Councillor Tim Prater
Agreed unanimously
3. **Chairman's welcome and yearly overview**
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a summary of what the parish council had achieved over the past year:

At the Recreation Grounds

- Continued excellent services of our own caretaker who checked the grounds, undertook litter picks, etc
- Portable toilets were again provided throughout the summer

In the High Street and The Esplanade

- Hanging baskets and various planters were planted with colourful flowers
- Union Flags were put up around the War Memorial for Remembrance Day in November and flags of the armed forces were flown along the Esplanade
- Christmas garlands and lights were put on the lampposts in the village

The Beach

- Awarded the 2017 seaside Award
- The Boat House had been in operation for two years and the Council congratulated the tenants who are run it in an exemplary fashion

The Village Green and other areas

- A 20 foot Christmas tree on the village green and the illumination of the Santa and sleigh and small trees above the shops

- Continued grounds maintenance across all our open spaces; the recreation ground, the village green and the green at Wilberforce Road.
- Successful sponsorship scheme for planters in the village – raising a little cash and cementing relations with local businesses
- New boat prow planters for the entrances to the village on Sandgate Hill and the Golden Valley, named after local figures Hattie Jacques and Dame Sheila Sherlock

Working with others

The parish council had regular meeting and updates with various organisations and agencies

- Kent County Council - especially Kent Highways, reporting faults and street /gulley cleaning
- Shepway District Council (now Folkestone and Hythe District Council) - Planning, Environment Street scene and the Legal and Property teams
- Various groups, individuals and business
- The business forum
- Folkestone School for Girls
- Twinning with Sangatte – a major agreement with the Mayor of Sangatte to achieve an exchange of pupils between the College Louis Bleriot and Folkestone School for Girls; school concert was coming up at Bleriot Plage

And the parish council regularly informed local residents and businesses about local issues, events and other information via its newsletter

The Library

The Council had been in charge of the library for two years and many changes had taken place

- Tuesday afternoon opening
- A re-configuration of the children's library
- Two new groups: Scrabble Club and current affairs
- Visitors had increased by 17% and issues had increased by 19%

The Council was very grateful for the invaluable support of our library volunteers and sincere thanks were extended to each of them.

Events Held

- Family Fun Day at the recreation ground
- Sandgate Sea festival
- Christmas lights switch –on event at Saga Pavilion held at the end of November

5. Public participation and questions

Councillors answered questions from residents:

- New bus services: these were due to change in June 2018 and there were concerns at the impact especially on residents of the Golden Valley. The Chairman of the Council advised that the point has been made by the Parish Council on many occasions but the providers had not responded positively. The point was made that there was a spare bus shelter now available that might be better located outside the Royal Norfolk Hotel – the matter was referred to the Environment Committee.
- Twinning: a member of the public indicated that this was a positive step and the Council was commended.
- Escarpment consultation: a member of the public asked for an update. The Deputy Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer indicated that the consultation would be reported in full to an extraordinary Council meeting on 22 May 2018.

- 6. Any information items – there were no further items of information.
- 7. Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting – this would be held on Tuesday 14 May 2019.

The Chairman invited the members of the public present to partake in light refreshments after the conclusion of the Annual Parish Council meeting, which would follow the Annual Parish meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Chairman of Council Date