



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on**  
**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**Online**

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**Present: Chair Vanessa Reay**  
**Cllrs Nina Bliss, Michael Fitch, Tim Prater, Nabin Siwa, Tracy Stephens, Guy**  
**Valentine-Neale (joined at 6.30), 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 Gary Fuller
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** – the Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.  
**Proposed by: Councillor Nina Bliss**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Lewis Whitnall**  
**Agreed by all who had been present**
3. **Declarations of interest** – none declared.
4. **Communications**
  - 4.1 Paul Thompson, Highways Engineer for FHDC, had received a request from the Film Office at KCC for a number of parking suspensions in Sandgate at the end of April / beginning of May, and would be grateful for the views of the Parish Council on this matter. While the council agreed that, if feasible, they would generally seek to reach some sort of accommodation with applicants for filming requests, it was agreed that to request at short notice, parking suspensions for 73 spaces over the May Bank Holiday weekend, just as shops were reopening, was totally unreasonable and could not be supported.  
**Action: The clerk was asked to contact Mr Thompson and clearly state these views.**
  - 4.2 It was noted that an email had been received from David Whittington - Strategy and Performance Team Leader regarding the removal by BT of five pay phones in the district. It was noted that the two phones in Sandgate had either not been used at all, or only on a sole occasion during the previous year and so it was agreed to consent to their removal.  
**Action: Clerk to contact Mr Whittington**
  - 4.3 SPC had received an email regarding the Government's **Welcome Back Fund** which was aimed at supporting a safe and successful reopening of high streets and seaside resorts ahead of the summer. Initial ideas from the SPC as to what areas to seek funding in included promotional support for the Sea Festival, the Farmers' Market and power washing pavements. It was noted that Cllr Prater had made a separate response to the District, regarding the possibility of the District employing a part time warden to patrol the beaches around Granville Parade over

the summer as a highly visible presence, both signposting facilities, and acting as a deterrent to littering, and having direct communication with community safety officers and police.

It was agreed that if this request for funding was successful, co-ordination with existing litter picking initiatives would be paramount.

**Action: Clerk to approach District regarding funding for litter picking equipment, power washing pavements and promoting Farmers' Market and Sea Festival.**

4.3.1 It was noted that there were regular weekend litter picking activities in Hythe, and that perhaps this could be emulated in Sandgate. Litter picking supplies could perhaps be kept in the Boat House or Library and advertised via social media with perhaps a coffee or refreshments for volunteers as an incentive.

**Action: Clerk to approach District regarding acquiring litter picking kits**

4.4 The disposal and recycling of coffee cups was brought to the SPC's attention. It was noted that a recycling coffee cup service existed, which involved used coffee cups being disposed of in a large cardboard box (with the capacity for 700 cups), positioned outside coffee shops, which when filled, would be collected by a Kent based company and the contents recycled. It was agreed this was an excellent idea which should be run as a pilot project. It was noted that Cllr Whitnall would lead on this pilot scheme, communicating with businesses, to encourage their participation, discussing the mechanism of collection of boxes and also promoting other waste reduction ideas. It was also agreed that it was essential to research the number of cups being used by the various businesses and also to establish whether the cups currently being purchased were compostable or recyclable, as the scheme only supports recyclable cups.

It was proposed Cllr Whitnall would be the lead on the project and that £200.00 from the Environmental Improvement budget would be made available for the purchase of the initial set of boxes and for some publicity materials.

**Proposed by Cllr Tim Prater**

**Seconded by Cllr Nina Bliss**

**All**

## **5. Standing Issues**

**Beaches** – It was noted that that a number of Covid-19 guidance materials for the managing of beaches and the countryside and coastal areas had been circulated by Keep Britain Tidy. It was agreed that Councillors Vanessa Reay and Nabin Siwa would read through the materials and action as necessary.

Veolia had started the summer bin emptying schedule and that beach picking should also be happening each day. It was noted that the contract with Veolia was reactive, and that on the District Council website, there was a 'report a full bin' form. On submission the bin should then be emptied within an hour and this mechanism should also enable Veolia to develop a clear picture of bin usage and thus be more effective.

**Action: Cllr Prater to post this information on the parish website**

It was agreed that if this did not seem to have any effect, and that bins were seen to be continually overflowing, stickers about where to report full bins might be a useful escalation.

**Transport, highways and parking** – A consultation is currently underway regarding the positioning of a motorcycle parking bay on the High Street, at the eastern end of the echelon parking bays near the junction with Granville Road West.

**Business and Tourism** – It was noted that Albane Photography had extremely generously offered to photograph all businesses re-opening in Sandgate to enable them to advertise this on social media.

It was also noted that now Sandgate was becoming a destination of choice with resultant littering problems.

It was noted that the Sandgate Business website needed a little updating, but businesses were being contacted to establish opening times and their offerings.

Café Pierre was opening on the former Comemos site.

### **Signage, bins, noticeboards**

### **Other environmental issues affecting the parish**

6. **Memorial Benches** – The SPC discussed the area around the big boat at Battery Point which had been visited by Cllr Prater and the Clerk recently. It was proposed that this might be a possible site for some memorial benches, an area for memorial plaques and a new raised flower bed, when the big boat, which was beginning to fail, was removed. It was noted that there were, at present no suitable sea facing locations for memorial benches in Sandgate and that this would offer an attractive location and that it would be ultimately self-financing. It was noted that some councillors had concerns regarding the position of the benches, possible overcrowding of the area, maintenance and littering problems, but it was agreed that it would be beneficial to initially get the licence for a maximum of ten benches to be placed in the area and then the scheme could be fine-tuned to ensure that concerns and possible issues were addressed. It was proposed to spend £288.00 on the licence for siting ten benches on the site.  
**Proposed by Cllr Adrian Watts**  
**Seconded by Cllr Tracy Stephens**  
**For: 8**  
**Abstention :1**
7. **Electrical Charging** – It was noted that the Parish Charger Project installations for vehicles in Kent were due to commence within the next month. It was agreed that the only possible location for an additional charge point would be in the Sandgate Park Car park.  
**Action: Clerk to ask how, if this was installed, it would be managed, and confirm that this would be provided and paid for solely out of KCC funding**
8. **Christmas Event** - It was unlikely that the SAGA grounds would be available for this year's event. The clerk was asked to contact the Chichester Hall and the Fire Station to provisionally book them for the evenings of the first Friday and Saturday of December 2021 instead.
9. **Sea Festival** – Cllr Bliss told the group that arrangements were progressing well and that a lot of interest had been shown by stall holders to take part.
10. **Information:** There was none.
11. **Date and time of next meeting** – 1<sup>st</sup> June - 6.30pm

Signed by the Environment Committee Chairman.....