



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 23rd June 2025 at 6.30pm

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

Present

Chair: Cllr Tim Prater

Councillors: Hazel Barrett, Susan Claris, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Simon Horton & Rosa Morris,

Clerks: Chani Sanger and Gaye Thomas

1. **Apologies for absences: Peter Hickman, Kirsty Hogben & Nicola South**
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 Parish Council Meeting held on 19th May to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
Proposed by Simon Horton
Seconded by Susan Claris
Agreed by all

Minutes of the Extraordinary Committee meeting of 16th June 2025

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Rosa Morris

Agreed by all

4. **Chair's opening remarks & correspondence**

It was noted that the Library Volunteers had been nominated for Folkestone and Hythe District Excellence in Volunteering Awards 'for recognition of their outstanding contribution to the library and the wider community. This group of dedicated individuals exemplifies the true spirit of community service, working tirelessly alongside the Librarian to ensure that Sandgate Library is not just a place to borrow books, but a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive community hub.

Their support is integral to the day-to-day running of the library – from shelving books and assisting visitors, to organising creative events and meaningful activities for all ages. Whether it is a Storytime session for young children, or a listening ear for someone in need of company, the volunteers create an environment that is safe, welcoming, and uplifting for everyone who walks through the door.

They have played a crucial role in transforming the library into a dynamic centre for learning, connection, and wellbeing. Their enthusiasm and commitment have sparked new ideas, brought in new visitors, and reconnected the community with the value and joy of a local library. Through their efforts, the library has become more than a building with books – it has become the beating heart of the community.

These volunteers deserve to be celebrated not only for the countless hours they devote, but for the warmth, care, and creativity they bring. Their work leaves a lasting impact, not only on the library itself but on the lives of everyone who visits it. They are the quiet heroes behind Sandgate Library's growing success – and this nomination is a small token of immense appreciation for all they do.'

It was noted that the planting at Battery Point had been an unqualified success. However, it was also acknowledged that the continued provision of hanging baskets in future years—both at Battery Point and in other areas of the parish—would need to be carefully reviewed and may not be pursued further.

Concerns were also raised regarding the accumulation of litter at Sandgate Park. Small groups have been leaving rubbish bags beside the bins rather than placing waste in the designated litter receptacles. This practice has made the bags susceptible to disturbance by foxes and other scavengers, resulting in the park being strewn with litter each morning. Additional signage would be discussed to emphasise the necessity of disposing of rubbish carefully or taking it home.

It was noted that problems with parking at Radnor Cliff continues to be a persistent issue. Furthermore, the clarity of information provided by the electronic signage was considered inadequate, and it was recommended that improvements be made to clearly indicate the availability—or lack thereof—of parking spaces in nearby car parks.

There was of particular concern that, if the situation remains unresolved, emergency vehicles may be unable to access the area in the event of a medical or other emergency, posing a serious risk to public safety.

It was suggested that designating the turning circle as a strict no stopping and no waiting area for all vehicles, including those displaying Blue Badges, could help alleviate the congestion and improve emergency access.

It was noted that there would be a Parish Newsletter in the near future which would advertise the Sea Festival and other parish information. Members were invited to propose additional content or items for inclusion in the newsletter to ensure it is both informative and engaging for residents.

5. **Planning Committee report**

It was noted that the Planning minutes from the previous meeting had been circulated.

6. **Environment Committee report**

It was noted that an Environment Committee meeting had not taken place since the last Full Council meeting.

Sandgate Parish Council is making an application to DEFRA (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) for the beach at Granville Parade in Sandgate to be formally designated as a bathing beach. If successful, hopefully the Environment Agency will then undertake water quality testing at this location. Sandgate Parish Council has started a consultation process to support the application, and responses have been overwhelmingly supportive.

7. **Finance Committee report.**

It was noted that the Finance Committee had met the previous week. It was further noted that the parish had received the latest dog glove purchase of over 42,400 dog gloves, which would be placed in the holders throughout the parish to encourage people to clean up after their pets.

Statement Of Internal Control

Proposal To approve the Statement of Internal Control for the year ending 31st March 25 and for the Chair and Parish Clerk to sign.

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Michael Fitch

Approved by all.

Annual Internal Auditor's Report

Proposal To agree the recommendation of the Finance Committee to receive and note the Internal Auditor's report and further note that there were no issues or weaknesses in control identified.

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Michael Fitch

Approved by all.

Annual Governance Statement 2024/5

Proposal To agree the recommendation of the Finance Committee to adopt the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 with boxes 1 to 8 ticked "yes" and box 9 ticked "NA" and for the Chair and Parish Clerk to sign.

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Michael Fitch

Approved by all.

Within statement 4 was the agreement that the parish had 'provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations' - it was noted that the parish had provided more than the required 30 days.

Accounting Statements 2024/25

Proposal To agree the recommendation of the Finance Committee to adopt the Accounting Statements 2024/25, as produced by the RFO on 10.04.25 and for the Chair to sign.

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Michael Fitch

Approved by all.

Period Of Exercise of Public Rights

Proposal To agree the dates set for the period of exercise of public rights will be - Thursday, 26 June 2025 - Wednesday, 6 August 2025

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Michael Fitch

Approved by all.

8. Library Committee report

It was noted that the library continued to benefit from an excellent selection of new books and as addressed in the Chair's statement, the volunteers had received a well-deserved nomination for an award.

9. Proposal for the Installation of a Recycled Plastic Bench on the Village Green

It was proposed to replace the existing wooden bench, which commemorates the Ashford and Folkestone Soroptimists, with a 100% recycled plastic bench designed for durability, minimal maintenance, and aesthetic appeal.

- The proposed bench will feature a multi-coloured design and accommodate individually funded memorial plaques, available for public installation.
- The Parish will fund two plaques, utilizing the Chairman's Allowance, in memory of Robert Bliss and to replace the existing Soroptimist plaque.
- Determination of the cost for plaques and installation (proposed at £150).
- Agreement on promoting the availability of the remaining eight to ten plaque locations on the bench

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Susan Claris

Agreed by all.

It was noted that further benches would be identified if there was enough demand and that there could also be benches in which much loved pets could be commemorated or others that businesses might commission. A formal bench protocol was near completion.

10. Sandgate 20mph Zone

It was noted that a complete cost estimate for the scheme had not yet been received, but there were some funds available from District Members Grants and additional funding factored into the parish's 2025/26 budget.

11. Information- here was none.

12. Date of the next meeting 28th July 2025

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