



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 19th May 2025

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|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | <b>Chairman</b>    | <b>Councillor Tim Prater</b>                                                                          |
|                 | <b>Councillors</b> | <b>Hazel Barrett, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Simon Horton, Rosa Morris, and Guy Valentine-Neale,</b> |
|                 | <b>Clerk</b>       | <b>G Thomas</b>                                                                                       |

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These Minutes will only be deemed to be a correct record of the meeting when approved and signed at the next meeting.

The meeting commenced at 7.22 pm.

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

1.1 Proposed that Tim Prater be elected Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council.

Proposed by: Gary Fuller

Seconded by: Michael Fitch

Agreed by all.

Resolved that Tim Prater be elected Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council.

1.2 Proposed that Guy Valentine-Neale be elected Vice Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council.

Proposed by: Tim Prater

Seconded by: Gary Fuller

Agreed by all.

Resolved that Guy Valentine-Neale be elected Vice-Chairman of Sandgate Parish Council.

2. Declaration of acceptance of office

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

3. Apologies for absence: Susan Claris, Peter Hickman & Kirsty Hogben

4. Declarations of Interest –there were none

5. Minutes of the last meeting – the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th April 2025, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed.

Proposed by: Simon Horton

Seconded by: Hazel Barrett

Agreed by all who had been present at the meeting.

6. Chairman's opening remarks – It was noted that the public consultation regarding the future of Princes Parade has been completed, with the results expected to be published in the near future. Preliminary indications suggest that the majority of respondents support the options focused on enhancing the habitat and maintaining the site in its current, undeveloped state within the scope of existing funding.

It was further noted that the existing planning permission for the site is due to expire in June of next year. Additionally, the costs associated with decontaminating the land prior to any development have been deemed prohibitively high, making the prospect of future construction financially unviable.

There is hope that a formal mechanism can be established to secure the long-term future of Princes Parade as an undeveloped and ecologically valuable area. The significant cost of required decontamination is likely to serve as a strong deterrent to potential developers, thereby supporting efforts to preserve the site in its natural state.

7. Appointment of members to committees Appendix A

To confirm the appointments. Chairs of committees will be decided by the next meeting of that committee.

Proposed by Gary Fuller

Seconded by Simon Horton

Agreed by all.

8. Schedule of meeting 2025-26 Appendix B

To confirm the meetings of the Council and its committees for 2025-26

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Tim Prater

Agreed by all.

9. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders, financial regulations, and other

governance arrangements *these are unchanged since last year except for the Financial Regulations which includes the inclusion of information regarding Procurement Act.2023*

Proposed by Tim Prater

Seconded by Guy Valentine-Neale

Agreed by all.

10. Information

It was noted that a new initiative regarding commemorative benches is currently under discussion. The cost of obtaining and installing a commemorative bench through Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) is approximately £2,000. While the quality of these benches is acknowledged to be high, the associated cost may be prohibitive for many individuals.

As an alternative, it was proposed to purchase an additional bench for installation on the village green, replacing the existing wooden bench currently commemorating the **Ashford and Folkestone Soroptimists**. The new bench would be a low-maintenance, multi-coloured model designed for durability and ease of upkeep.

The Ashford and Folkestone Soroptimists have been contacted, and it was agreed that their commemorative plaque would be carefully removed from the old bench and installed on the new one.

It was further proposed to publicise the opportunity, via the usual communication channels, for individuals to purchase a commemorative plaque to be mounted on the new bench. It is estimated that approximately 10–12 plaques could be accommodated on the upper back rail of the bench, at a cost to be determined. This would enable the full cost of the bench and its installation to be offset through community contributions.

It was also noted that there are already four or five expressions of interest in placing plaques. Should this initiative prove successful, consideration will be given to extending the scheme to include the replacement of additional benches, particularly those located adjacent to the War Memorial.

11. Date of next meeting Monday 23rd June 2025 at 6.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....




COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2025-6

*** The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of all committees.**

**** All councillors are substitute members on all committees and up to two may be called upon by the clerks in the event of known absences.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LIBRARY COMMITTEE</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gary Fuller 2. Rosa Morris 3. Hazel Barrett 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kirsty Hogden 2. Susan Claris 3. Peter Hickman 4. Rosa Morris 5. Nicola South
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michael Fitch 2. Gary Fuller 3. Simon Horton 4. Hazel Barrett 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PLANNING</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hazel Barrett 2. Susan Claris 3. Michael Fitch 4. Peter Hickman 5. Simon Horton 6. Nicola South
<p style="text-align: center;">SEA FESTIVAL & EVENTS COMMITTEE (Twinning)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hazel Barrett 2. Rosa Morris 	<p style="text-align: center;">PERSONNEL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gary Fuller 2. Simon Horton 3. Michael Fitch

Shepway Area Committee – Simon Horton

<div>SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025/26</div>																										
<div>Main Parish Council Meetings</div> <div>Usually held on the Fourth Monday of each month (except August) at 6.30pm</div> <table><tr><td>2025</td><td>2026</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>19th May APM & APCM</td><td></td><td>19th January</td></tr><tr><td>23rd June</td><td>23rd February</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>28th July</td><td>23rd March</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>22nd September</td><td>27th April</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>27th October</td><td>18th May APM & APCM</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>24th November</td><td>(Annual Parish & Annual Parish Council)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15th December</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			2025	2026		19 th May APM & APCM		19 th January	23 rd June	23 rd February		28 th July	23 rd March		22 nd September	27 th April		27 th October	18 th May APM & APCM		24 th November	(Annual Parish & Annual Parish Council)		15 th December		
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<div>Finance Committee</div> <div>Usually held on the Third Monday of every month (except August) at 6.30pm</div> <table><tr><td>2025</td><td>2026</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>16th June</td><td>5th January</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>21st July</td><td>16th February</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15th September</td><td>16th March</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>20th October</td><td>20th April</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>17th November</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8th December</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			2025	2026		16 th June	5 th January		21 st July	16 th February		15 th September	16 th March		20 th October	20 th April		17 th November			8 th December					
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<div>Environment Committee Meetings</div> <div>Usually held on the Second Monday of every other month at 6.30pm</div> <table><tr><td>2025</td><td>2026</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12th May</td><td>12th January</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14th July</td><td>9th March</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8th September</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10th November</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			2025	2026		12 th May	12 th January		14 th July	9 th March		8 th September			10 th November											
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<div>Planning Committee</div> <div>Meetings to take place as required</div>																										
<div>Library Committee</div> <div>Quarterly meetings on a schedule to be determined</div>																										
<div>Sea Festival Committee</div> <div>Meetings to take place as required</div>																										
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