



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 31st July 2023 at 6.30pm**

**At Sandgate Parish Council/Library Offices
James Morris Court, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate.**

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**Present**

**Chair**           **Tim Prater**  
**Councillors** **Hazel Barrett,**  
                  **Susan Claris,**  
                  **Michael Fitch,**  
                  **Gary Fuller,**  
                  **Peter Hickson,**  
                  **Simon Horton,**  
                  **Rosa Morris &**  
                  **Guy Valentine-Neale**

**Clerk**           **G Thomas**

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There was no report from the PCSO.

These Minutes will only be deemed to be a correct record of the meeting when approved and signed at the next meeting.

1. **Apologies for absences:** Tracy Stephen & Nicola South

2. **Declarations of Interest Members** are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Council's Code of Conduct and by the Localism Act 2011.- **There was none at this time**

3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th June 2023 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
 Proposed by Simon Horton
 Seconded by Peter Hickson
 Agreed by all

4. **Chair's opening remarks & correspondence**
 - It was noted that the Cost of Living Grant for which the parish had successfully applied, had been allocated to 15 families in the parish by the District Council's Welfare and Benefits team, who had worked in partnership with SPC to achieve this aim. The families had further benefited for additional financial assistance as a direct result of the interaction between themselves and the agency.
 - It was noted that the Foodbank had received a donation on behalf of the parish of £250.00 as the result of the sale of crocheted goods, provided by Joy-Bettan, at the Safari Sale. The volunteers who took part in in the Safari Sale were thanked for their efforts in raising this impressive sum.

5. **Planning Committee report** - it was noted that minutes had been circulated. It was noted that Guy Valentine-Neale had attended the District Council Planning Meeting, where supported by Gary Fuller, he opposed the demolition of the north wing of the Burgoyne Barracks Racquet Court on behalf of SPC. Unfortunately this objection was unsuccessful
It was noted that the Planning Committee unanimously objected to the application for a development at Walmer Way. It was further noted that Kent Highways had also recommended FHDC's refusal of this application.
It was noted that an planning application for a property at the Riviera would be discussed on 21st August. The parish had already received some correspondence from concerned residents regarding this application.
Action: Clerk to contact residents and inform them of the date of the Planning Committee meeting.

6. **Environment Committee report** – it was noted that the minutes had been circulated.
It was noted that an Action Plan with thirty-one actions had been created and four key priorities for action/discussion/ investigation had been identified:

- Solar Panels for the Boat House
- Development of the Solarium
- 20mph speed limit in the parish
- Purchase and usage of Sea Testing Kits

It was noted that swimmers on Sandgate Beach were often unwilling to bathe due to the condition of the water, whilst the testing by the Environmental Agency further down the coast would at the same time indicate that the waters were perfectly clean.

It was noted that the collection of a better data set with information taken from local testing, provided by credible sea testing kits with verifiable results, would be a useful challenge to Southern Water and the Environmental Agency's own data.

Action: Purchase Sea water testing kits

Action: Create a protocol of the collection and testing of sea water over a three-month period.

It was noted that an FHDC engineer had been contacted regarding the drain in the solarium which might prevent the create of a sand pit in that location.

7. **Finance Committee report**

It was noted that the minutes were in the process of being completed.

It was noted that one of the most useful financial tools promoted by the CiLCA course was the production of quarterly financial reports. These provide a coherent mechanism for viewing ongoing budgets and assist with forecasting for future budgetary requirements. They highlight unanticipated expenditure caused by faults, repairs, and antisocial behaviour, provide clear explanations of income and expenditure, and look at the current and potential future financial position of the parish.

From these reports it had been noted that a possible 5% - 6% overspend of the budget may occur. It was noted that best practice required that the reserves always contain a minimum of funds sufficient to service three months of forecasted expenditure. The current quarterly report indicated that this might not be achievable if the present rate of outgoings continues.

It was noted that it had been previously acknowledged that this year's budget would be extremely tight, and it was being rigorously reviewed at all stages to minimise any shortfall.

8. **Library Committee report-**

It was noted that minutes had been circulated. It had been agreed at the previous meeting that a library leaflet should be distributed to all houses in the Shorncliffe Development and this had now been achieved.

It was noted that the Library Committee wished to hold events or activities to increase the usage of the facility by teenagers. Rosa Morris had agreed to facilitate two chess activities and Gary Fuller had

investigated the most popular board games with the assistance of Chaos Cards, and had identified a number of them.

Action: Clerk to thank Kaos Cards for their help

9. **Sandgate Policy Documents-** to be reviewed.

- a. Security Policy
- b. Unreasonable Complaints Policy

It was proposed to approve the documents for resubmission of the website.

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Gary Fuller

Agreed by all

10. **Sandgate Society** -to consider a request for a Sandgate Society noticeboard on the Village Green.

It was noted that the present noticeboard on the Village Green often suffers from a surfeit of information posters, which does not present clarity of information for the residents. It was proposed that an additional noticeboard be purchased and possible locations on the Green were discussed. A possible new board at the Shorncliffe development, possibly near to the new doctor's surgery and an improved or new notice board in the Golden Valley was also discussed.

It was agreed in principle by all present, for the establishment of an additional noticeboard on the green.

Action: Clerk to contact FHDC regarding possible new noticeboard to be placed in the present position in the valley

Action: Clerk to contact Taylor Wimpey for permission for a noticeboard in the Shorncliffe development.

Action: Councillors to visit the area to establish the appropriate location at Shorncliffe

Action: Guy Valentine-Neale and Tim Prater to discuss the position and character of the noticeboard(s) on the village green and return with proposal to Full Council in September.

11. **Newsletter**

It was noted that the Newsletter was being completed and would feature the library on the front and details of the Sea Festival on the back. Contact details regarding the council, councillors, and other local interest stories would appear in the centre. These would include the Boat House solar panels project, the Saga Enbrook Park sale, and contain an appeal to residents to report any anti-social behaviours witnessed in the parish.

Action: Councillors to volunteer to deliver newsletters

Action: Clerk to contact the previous delivery agent to ascertain availability

12. **KALC** It was noted that all documents were circulated, as necessary.

13. **Information**

It was noted that an internationally renowned graffiti artist would be coming to England next year and there was a possibility that he would paint some of his art on the walls of the library, old toilet block in the park and other locations.

Action: To be included on the Environment Committee agenda for discussion

It was noted that some of the poplars at Fremantle Park had had their lower limbs broken or trodden down.

Action: Clerk to contact Harmers to investigate and remove branches or brace as required.

It was noted that Simon Horton had attended the Shorncliffe tour given by Chris Shaw and that six Canadian soldiers had been in the tour group. It was noted that this was an excellent tour, and it was agreed to extend an invitation to attend the Sea Festival to Mr Shaw and the soldiers.

Action: Clerk to offer Chris Shaw / the Shorncliffe Trust a stall at the Sea Festival.

Action: Clerk to invite the soldiers to attend the Sea Festival.

14. **Date of next meeting 25th September 2023**

Signed by the Chair.....Date.....