



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 6th October 2020

Present: Chair Vanessa Reay

Cllrs Nina Bliss, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Tim Prater, Nabin Siwa, Tracy Stephens, Adrian Watts & 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. Election of chairman on resignation of Cllr Adrian Watts**
Cllr Vanessa Reay proposed by Cllr Tracy Stephens
Seconded by Cllr Nabin Siwa
Agreed by all
- 2. Apologies for absence: There were none.**
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.
Proposed by: Councillor Adrian Watts
Seconded by: Councillor Tracy Stephens
Agreed by all who had been present
- 4. Declarations of interest** – none declared.
- 5. Communications**
 - 5.1 It was noted that St Pauls' Church had approached the parish council to invite Cllr Prater to attend the Remembrance Day commemoration in his capacity as Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council. As numbers would be strictly limited, Cllr Prater would be in attendance without the corporate regalia, to avoid the official insurance requirement of a member of the council or staff also attending and taking up another place. It had been agreed to commission a bigger sand box for the step of the War Memorial for the public to lay their poppies and flags would also be flying around the memorial. Although there would be no formal parade from the church to the war memorial and service, it was noted that some councillors would attend, appropriately socially distanced, at the memorial for the two-minute silence.
 - 5.2 It was noted that a strip of land had been identified by the Incredible Edible team, at the back of Ross Way and Oxenden Road, and successful representations had been made to the District Council for its use as another community garden. If the parish council would also agree to this project, then the households backing onto the land would be asked to give their agreement. It was noted that all the councillors present strongly favoured this project.

6. Standing Issues

Beaches

It was noted that the beaches had been well used and that extra bins and regular beach-cleaning had been seen to have a good effect. Unfortunately, the Veolia beach cleaning would stop as of 7th October, so it was hoped that Cllr Siwa in association with Giles Barnard of FHDC could facilitate some additional beach-clean events over the winter.

Transport, highways and parking

It was noted that potholes in Gough Road were to be filled and the road surface dressed and relined.

It was noted that Enbrook Road would benefit from four new Kent Highways funded bollards, in an attempt to ameliorate the verge damage that had been occurring over the years. This was thanks to the assistance of Kieron Greenaway, the Highways Steward. It was noted that if additional bollards were needed, funding would have to be found elsewhere, as this could not be accommodated by the Kent Highways' budget.

It was noted that Kent Highways funded, carriage-wide 30mph speed signage roundels would be placed on the A259, as a visual reminder to drivers.

It was noted that the number of conversions of flats and new developments on the Esplanade and side roads had led to an increasing problem with parking.

Business and Tourism

It was noted sadly that Fabulous Nellies would be closing, and there was some concern that as the High Street became more residential, businesses would suffer. It was noted, however, that cafes and restaurants were doing very well.

Signage, bins, noticeboards

It was noted that, where bins had been damaged or graffitied, these had now been cleaned or replaced.

Other environmental issues affecting the parish

7. Speedwatch

It was noted that the parish had a quarter share in a speed indication device. This device displays the speed of vehicles and volunteers share the recorded findings of car numbers doing significantly above the speed limit with Kent police. This would alert the police to an area where a large number are being flagged as speeding and, if there were regular offenders, these individuals would then be in receipt of a formal admonitory letter from the police. Thanks were given to Cllrs Watts, Siwa, and Fuller and to Simon Horton, RFO and deputy parish clerk for volunteering and also to local resident Rosalie Morris. It was hoped that additional volunteers would come forward and a training session arranged, so that two or three sessions of the Speedwatch could take place on a monthly basis.

It was noted that the need for Speedwatch volunteers had been advertised on the website and Facebook, and it would now be on the next mailout. It was noted that there was a lot of noisy motor bike activity and police and community safety officers were aware to try to inform people not to speed through the parish.

8. Fremantle Park

It was noted that the children's play area flooring was being repaired, sewer covers had been repaired, a bin had been replaced and another was under discussion. Winter pruning back costs had been accounted for in the budget and quotes were being received for possible solutions to the slippery access path at the Encombe Road end of the park.

It was noted that a request for suggestions for the renaming the park had been made in the parish newsletter. Only one suggestion had been received which was for 'Bliss Park'. It was agreed to poll the wider community for their agreement to this change of name from the existing names of Enbrook Valley Park and Fremantle Park, or if they wish to retain the present names.

Action: Cllr Prater to produce the agreed protocol previously used for the renaming of Sandgate Park.

9. Sandgate Park

It was noted that the play tower had been erected, and the insurance money had been received, however some of the invoice payment had been withheld until the surface was successfully underpinned.

It was noted that agreement for use of the lamp-posts for CCTV had been received and this would now proceed. Suitable signage at all areas with CCTV coverage would also be erected, including Sandgate Park, which would benefit from infra-red and long-range CCTV equipment.

10. Christmas

10.1 It was noted that the previous years' lighting up event would in all probability not take place, although SAGA would be lighting up their park and the parish would also have the street garlands, the tree in the Village and lit trees in the Golden Valley car park.

10.2 It was proposed that there should be an advertised Sandgate Christmas trail of the homes of people who have decorated their windows or gardens. This would be an extension of the previous years' shop windows competition, and prizes would be given for the best window, garden, best children's window and so on. Volunteers would produce and distribute the trail map to include all entrants who signed up for the competition, so that people could follow the trail around Sandgate, in the evening of the weeks before Christmas. It was agreed that SPC would use the usual media to promote the trail and people could sign up via email, or by phoning the office. Prizes would be funded by the parish, and the volunteers would decide the different prize categories, including a possible prize competition for the people going on the trail, the winners to be announced the weekend before Christmas. Thanks were given to local residents, James Walker-Osborne and Jody Wilson-Gaddes for their kind offers of assistance. It was proposed that around £200.00 could be allowed for the prizes. This was agreed by the committee.

10.3 An additional suggestion was made about the possibility of the placement of a lit candle in the windows of all Sandgate residences on a set time on Christmas Eve, in keeping with the slogan of 'Light Up Sandgate' for Christmas and this was also agreed.

11. Date of next meeting 3rd November at 6.00pm

Signed by the Environment Committee Chairman.....