



## SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Resources Committee held on Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 6 pm

Present: **Chairman**  
**Councillors**  
  
**Clerk**

**Councillor Robert Bliss**  
**Nina Bliss, Michael Fitch, Tim Prater, Tracy Stephens,**  
**Guy Valentine-Neale and Adrian Watts**  
**P Savage**

The meeting commenced at 6 pm

There were no members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for absence** – there were none as all members of the Committee were present.
2. **Declarations of Interest**– Councillors Guy Valentine-Neale and Adrian Watts declared an interest in respect of the Sandgate Society grant application as committee members of the Society. The clerk, Peter Savage, also declared an interest as a paying member of the Society.
3. **Minutes** – The Minutes of the meetings of the predecessor bodies were noted as circulated.
4. **Sandgate Park**  
The RFO had circulated a written report. In addition the Committee made the following observations.
  - 4.1 **Furniture and signage:** agreed to hold a site visit to review signage, notice boards and bins involving Councillors Robert Bliss, Tim Prater and Adrian Watts (RFO).
  - 4.2 **Car park fence:** volunteers to be sought to assist Councillor Watts in applying stain to the fence (Parish Council to supply stain and brushes) (RFO).
  - 4.3 **Car park height restrictor:** RFO to get two further quotes.
  - 4.4 **Portable toilets:** RFO's proposal agreed, including the option to seek alternative providers.
5. **Granville Road toilets and kiosk**  
The RFO gave a brief update on the position. Agreed to install signs in each cubicle asking users to respect the facility and to report any problems directly to the Boathouse (RFO). Out of order sign also to be created and applied (RFO).
7. **Sir John Moore Library**  
Noted that the decision of Taylor Wimpey was expected by the end of June 2019.
8. **Additional planting – western Esplanade:** the RFO gave an update on potential community solutions to the issue. Agreed that options be pursued including assistance from a contractor as the heavy work in order to assist any voluntary group to undertake the planting. Also agreed that Oportunitas be asked raise the two conical planters outside the housing block on Sandgate High Street (RFO).

The Committee also discussed the option of accepting additional lands from Folkestone and Hythe District Council and agreed to invite Andy Blaszkowicz to a meeting to discuss the issues. (RFO)

## 9. 2018-19 expenditure

The RFO presented the annual governance and accountability return for 2018-19 (audit statement) which had been circulated.

**Resolved: that the statement be approved and submitted to full Council.**

#### **10. 2019-20 budget**

The RFO presented the budget monitoring information which the Committee scrutinised and raised the following additional points:

- Sangatte delegation to the Sea Festival to be invited to stay overnight at the Sea Festival with the Parish Council offering to contribute towards evening meal (AW)
- Sandgate Design Statement: there had been no progress with this at the district council.

#### **11. Correspondence – there was none**

#### **12. Information – there was none.**

#### **13. Exclusion of the public**

Resolved that the public be excluded on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **14. Car park enforcement**

The RFO presented a proposal from CPM to provide enforcement at the new Sandgate Park car park along the following lines:

- ANPR service with power sourced by neighbouring lamp post
- Two hours free parking with no return within one hour
- No charge from CPM to the Parish Council
- Minimum contract of one year
- Subject to survey
- KCC had agreed in principle to access to power from an adjacent lamp post subject to application and a fee of £99.

**Resolved: that the RFO be authorised to pursue the proposal with operating hours of Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.**

#### **15. Grant applications**

The Committee considered the following applications for grant:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Purpose of grant</b>	<b>Sum requested</b>
Sandgate Boules Club	Purchase of club shirts and gifts for the upcoming trip to Sangatte. As well as the Sangatte twinning competition the shirts would also be worn for other events throughout the year.	£500
Sandgate Society	Sandgate community garden: purchase of boxes, seeds, wood preserver and compost	£100

**Resolved: that Council be recommended that (1) the application from the Boules Club be declined because it was retrospective, but the Committee remained supportive of the Club for future events; and**

**(2) the grant to the Sandgate Society be approved.**

#### **16. Options for PWLB loan**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the RFO which summarised the nine responses to the public consultation exercise held to identify public opinion in respect of future use of the PWLB loan. Residents had put forward a range of suggestions including affordable housing, safe long term

investments, property investments, other major projects in Sandgate including a breakwater with café and play area, external projects such as the Folkestone Leas lift, building beach huts, extending the Folkestone Triennial to Sandgate, creation of an outdoor auditorium.

The Committee restated the following principles:

- The original loan was only applied for the purpose of acquiring Sandgate Woods and the Martello towers. Any consent to increase the precept was linked only to that consultation and decision so it would be inappropriate to take a decision that would increase the precept above inflation unless there was further major consultation
- Prudence in preventing medium to long term costs to the Council was most important.
- The Council should be risk averse

The Committee believed that there were safe, government backed investment opportunities that could provide a return of 2-2.2% for the next two years, which would result in a small net loss for that period. The position could then be reviewed again in 2021 in the light of interest rates at the time or other capital pressures on the Parish Council.

**Resolved that the RFO look into options for safe and secure investments for the PWLB loan for the next two years that would mitigate against any costs to the Council, and report back to the next meeting of the Committee**

The meeting ended at 7.58 pm.

Signed by the Chairman, Resources Committee

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Date.....