



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of an EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held at 6.45 pm on Tuesday 22 May 2018**

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

---

**Present:**      **Chairman**                      **Councillor Robert Bliss**  
                         **Councillors**                      **Nina Bliss, Marjorie Findlay-Stone, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller,**  
                            **Jan Holben, Tim Prater, Nabin Siwa, Guy Valentine-Neale and**  
                            **Adrian Watts**

**Clerk**                                      **P Savage**

---

These Minutes will only be deemed to be a correct record of the meeting when approved and signed at the next meeting

1.      **Apology for absence:** Councillor Kurt Stephens
2.      **Declarations of Interest** – there were none
3.      **Potential acquisition of Sandgate Woods and Martello Towers 6 and 7: report of Deputy Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer**

The Responsible Finance Officer presented his report on the consultation exercise on the above potential acquisition for the Parish Council. Councillors scrutinised the matter, in particular raising the following issues:

- Confirming the financial position
- Confirming the process
- Insurance arrangements
- Likely maintenance costs
- Emphasising that the commercial elements would not be pursued
- The need to set up appropriate residents' consultation and participation bodies should the acquisition go ahead

The Parish Council then needed to discuss in camera the options for further negotiations on price and to receive legal advice in the light of the threatened legal action.

**RESOLVED That the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

Proposed by Councillor Robert Bliss  
Seconded by Councillor Marjorie Findlay-Stone  
(Voting: For: 7; Against 2; Abstentions 1)

Councillors were of the view that there was further scope for negotiations on the purchase price or for a contribution towards legal expenses. The Deputy Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer also gave legal advice.

The meeting resumed in open.

**RESOLVED (1) to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a fixed rate PWLB loan of £500,000 up to 50 years for the land purchase on which stand the Martello Towers. The annual loan repayments would come to around £18,500. It was intended to increase the precept from 2019-20 by £9.75 (band D) a year for the purpose of the loan repayments.**

**(2) That the contract documents be drawn up in as tight a way as legally possible to prevent future development of the site;**

**(3) That the budget of £500,000 be used in the following priority order: acquisition of the site; safety access improvements to the woodlands; signage and interpretation; essential repair works to the Martello Towers; and a “sinking fund” for urgent repairs within the first three years**

**(4) That the likely balance of these allocations being £355,000 for the purchase, £25,000 for safety access improvements and signage, £95,000 for essential repair works to the Martello Towers and £25,000 for the “sinking fund”.**

**(5) To authorise the Deputy Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to enter into further negotiations with the vendor in order to see best value which could include a contribution towards the Parish Council's legal fees.**

Proposed by Councillor Robert Bliss

Seconded by Councillor Tim Prater

(Voting: For: 9; Against 1; Abstentions 0)

The meeting ended at 8.05 pm.

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