



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on
Monday on 8th January 2024 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.- **there were none**

3. **Minutes of the last meeting** - that the minutes of the last meeting held on **13th November 2023** having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed.
Proposed by Cllr Peter Hickman
Seconded by Cllr Nicola South

4. **Action Plan-** It was noted that an updated version of the action plan had been circulated and all members were encouraged to communicate any updates to the actions.

5. **Contract renewal for caretaker-** It was noted that the contract tender document would be circulated eternally for expressions of interest in March.

6. **Contract renewal for Land maintenance contracts -** It was noted that the contract tender document would be circulated eternally for expressions of interest in March.

7. **Sea Water testing and Seaside Award-**
It was noted that it was agreed at the last Full Council meeting that the parish would not proceed with applications for the Seaside Award, but that a formal document would be produced indicating the rationale for this decision, which would be sent to the Environment Agency, Southern Water and be included in a newsletter to all.
It was noted that this decision should also feed into a broader communication piece to include other local areas, who will also not be applying, and how this has a negative impact on tourism. It was noted that Jim Martin, Chair of Folkestone Hythe District Council had written to the Environment Agency about sewage dumping into sea water.
Action: Councillors Susan Claris & Peter Hickman to produce an open letter to be approved by council regarding the results of the sea water testing and the process used. Also, to produce a document linked to the Environment Agency's water testing results illustrating the disparity between SPC's results and those of the EA.

8. **HIP meeting and 20mph.**

It was noted that a meeting between Councillors Tim Prater, Susan Claris, and the Highway Steward Kieran Doble had taken place on 8th December. Included in the discussions had been the updating of the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP), to include a proposal for a pedestrian refuge at the junction of Military Road and Sandgate High Street, '20 is Plenty' speed restrictions, and the consultation results regarding additional yellow lines at Sunnyside Road and Encombe. It was noted that Sunnyside Road and Encombe could be considered separately as there was considerably more support for yellow lines at Encombe than Sunnyside Road. Advice is awaited from KCC and this would be chased.

It was noted that the next HIP meeting would be in May/June.

Action: Clerk to contact Kieran regarding a possible crossing place on the Esplanade at the bottom of Sunnyside Road to facilitate the safe traverse by children with bicycles.

It was noted that the results of the '20 is Plenty' petition had been disappointing so far.

Action: Councillors to promote the petition ensuring as broad a reach as possible

It was noted that Councillor Susan Claris met with residents at Enbrook Valley regarding the speed of vehicles in this location on the bend and over the flat kerb.

It was noted that there was a possibility of putting in place a voluntary 20 mph limit at Coolinge Lane outside the schools with signage asking that motorists reduce speed to 20 mph. It was also further noted that this could be considered for the centre of Sandgate High Street..

9. Sandgate Park – wildflower bed

It was noted a meeting had taken place with Harmers and Sons previously to discuss the introduction of a wildflower bed in Sandgate Park, and that a quotation had been received for £590.00 + VAT. It was proposed that this should be agreed and that the funding would come from the Environmental Improvement budget.

Proposed by Councillor Guy Valentine-Neale

Seconded by Councillor Nicola South

Agreed by all.

10. Carbon Literacy training and Carbon Plan for Sandgate

It was noted that Cllr Susan Claris had attended a Carbon Literacy training course and would be producing a structured carbon plan for Sandgate.

11. Parking on the High Street

It was noted that Councillors Tim Prater, Susan Claris and Peter Hickman would be undertaking a walk through the High Street to consider the current provision of yellow lines and if necessary, producing a list for Kent Highways to consider for possible review. It was noted that there had been a proposal to have parking meters on the High Street, but this had been rejected by Councillor Tim Prater. It was agreed that this should be discussed by members so that a future proposal could be formally addressed with a minuted resolution.

12. Meeting dates for 2024 –

It was noted that the new dates would be agreed in May at the Annual Parish Council meeting.

13. Information

It was noted that the toilets at Granville Parade required a deep clean.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation for the same.

It was noted that Councillor Hazel Barrett had approached the SEA group regarding the Hedgehog Highways and would be feeding back fully to the committee at the next meeting.

It was noted that there would be a possibility of replacing the damaged bench on the Village Green with Sheffield cycle hoops.

Action: Clerk to contact FHDC regarding possible free provision of these. If these were not available, Clerk to obtain a quotation for these and for a replacement bench

It was noted that Community Prepared Training courses had been circulated to members, but it was agreed that these should be recirculated by the Clerk.

It was noted that the Cannon required wood preservation and it was noted that the small cost of preservative would need to come from the Environment Improvement budget.

It was noted that Councillor Susan Claris had commented on the Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation

14. Date of the Next Meeting 11th March 2024