



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of The Sea Festival and Events Committee Meeting
held on 28th September 2024 at 11:00

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**Chair:**                    **Councillor:**                    **Tim Prater**

**Present:**                    **Councillors:**                    **Simon Horton, Hazel Barrett, Rosa Morris**

**Deputy Clerk:**                    **Chani Sanger**  
                                 **Public:**                                **Two present**

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1. Apologies for absence – Cllr

2. Declaration of Interest – none declared

3. Minutes of the last meeting – the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2024 were approved as a correct record.
Proposed by Rosa Morris
Seconded by Hazel Barrett
Agreed by all

4. Stages:

It was noted that a quote had been received for staging. The quote included delivery, set up/derig, lighting and PA systems. The quote included provisions for two stages. The cost given was £2,203 plus VAT. It was noted that in anticipation of requiring better staging an additional £1,000 had been requested from and granted by the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, therefore £1,000 of the cost would be offset by the grant.

It was noted that Alex McNiece would be happy to source music acts and provide stage management services for the duration of the event, at a cost of £2200.

To approve the cost of the staging and stage management services.

Proposed by Tim Prater
Seconded by Simon Horton
Agreed by all

5. Barrow of Booze/raffle:

The committee noted that there had been some confusion regarding the Barrow of Booze and raffle during the 2024 Sea Festival and that it would be better to offer additional prizes with the barrow itself being the main prize. This would require sourcing additional prizes. The funds raised would be donated to the RNLI Dungeness. It was also noted that the family of the later Cllr Robert Bliss had offered to run the Barrow of Booze stand, and the committee noted their gratitude.

6. Other planning and updates for Sea Festival 2025:

The committee mentioned aspects that are being looked at for the event:

- Parking at Saga: A meeting is being arranged to detail plans for the parking arrangements during the event.

- High Street involvement: It was noted that involvement of the businesses in the High Street was lacking, and discussion took place as to how this could be improved.
- Volunteers: It was noted that ample volunteers would be needed to ensure the success of the event. The Rowing Club is one potential volunteer source as is the Sandgate Society.

7. VE Day:

The committee discussed plans for VE Day which takes place on 8th May 2025, it was noted that both Folkestone and Hythe had beacon lightings planned and that given the location of Sandgate's beacon, it is not conducive to a community event. The associated costs are also substantial. It was noted that it is important to celebrate the event however it would be more beneficial to invite Sandgate residents to use their local businesses and support local trade. It was noted that this initiative is intended to inspire residents to gather their peers and talk to other residents, improving community feeling and supporting local businesses which are in of themselves, communities. It was noted that VE Day is ultimately a celebration of the end of years of suffering and hardship following World War Two and that in 1945 crowds filled the streets across Britain to come together and celebrate a moment they feared may not come.

8. Date of Next meeting: 23rd May 2025

The meeting ended at 11:50

Signed by the Sea Festival and Events Committee Chairman

Date