



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 6.30pm**

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**Present:**

**Chair**            **Councillor Susan Claris**

**Councillors:** **Hazel Barrett, Peter Hickman, Rosa Morris & Nicola South**

**Clerk:**            **Gaye Thomas**

1.            **Apologies for absence- there were none**
  
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 were none
  
3.            **Minutes of the last meeting** - that the minutes of the last meeting held on **10<sup>th</sup> July 2023** having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed.

**Proposed by Cllr Rosa Morris**  
**Seconded by Cllr Nicola South**

4.            **Progress on 4 priorities - update**

**Sea water testing**

It was noted that Cllr Peter Hickman had researched 'sea testing' facilities, and that a 4 in 1 Test was available for £125.00 from Simplex, which could then be followed by a "dual" lab test. It was noted that twelve of those would be approximately £700 plus vat, which would provide a three-month testing period.

**Proposal to purchase one 4 in 1 test and 12 dual tests.**

**Proposed by Cllr Peter Hickman**

**Seconded by Cllr Hazel Barrett**

**Agreed by all.**

**Solar panels on the Boat House –**

It was noted that three contractors had provided quotations and were being asked for additional information. A formal discussion and decision by Full Council would take place soon.

**20mph (new HIP info) / double yellow lines-**

It was noted that a resident at the Shorncliffe Heights Development on West Rd, had expressed concern regarding speeding vehicles travel along West and North Rd. It was noted that Kent Highways had been contacted and that the Development Agreement team had been asked to inform the parish of whether there were any current agreements with the developer to implement speed reductions in that area.

It was noted that Kent Highways' practices are to reduce speed limits to match the average speed in a suitable environment to encourage drivers, on occasions considerations regarding changing the environment to facilitate this are undertaken.

**Action Cllr Susan Claris to contact Adrian Berendt to discuss the 20 is plenty project in Tonbridge.**

It was noted that a proposal to undertake an informal consultation with residents in Encombe & Sunnyside Road was discussed. This would gauge public support or objection before Kent Highways move to the TRO stage regarding double yellow lines in these locations.

**Proposed by Cllr Susan Claris**

**Seconded by Cllr Nicola South**

**Agreed by all.**

It was noted that Highways Improvement Team underwent a restructure in June 2022 and since then the Community Engagement Team had been proactively meeting parish/town councils and County Members across Kent to review their Highway Improvement Plans. The newly updated Highway Information Pack with details of the highway improvement plan process was circulated to all members of the Environment Committee.

**The Solarium**

It was noted that discussions with KCC and FHDC have taken place about the viability of providing a sandpit at the Solarium and no unsurmountable objections have been raised. It was noted that there would be obvious cost implications regarding insurance, purchase of sand and maintenance decisions regarding keeping the area clean and clear of any 'detritus'. Funding would need to be factored into next year's budget. An 'in principle' agreement to take the project forward was proposed.

**Proposed by Cllr Susan Claris**

**Seconded by Cllr Rosa Morris**

**Agreed by all.**

**5. Process for reporting obstruction/parking offences**

It was noted at the August Planning Committee that concerns regarding parking offences in the event of development vehicles parking on roads and causing an obstruction had been raised. It was noted that the mechanism for reporting these obstructions or traffic offences should be via the Transportation Manager, who could alert his team and enforcement officer about any offences. It was recommended that the clerk should be informed of any obstructions and would report these incidents directly but should be copied into any reports made by members if the incidents occurred outside office hours.

**Action: Clerk to clarify contact details**

**6. Sandgate Park**

It has been noted that there had been some flooding in the park from Military Road above the Boules Pitch and through the park. Evidence of where the flood water originates would need to be gathered and the caretaker and councillors had been asked to monitor this situation in the next period of rainfall.

**Action: Caretaker and councillors to monitor this situation.**

**7. Contract renewal for caretaker**

It was noted that the contract for the position of caretaker at the park would be due for renewal in the next financial year. It is proposed that additions to the caretaking specification should now include a weekly visit to Fremantle Park, and Battery Point area, in addition to the present visits to Wilberforce Green, and the Village Green. It was further noted that the collection and regular filling of the dog bag dispenser at Sandgate Park & Fremantle Park should also be formally added.

**Proposed by Cllr Susan Claris**

**Seconded by Cllr Peter Hickman**

**Agreed by all.**

**8. Graffiti artist**

It was noted that the award winning ‘Graffiti’ artist, who at present had been providing highly attractive street art on the continent, would be coming to the UK in the new year. It was hoped that some of his art could be commissioned for the library and other outside areas of the parish.

**9. Memorial Tree at Sandgate Park**

It was noted that the parish had been approached regarding the planting of a memorial tree in Sandgate Park. It is proposed that agreement should be given, and a suitable position had been agreed by both the Tree Officer, Dave Sephton and Land Maintenance Contractor, Harmers & Sons.

**Proposed by Cllr Susan Claris**

**Seconded by Cllr Hazel Barrett**

**Agreed by all**

**10. Action Plan**

It was noted that a copy of the Environment Committee’s actions spreadsheet was circulated, and councillors were asked to provide any updates to the clerk prior to the next meeting in November.

**11. Information**

It was noted that an email had been received from Michael Tonkin – Public Rights of Way Officer, that Kent County Council intends to make an Order, the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath HF8 for its entire length between Public Footpath HF59 & Public Footpath HF56 from the 01 October 2023 for a maximum of six months.

It was noted that the cannon at the Sir John Moore Memorial needed some re-varnishing, and it was agreed that Councillors Rosa Morris, Hazel Barrett, and Nicola South would undertake this task.

It was noted that the surface of Fremantle Park had several holes which would benefit from being filled.

**Action: Clerk to consult with Harmers about the best solution for this issue.**

It was noted that the surface of Romney Avenue remained uneven, and it was understood works to this were to begin shortly.

**Action: Clerk to approach Highway Steward for information.**

**12. Date of next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6.30pm**