



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 6.30

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**Present: Chair Vanessa Reay**

**Cllrs Michael Fitch, Tim Prater, Nabin Siwa, Tracy Stephens, Guy Valentine-Neale, 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. Election of the Chairperson

Cllr Reay was proposed by Cllr Michael Fitch

Seconded by Cllr Nabin Siwa

Agreed by all who had been present.

2. Apologies for Absence - Cllr Gary Fuller and Cllr Nina Bliss

3. Declarations of interest – none declared.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2021, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.

Proposed by: Councillor Lewis Whitnall

Seconded by: Councillor Tracy Stephens

Agreed by all who had been present.

5. Communications

Email received from Tim Madden, Director and Transformation, FHDC, regarding the stopping up and diversion of Princes Parade. It was agreed that the existing objection to this action made by Sandgate Parish Council (SPC) would not be retracted.

6. Standing Issues

Beaches

It was noted that SPC had once again been awarded the Seaside Award for 2021.

It was agreed that there could be problems with overflowing bins on the beach in the summer and that residents should be encouraged to report any unemptied bin on the council website.

It was noted that as part of the funding received from the Government's Welcome Back Fund, wardens would be present in Sandgate over the summer to try to encourage visitors to pick up rubbish and to keep beaches and the village clean.

Transport, highways and parking –

It was noted that the new addition of motorbike spaces on the 'toast rack' was an asset. Possible additional spaces in Wilberforce Car Park were discussed, but it was also noted that possibly not all residents would wish for increases in motorbike spaces in the parish. It was explained that new bike spaces would not be to the detriment of existing car spaces, but rather a reorganisation of space that was currently not being used.

Very heavy traffic congestion had been reported over the bank holiday at Radnor Cliff and that access to the Lower Leas Park was also bad. SPC to continue to look at ways in which this could be alleviated.

Committee advised of a new Shuttle bus service that would run every 30 minutes between 9am and 6pm to Folkestone Harbour via Folkestone Central Station. The Park and Ride service would operate every weekend until October and daily during the summer holidays. Unfortunately, this could not be extended to include Sandgate.

It was noted that the Esplanade was becoming increasingly rutted and was potentially dangerous.

Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways

It was noted that Bybrook Field had been patched with tarmac in the past and that this now needed remedial work. Vegetation growing up from the steps in Military Road was also reported as needing attention from the Council.

Action: Clerk to report to FHDC

It was noted that the steps from Radnor Cliff Crescent to the Riviera were in a very poor state of repair.

Action: Clerk to report to FHDC

It was noted that motorised e-scooters were banned on the pavements and maintenance gangway in keeping with the nationwide ban unless they were being used as part of a trial rental scheme. The committee would also keep under review developments in this area.

Business and Tourism – None at this time.

Signage, bins, noticeboards – this was covered in earlier agenda item.

Other environmental issues affecting the parish

6.1 Recycling Coffee Cups initiative

It was noted that the majority of cafes in the village used biodegradable products but both the Little Fish Shop and Loaf both used products which were not recyclable. It was felt that it would be useful to have a meeting with the proprietors to discuss possible other options.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with owners and councillors

6.2 Golden Valley - Incredible Edibles initiative

It was noted that this is for an Incredible Edible space proposed for a tapered strip of land in Fremantle Road, and it would have several layers of (trees) shrubs and plants from the tall to ground cover which could be foraged.

Action: It was agreed that the clerk would write to the residents backing onto this land and seek their support for this project. Efforts would also be made to identify and consult with owners of the land.

7. Sea Festival Event 2021

Plans for the Sea Festival were progressing well subject to COVID restrictions being lifted on 21st June.

8. Information: It was noted that the Christmas event had been provisionally booked for 3rd December.

9. Date and time of next meeting – 6th July - 6.30pm

Signed by the Environment Committee Chairman.....