



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on
Monday on 13th November 2023 at 6.30pm

Present:

Chair **Councillor Susan Claris**

Councillors: **Hazel Barrett, Peter Hickman, Rosa Morris, Tim Prater, Nicola South & Guy Valentine-Neale**

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.- Cllr Nicola South declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5.

3. Minutes of the last meeting - that the minutes of the last meeting held on **11th September 2023** having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed.

Proposed by Cllr Peter Hickman

Seconded by Cllr Rosa Morris

4. Six months report and Environmental Committee Actions

It was noted that a report covering the last six months of the Environment Committee actions had been circulated and that this would be presented at Full Council at the November meeting for approval.

• **Traffic Island at the bottom of Military Road**

It was noted that a proposal for a new traffic island at the bottom of Military Road was agreed for inclusion on the updated Highways Improvement Plan. It was agreed that this request for an island met the required criteria which included:

- There must be sufficient carriageway width within which to construct the island. A minimum of 10m road is needed to avoid the need to widen the road - *Military Road at this location is of sufficient width (12 metres or so)*
- There needs to be sufficient visibility of the crossing and pedestrians for approaching traffic - *there should be sufficient visibility.*
- The crossing should ideally be sited where it is not hidden in a dip in the road or just over the crest of a hill as drivers will not be able to see it or any pedestrians using it - *it would not be in a dip/over the crest of a hill.*
- There needs to be a standard footway of 1.2m (minimum) in width on either side of the road for pedestrians to use. If the kerbs are not dropped and tactile paving (to assist blind or partially sighted pedestrians) in place, this will need to be included in the project work - *there is sufficient footway width and there are already dropped kerbs with tactile paving.*
- The island should be on, or close to the 'desire line' for pedestrians wishing to cross the road - *it would be on the desire line.*
- The island must be sited so that it doesn't obstruct the turn in and out of junctions or private accesses - *it would not create an obstruction.*

Action: Clerk to include in HIP and arrange a meeting with the Highways Steward to discuss

5. Encombe and Sunnyside Road Parking Consultation

It has been noted that the informal consultation had finished and that a statistical analysis of the results and a summary of the findings had been sent to East Kent Highways. The results of this informal consultation were reported to Full Council meeting on 23 October 2023 and the Minutes of that meeting recorded the following:

“It was noted that an informal consultation had been undertaken regarding parking at Encombe and Sunnyside Road. The results had indicated a majority favouring additional double yellow lines on both locations with a higher majority for the addition in Encombe. It was noted that this was an ‘informal’ consultation and that the results would be given to Kent Highways with the understanding that a formal consultation would then take place.”

6. Hedgehog Highways Project

It was noted that the parish had been contacted regarding a community project to promote a Hedgehog Highway, a 5-inch gap in a fence or wall allowing free movement for Hedgehogs. It was agreed that Cllr Hazel Barrett would liaise with the Sandgate Environmental Action group, to ascertain whether this project was something in which they already had an interest or would perhaps be willing to lead with perhaps some funding from SPC.

7. Kent Cycling and Walking infrastructure Plan Consultation

It was noted that KCC Active Travel Team | Road Safety & Active Travel Group was consulting on proposals for 30 new and improved walking, wheeling, and cycling routes and zones as part of a countywide Kent Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP). The feedback received so far had been used to help identify and prioritise 15 walking and wheeling zones and 15 cycling routes, which would form the first version of the KCWIP. The team would be holding three public events in November, which Councillor Susan Claris would attend and present the views of SPC, as it was noted that there was a paucity of provision for Sandgate. The consultation would be open until 10 January 2024.

8. 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. The new caretaking specification produced by the clerk in liaison with Councillors Tim Prater and Hazel Barrett included a visit to Fremantle Park, the Battery Point area, and the two Memorials in addition to the present visits to Wilberforce Green, and the Village Green. It was agreed that this specification would be advertised for tenders in January, and it was noted that budgetary provision had been made for the additional duties.

9. Sandgate Park

It was noted a Memorial Tree and bench had been placed in the park in remembrance of a 5-year-old child who had died earlier in the year.

It was noted that significant rainfall was producing problems with gullies, culverts and streams overflowing after leaf or fallen tree obstructions, it was noted that different departments and council organisations had responsibilities for different aspects of the drainage system:

- culvert and drain under the park and stream at the bottom are the responsibility of FHDC,
- street cleansing and clearing leaves from drains are the responsibility of FHDC.
- blocked drains are the responsibility of KCC.

It was noted that the bottom of the park seems to retain more water, and this could be a result of the bore under the Enbrook Road not being as clear as would be preferable.

Action: Clerk to contact Saga regarding a tree blocking Enbrook dam

Action: Clerk to contact KCC regarding inspection of bore

10. Information

It was noted that there is concern regarding children crossing the road at Castle Bay with cycles, as the narrow width of the road on the Castle Bay side allows no room for children to walk with cycles.

Action: Clerk to contact KCC regarding the provision of a crossing

It was noted that the sea water testing continued It was noted that seven sea water tests had been completed and five results received. Many factors were recorded when the samples were taken, including weather events before the test, if the sea was calm or rough, and every attempt was made to ensure that the sample was always taken at mid tide. It was noted that recently the Hythe bathing beach had been classified 'non bathing' due to sewage present in the water and this would very possibly contribute to a negative reading during that period in Sandgate. The clerk would produce an annotated graph soon.

11. Date of next meeting – 8th January 2024 at 6.30pm