



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 22 January 2024 at 6.30pm**

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

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**Present**

**Chair: Cllr Tim Prater**

**s: Hazel Barrett, Susan Claris, Peter Hickman, Simon Horton, Rosa Morris, Nicola South  
& Guy Valentine-Neale**

**Clerk: G Thomas**  
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There was no report from the PCSO.

It was noted that there were 6 members of the Sandgate Boules Club in attendance.

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: Cllrs Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller and Tracy Stephens.**
- 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.-
- 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December 2023 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
Proposed by Simon Horton
Seconded by Hazel Barrett
Agreed by all.

- 4. Chair's opening remarks & correspondence**
It was noted that the Speed Watch initiative had restarted after a number of years and that three sessions had now been completed. Nine volunteers were at present on the rota having undertaken online training and completed the appropriate test. It was noted that more volunteers would be required and that anyone who would wish to take part should contact Simon Hill for online training. It was noted that during the first three sessions some vehicle registration numbers had been noted for exceeding the speed limit and this information had been given to the police who would in turn write to the drivers.

It was noted that the '20 is Plenty' petition was on the parish and KCC website and had over 250 signatures, more would be required if KCC were to take this matter further.

It was noted that correspondence had been received from the Sandgate Boules Club regarding the absence of toilet facilities at the park. It was agreed that this was unfortunate but noted that numerous attempts in the past to install portable toilets at considerable parish expense had resulted in vandalism and destruction of equipment. It was agreed that the parish would be unable to fund a toilet block or provide facilities in the future, but it was

proposed that this matter be further discussed, and other venues of outside funding be considered at the next Environment Committee meeting.

5. **Planning Committee report** – it was noted that minutes of meetings had been circulated.

6. **Environment Committee report**

It was noted that minutes had been circulated.

It was noted that at the previous meeting, contract renewals, sea testing, wildflower planting at Sandgate Park, cycle racks, a deep clean of toilets at Granville Parade and the Highways Improvement Plan had all been discussed.

It was noted that Susan Claris had obtained a Carbon Literacy certificate and would be producing a Carbon Plan for the parish.

7. **Finance Committee report**

It was noted that the minutes had been circulated, and that the last meeting of the Finance Committee had been deferred.

It was noted that three different proposals for percept increases had been circulated to the members but only one allowed for rebalancing the budget and providing provision for the developing of a small fund towards future projects. This increase of 9.99% had been discussed at the previous Finance Committee and was recommended for approval by Full Council.

It was noted that the proposal was read aloud to the committee.

Budget 2024/24 for agreement by Full Council

The draft budget and proposed increase in precept to £108,788 were considered following the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The budget seeks a 9.99 % increase in the precept to £49.24 based on the Sandgate Tax base figure of 2209.56 for 2024/2025.

9.99% is a rise of Band D equivalent Precept from £44.80 to £49.24 a rise of £4.44 a year, around 8.5p per week. With that precept income and the draft budget, there is a predicted break-even budget.

Proposal. To accept the recommendations of the Finance committee that the draft budget as circulated, and proposed precept figure of £108,788 (based on a 9.99% increase in Band D equivalent Council Tax), for 2024/25 be approved.

Proposed by Tim Prater

Seconded by Guy Valentine-Neale

Vote: Agreed by all

It was noted that the sum for consumables at the Boat House café had exceeded the budget so retrospective approval for payment was sought from Full Council

Proposed by Tim Prater

Seconded by Susan Claris

Agreed by all.

8. **Library Committee report**

It was noted that no committee had taken place since the last Full Council meeting.

9. **Cost of Living Grant**

It was noted that applications for the Cost-of-Living Grant were once more being sought from Town and Parish Councils and it was agreed that Sandgate Parish Council should apply again for £1500.00 to be given to the FHDC Welfare and Benefits team for them to allocate appropriately to local residents.

10. Information-

It was noted that Chani Sanger had commenced employment as Finance Officer /Deputy Clerk for Sandgate Parish Council.

It was noted that the Christmas event was an exceptionally good, and thanks should be given to all volunteers, David Cowell, the Christmas Market stall holders, the choir from Folkestone School for Girls and also Harmers for the installation of the lights and trees. It was especially noted that the trees at Riviera Car Sales had resulted in many positive comments.

It was noted that the Christmas Market and the Santa event at the library should start at the same time in future, and that the event should be rebranded as the 'Christmas event' and not the 'Christmas Light event'.

11. Date of the next meeting- 26th February 2024

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