



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of an **Environment** Committee Meeting held**  
**on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**  
**at 6.30pm**

---

**Present:**

**Chair**                      **Councillor Susan Claris**  
**Councillors:**        **Peter Hickman, Kirsty Hogben, Tim Prater, 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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed.  
      **Proposed by Cllr Rosa Morris**  
      **Seconded by Cllr Peter Hickman**
  
4.    **Update on Priority Actions:**

**20's Plenty Initiative**

In response to the feedback received, Kent County Council (KCC) has carefully considered the comments and has confirmed that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be published for the scheme, which will include a formal consultation process. It is pleasing to note that, considering the feedback, the scheme has been slightly extended. The revised proposal now covers the area from the traffic island in front of the library to the junction with Wilberforce Road, closest to Coastguard Cottages. Additionally, it starts on Military Road just above the junction with Gough Road. This extension results in a reduced number of signs needed to enter and exit the zone, creating a more coherent layout. The plan also includes a section of Sandgate High Street, from Homevale House to Wilberforce Road. Further details on the publication of the TRO and the revised extent plan will be shared soon. This marks a significant step forward, there was a large number of respondents, the vast majority of whom expressed support for the scheme.

## **Solar Panels on the Boat House**

It was noted that arrangements are being made to conduct a structural survey to assess the integrity of the site. However, due to the absence of construction plans detailing the roof structure, it has been determined that a scan of this area will be required. To facilitate safe access for contractors to perform the scan, it appears that scaffolding or a railing will need to be installed on the Boat House. Discussions are ongoing.

## **Sea Water Quality**

A discussion at a previous Environment Committee meetings took place regarding the process for designating Granville Parade as a Bathing Beach. Before proceeding with a formal application, it was agreed that further clarification on the process and its necessity would be sought from the Environment Agency. This inquiry has been made, and it is anticipated that the relevant information will be received soon. Currently, the area near the BP Garage at Seabrook has been designated as 'Sandgate Beach,' and sea water testing results from this location had previously been mistakenly applied to Granville Parade.

It was proposed to determine whether it is necessary to undergo the full application process for designating a new beach area, or if both locations could be subject to a streamlined process, ultimately resulting in separate sea water testing for each. Should it be decided that a formal application is required, Peter Hickman and Kirsty Hogben would be the lead councillors responsible for completing any applications and acquiring the necessary statistical information. The application process is expected to open in the Spring.

## **Sandgate Sprucing and greening.**

It was noted that sprucing of the barrels outside the flats opposite the Providence and those outside the library had been undertaken by Rosa Morris and Susan Claris and members of the SEA.

It was noted that the path from Wilberforce Car Park to Encombe would benefit from the application of wood chippings or other levelling treatments. Suggestions for enhancing and greening the land owned by the development adjacent to the path were also welcomed. Additionally, other areas, including the land between the car park and the path, require improvements. The bridge that feeds a stream flowing beneath the car park is currently blocked and would benefit from clearing to restore proper water flow.

Susan Claris attended a meeting with SEA regarding the formation of a nature reserve perhaps behind the town houses at Encombe. It was noted that the land is in FHDC ownership but there is no budget available to undertake this work

## **5. Highways Improvement-**

It was noted that an updated Highway Improvement Plan, incorporating the parish council's suggestions—including the addition of a pedestrian island, dropped kerbs, and repainted zebra crossings—had been submitted to the Community Engagement Officer. A meeting is scheduled for 13th March to discuss this plan, along with other related matters including residents' requests for the installation of bollards on the grass verges along Enbrook Road. The previous steward had been working to introduce a scheme for installing bollards at this location but has since left.

6. **2024/2025 report** It was noted that a report providing an overview of the activities of the Environment Committee had been previously circulated, and any comments from members were welcomed.

**7. Information**

Members expressed ongoing concerns regarding the speed of vehicles on Military Road. It was noted that a pedestrian refuge, proposed in the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP), could potentially help mitigate speeds if installed.

**Action:** It was agreed to inquire with the Community Engagement Officer about the possibility of fitting a speed monitoring device on the road.

**8. Date of the Next Meeting: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**