



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held online at 6.30pm on Tuesday 4th May 2021

Present: **Chairman** **Councillor Tim Prater**
 Councillors **Nina Bliss, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, , Vannessa Reay, Tracy Stephens, Guy Valentine-Neale, Adrian Watts & Lewis Whitnall**
 Clerk **G Thomas**

These Minutes will only be deemed to be a correct record of the meeting when approved and signed at the next meeting
The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

1.1 Proposed that Cllr Tim Prater be elected Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council.

Proposed by: Councillor Gary Fuller

Seconded by: Councillor Michael Fitch

Agreed by all

Resolved that Councillor Tim Prater be elected Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council.

1.2 Proposed that Cllr Guy Valentine-Neale be elected Vice-Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council.

Proposed by: Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded by: Councillor Nina Bliss

Agreed by all

Resolved that Councillor Guy Valentine-Neale be elected Vice-Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council.

2. Declaration of acceptance of office

The Chairman made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

3. Apologies for absence: Cllr Nabin Siwa

4. Declarations of Interest – there were none.

5. Minutes of the last meeting – the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 April, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.

Proposed by: Councillor Tracy Stephens

Seconded by: Councillor Lewis Whitnall

Agreed by all who had been present at the meeting.

6. **Chairman's opening remarks** – As at the Annual Parish Meeting

7. **Chairman's Correspondence** - None at this time.

8. **Planning Committee report**

9. The Council noted that minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. It was noted that over the last year the Planning Committee had seen many applications from homeowners and also developers, underlining the fact that Sandgate is a desirable area. It was noted that many developers focused on large plots where dwellings could be converted into a number of properties or multiple dwellings could be built. Sandgate Pavilions and Encombe are examples of this and it was noted that the committee, when considering many new developments had concerns regarding increasing stresses on the Escarpment, and drainage, access and parking.

The Shorncliffe development continues apace and with it the necessity for the committee to continue to take particular care to see how heritage assets are protected, in particular the setting of heritage assets, when commenting on applications. They should be given prominent setting, unlike the John Moore Library, which had suffered from over development around it and so was largely hidden.

Regarding the Martello Towers enabling development of five properties to support the restoration of the two towers, there had been a reserved matters application and this should be decided shortly. It was noted that works on the dwellings and woodlands management must commence within a two-year period. It was imperative that the committee be very assiduous and ensure that the developers comply with the restrictions and conditions of the permissions.

10. **Environment Committee report** It was noted that the minutes had been circulated. It was also noted that over the past year many activities had been undertaken to improve and maintain the parish as a clean, safe and friendly place to visit and live. Future projects and events included possible additional memorial benches on leased lands, recycling initiatives and the revival of the Sea Festival and Christmas events both of which had been cancelled in 2020.

11. **Resources Committee** It was noted that the minutes had been circulated. It was noted that a lot of the limited budget was dedicated to the green spaces throughout the parish, and the village scene and that everyone worked very assiduously to keep within budget and achieve value for money.

12. **Library Committee** It was noted that the library was now open for browsing and that the librarian had just submitted an application to the High Street Improvement Fund for accessible doors and an accessible toilet and also to KCC for S106 monies for further refurbishment and improvements to the service offer. It was noted that Sandgate was one of the few libraries in the area operating and that this was largely due to the efforts of librarian, library staff and volunteers including councillors. One of the great successes of the library was agreed to be the activities and events programme and it was confirmed that these would recommence (safely and socially distanced) as soon as possible and that the library would return to being the social hub it had been pre pandemic.

13. **Appointment of members to committees**

To confirm the appointments as set out in Appendix A to this agenda. Chairs of committees will be decided by the next meeting of that committee

Proposed by Cllr Guy Valentine-Neale

Seconded by Cllr Michael Fitch

Agreed by all

14. **Schedule of meeting 2021-22**

To note the already agreed schedule of meetings of the Council and its committees for 2021-22 as attached as Appendix B to this agenda. This was noted.

- 15. **Armed Forces Covenant** It was proposed that Sandgate Parish Council sign the covenant
Proposed by Cllr Tim Prater
Seconded by Cllr Gary Fuller
Agreed by all

- 16. **Subscription to KALC and NALC for 2021/2022**
It was proposed that Sandgate Parish Council renew its subscription and that the amount of £1786.34 be paid.
Proposed by Cllr Tim Prater
Seconded by Cllr Tracy Stephens
Agreed by all
(It was noted that the majority of local councils subscribed to this information network and representative body)

- 17. **KALC report (GF)** None at this time

- 18. **Twining**-None at this time

- 19. **Information:** Library would be closed on Thursday, as it was serving as a polling station for Sandgate for the by-election of Parish Councillor, Police Commissioner & Crime Commissioner and Kent County Council.

- 20. **Date of next meeting Tuesday 15th June 2021 at 6.30pm.**

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....