



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held on 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**

**Councillors: Hazel Barrett, Susan Claris, Gary Fuller, Peter Hickman, Simon Horton, Rosa Morris and Nicola South**

**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: Michael Fitch & Guy Valentine-Neale.**
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 22 January 2024 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**  
**Proposed by Susan Claris**  
**Seconded by Simon Horton**  
**Agreed by all.**
4. **Chair's opening remarks & correspondence**  
It was noted that the lintel works in the library had been completed and that replacement windows in the Children's and IT areas would be installed on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Repair works to the leaks in the library would be commencing shortly and FHDC should be thanked for identifying and undertaking this remedial work.  
  
It was noted that from 13<sup>th</sup> March the library would be opening on a Wednesday and that Sandgate Library was the only library in Kent which was extending its hours. A grant application which would enable the library to open on a Thursday evening had been submitted, the results of which should be known shortly.  
  
A grant to part fund the solar panels on the Boathouse had also been submitted but a successful planning application would be needed before any works could take place.  
  
It was noted that rubbish was accumulating on the development land opposite Sandgate Park and that this had been reported to the contractors' agent to arrange removal.

It was noted that Tracy Stephens had resigned as a parish councillor and the process of filling this vacancy was underway.

It was noted that the hoardings at Princes Parade were being taken down and replaced with a small chestnut fence. The hoardings would be reused at the Otterpool site.

It was noted that the entrance to Saga off Military Road was presently closed because of a 65ft tall Chestnut tree which was unsafe. It was hoped that this could be taken down but because of limited staff at the Saga site, no date had been agreed.

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

It was noted that parish's response to a planning application which had been discussed at the last Planning Committee after the normal procedural processes had been undertaken, had concerned some local residents. Although the applicant did attend the committee meeting, the comments and objections from the neighbouring residents were not added to the FHDC website until days afterwards. The residents felt that the parish should have considered their comments as part of the deliberative processes. It was noted that planning meetings are scheduled, and it is not possible to await the end date of any application and so comments might not be seen by the committee. It was important that comments should always be sent to FHDC as they would be considered by the delegated officer or FHDC planning committee.

It was noted that Tim Prater had made a representation to FHDC regarding this application that it be to be called into committee for discussion.

It was noted that FHDC had refused an application which had been no objected to by the parish planning committee. It was suggested that SPC should look at the rationale which was given for the refusal as a guide to what FHDC considered unacceptable.

It was noted that all residents should be encouraged to subscribe to the free council website which gives daily updates and notices of meetings and agendas. It was also emphasised that all meetings are open to the public except on very rare occasions.

6. **Environment Committee report**

It was noted that a meeting hadn't occurred since the previous Full Council.

It was noted that the wildflower seed planting had taken place on the slope of Sandgate Park.

It was noted that a sea water testing report would be presented at the next Environment Committee meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Action: Clerk to report a Christmas tree which had been dumped in the park.**

7. **Finance Committee report.**

It was noted that the Finance Committee had met on 19<sup>th</sup> and that minutes were being prepared.

It was confirmed that the precept request had been sent to FHDC and that payments would be received on 1<sup>st</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> October.

It was noted that PWLB reinvestments had been discussed as some of the bonds were reaching maturity dates. It was noted that the PWLB was at present funding its own interest payments, which for broadly four years and not been the case.

It was noted that the solar panel project represented the kind of initiative for which PWLB monies could be utilised as it provided a clear income stream, equivalent and above that which would be achieved from a deposit account.

**8. Library Committee report**

It was noted that the library committee would be taking place after the Full Council meeting.

**9. Tendering**

It was noted that the Handyman, Land maintenance and Park Caretaking contracts were all due for retendering, commencement dates of the contracts being the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

**It was proposed that invitations to tender be advertised on the first week of March with the closing date the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.**

**Proposed by Simon Horton**

**Seconded by Susan Claris**

**Agreed by all.**

**10. Information-**

It was noted that the gully at Military Road would appear to be functioning as it should and that FHDC were monitoring this.

It was noted that there had been a landslip above the Road to Remembrance

It was noted that there were trees down on the woods on the Escarpment.

**Action: Clerk to inform PROW officer regarding these fallen trees.**

**11. Date of the next meeting- 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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