



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 2nd February 2021
Online

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**Present: Chair Vanessa Reay**  
**Cllrs Nina Bliss, Gary Fuller, Tim Prater, Nabin Siwa, Adrian Watts and Lewis Whitnall**

**Clerk: Gaye Thomas**

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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:** Cllr Tracy Stephens
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** – the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th January, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.
Proposed by: Councillor Lewis Whitnall
Seconded by: Councillor Nina Bliss
Agreed by all who had been present

3. **Declarations of interest** – none declared.

4. **Communications**

4.1 It was noted that Leonie Wootton had identified a number of potential additional sites for planting in Sandgate including; outside the chip shop, Wilberforce Green, and the alley way coming into Fremantle Park. Leonie also provided plant information from the Wildlife Trust.

4.2 It was noted that Paul Thompson, informed the SPC that it had not yet been finalised whether the proposed electrical car charging bays would have a dedicated traffic regulation order (TRO), or what time restrictions, if any, would be implemented.

4.3 It was noted that an email had been received from Paul Thompson indicating that he would establish whether the large 'TURN LEFT; into Castle Road Car Park required repainting and he would also consider additional signage on the lamp column at the exit.

4.4 It was noted that an email had been received from Paul Thompson regarding the possible establishment of motorbike parking bays and that it had been agreed at JTB to proceed to statutory consultation.

5. **Standing Issues**

Beaches

It was noted that Cllr Siwa had finalised this year's application for the Seaside Award which celebrated the quality and diversity of beaches in the UK. Cllr Siwa was thanked for all his hard work in completing this submission.

Transport, highways and parking

It was noted that Kent County Council had launched a consultation - Vision Zero: The Road Safety Strategy for Kent 2020 – 2026 <https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/visionzero/consultationHome> - a strategy to try to reduce the number of road accidents over many years.

The SPC agreed that this document included some points that were consistently raised in Sandgate: a 20mph speed limit, speed cameras on the A259 including in the centre of the village, and improved cycle networks off of the pavements.

The document included proposed actions including those of:

- Researching the criteria for installing new safety camera systems to include community demand, so cameras can be used where the community feels speeding is an issue.
- Piloting an average speed camera corridor along a stretch of road for evaluation.
- Evaluate and learn from the pilot 20mph speed limit towns (Faversham and Tonbridge) and analyse impacts and success of measures to improve compliance.

The possibility of a Sandgate wide 20mph zone was discussed and that of the positioning of an average speed camera corridor on the A259 through the centre of the village, from entry to exit.

Action: It was agreed that Cllr Prater would ask residents for their thoughts on these points on the parish website

It was previously noted that Cllr Prater had held a meeting with the Highway Steward to discuss traffic speeding/dangerous driving issues in Enbrook Valley and Romney Avenue. It had been agreed that bollards would be placed along the curb line on the outside of the bend in Enbrook Valley, and a line painted to mark the edge of the road on that bend. It was now confirmed that the bollards and lining would take place by the end of the financial year.

Romney Avenue would also have lines repainted and a central line added, but this would be in the new financial year.

It was noted that repainting of the zebra crossing in the High Street, the addition of a 'slow down' sign at the junction of Wilberforce Road and the Crescent, plus refreshed white and yellow lines, would take place next week,

Business and Tourism – there was nothing to report at this time.

Signage, bins, noticeboards

There was noted that the Sandgate Village signs needed cleaning.

Action : Clerk to contact Harmer and Sons.

Other environmental issues affecting the parish

It was noted that there had been an incident at Napier Barracks that had resulted in the destruction of a building, the wrecking of the canteen and the arrest and removal of 14 residents. The parish council condemned the criminal action which had taken place at the barracks.

It also noted that the position of SPC and the District Council remains as it has been since before the centre opened that this was an unsuitable location and accommodation to hold a large number of people long-term, especially due to the shared nature of that accommodation during a pandemic. This had increasingly been proven to be a bad decision, a view shared by those on site, and support charities. The overall view remained that the centre should be closed.

6. **Christmas Event** – this item was deferred until the next meeting.
7. **Sea Festival** – It was provisionally agreed that the event would take place at the end of August 2021. This decision would be kept under review given the uncertainty that surrounded what pandemic restrictions would be in place later this year, with at present, no financial outlay made to secure bookings. It was also agreed to limit the event to one day, with stalls positioned according to social distancing requirements and increased stewarding.
8. **Information**
It was noted that the pole at Barrack Point now had the addition of a camera.
Action: Clerk to continue to liaise with Highways Steward to ascertain ownership.
9. Tuesday 2nd March at 6.00pm.

Signed by the Environment Committee Chairman.....