



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held online on
Tuesday 5th May 2020**

Present: Chairman Councillor Tim Prater

Councillors: Councillors Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Vanessa Reay, Nabin Siwa, Tracy Stephens & Lewis Whitnall

Clerk: G Thomas

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

1. **Apologies for absence: There were none**
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.
Proposed by: Councillor Lewis Whitnall
Seconded by: Councillor Vanessa Reay
Agreed by all who had been present
3. **Declarations of interest** – none were declared.
4. **Communications**
 - 4.1 It was noted that an email had been received from a resident regarding the possible re-positioning of a bin, from the foot of Romney Ave to adjacent to the new bus stop in Enbrook Valley opposite the shops. It was noted that the bin had been originally positioned next to a bus stop which had now been removed, and would better serve this new location.
ACTION: SPC to agree movement with FHDC and arrange movement with Harmers.
 - 4.2 It was noted that a number of emails and other communications had been received regarding Riviera Road and whether the public could use it. The conclusions of the Highway Steward were that the road was a private street, which meant that it was usable by the public on foot but not on motorised vehicles. The steward had indicated that he would talk to the residents of the neighbouring properties to make them aware of this situation.
ACTION: the update given to the Council has been published on the parish council's website.
 - 4.3 It was noted that an email had been received from a resident that the Enbrook Steam was once again cloudy, which in the past had been caused by a misconnected main higher up the valley. The stream did revert quickly to clear but the clerk has reported the reoccurrence to the Environmental Agency, as previously requested by them.

4.4 It was noted that a short video from the council funded Pavement Pounders project had been received. This video was a small part of the intended project which would gather interviews from residents who had lived through WW11, to create a comprehensive permanent record of the parish's experience of that time. The video had been very well received and the further additions were greatly anticipated by the council.

5. Standing Issues

Beaches

5.1 It was noted that the beach reprofiling was taking place and that the solarium had been swept clear of shingle. There were concerns that certain areas had still been left unswept which needed to be cleared.

ACTION: SPC to contact FHDC to clear the Esplanade footpath on the seaward side of the seawall (by the benches) opposite the Sandgate Hotel.

5.2 It was noted that the Beach Awards would be announced on the 6th May

5.3 It was noted that one of the dog poo bag dispensers needed refilling on the promenade and that new bags had been ordered.

5.4 The committee agreed that the continuing problem with cyclists inconsiderately cycling too fast or too near to pedestrians on the Esplanade and walkway was disturbing. It was noted that this was not a problem with any easy resolution, as neither location was owned by the parish council and previous attempts to apply signage had been unsuccessful and further would not be supported by Kent Highways. It was also noted that these were designated cycleways.

Transport, highways and parking

5.5 It was noted that monitoring of the CPZ was not being actively undertaken by traffic wardens as it was evident that the majority of vehicles were those belonging to the local community, who were either working or staying at home. The wardens were concentrating their efforts on those who were actively infringing parking regulations such as parking unsafely or on double yellow lines or by over staying in car parks or metered areas.

Business and tourism-

5.6 It was noted that the Business Rates/Support grants had been actively promoted to all local businesses with a successful take up.

5.7 The committee wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the support given by local businesses, to those financially disadvantaged. These included the Dog House who provided free food for many, and the Village Shop, who had also gone out of its way to help the community. It was agreed that there were many more businesses who had also contributed to this charitable giving and they were to be congratulated. The Sandgate Society was noted to have given financial support to the Dog House to assist in their efforts and the society had also given a free box of chocolates to all residents of Homevale House and Wells House and to the staff.

Signage, bins, noticeboards

5.8 It was noted that the noticeboards on the Boat House had been replaced and that new signage had been purchased. This signage included VE Day Notices which would be placed around the benches at the War Memorial for Friday's 10.00am wreath laying by councillors.

The committee gratefully acknowledged the generosity of Harmer and Sons who had installed the flags around the War Memorial free of charge.

Other environmental issues affecting the parish- None at this time

6. Bin Screening outside Riviera Court

It was noted that after some concern from the council regarding ownership, maintenance and insurance of the bin screening for outside Riviera Court, that a comprehensive response had been received from Sandgate Society. It was noted that materials were of good quality and while needing general maintenance, this was not seen to be an onerous problem and in fact the society would contribute to the first five years' insurance of the item, and will be happy to discuss contributions towards future maintenance costs. It was proposed that the project go forward and that ownership, on completion, should transfer to the parish for inclusion on its asset register. Agreed by all.

ACTION: SPC to include the recommendation of Environment Committee to accept the ownership of the screening for ratification on the May Annual Parish Council Meeting agenda.

ACTION: RFO to be consulted regarding increases in insurance, including PLI

7. Information

7.1 Cllr Stephens asked that the council support a proposed activity to run in tandem with the Christmas event at Saga. It was proposed that a procession of Sea Cadets should parade along the High Street and that there would also be a convoy of Santa and his elves travelling up to the Saga building. It was agreed by all that this would be a great addition to the parish's celebration and councillors Whitnall and Reay offered their assistance.

7.2 It was noted that the Sandgate Society had given the library funding for Summer Reading activities, the treasurer of the society had spoken to the clerk to indicate the willingness of the society for the monies to be used in other ways to assist parents and children in the parish with perhaps reading material or other items. It was agreed that the councillors would give thought to this offer and inform the clerk of any ideas over the next month.

8. Date of next meeting 2nd June 2020

Signed by the Environment Committee Chairman.....