



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held
on 8th September 2025
at 6.30pm

Present:

Chair: Councillor Susan Claris

Councillors: Rosa Morris, Tim Prater, Nicola South

Clerk: Gaye Thomas

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Hickman and Kirsty Hogben.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other interests in items on the agenda, as required by the Council's Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011.

- No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2025, having been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

- **Proposed by:** Cllr Rosa Morris
- **Seconded by:** Cllr Nicola South
- **Approved by:** All present

4. Update on Priority Actions

Granville Beach Initiative – Bathing Beach Designation

- The online consultation regarding the designation of Granville Beach as a Bathing Beach had been running for two months and was due to close at the end of September.
- Over 150 letters of support had been received from stakeholders and local residents.
- Bathing counts recorded on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd August showed 317 and 208 bathers respectively.
- Thanks were extended to all councillors who took part and to Lola Leveridge for engaging the Sea Swimmers.

- The Chair and Clerk had met to review completion of the application form and supporting documents. A further meeting would be held to finalise and submit the application before the closing date of 31st October.

20mph Scheme

- Funding had been secured and the scheme was now with Kent County Council for implementation.

Solar Panels on the Boat House

- Kingsfords Solicitors had been instructed to act on the proposed purchase of the UK Power Networks section of the Boat House.
- All identification documentation had been submitted and UKPN contact details provided.
- Delays were being experienced due to a lack of response from UKPN. Without their agreement, the project could not proceed.
- FHDC continued to support the project and grant funding remained available, although the position could not be sustained indefinitely.

Sandgate Sprucing and Greening

- The triangle on Sandgate Road was being maintained by Cllr Rosa Morris, who was thanked for her excellent work.
- A wheelbarrow had been donated by the winner of the “Barrow of Booze” raffle to assist with this work.
- Contact had been made by Rita Barrett regarding the planters at Golden Valley, which required maintenance. It was hoped that Cllr Nicola South could lead this project, supported by volunteers and local businesses.
- Publicity would be arranged to encourage volunteer support, including watering responsibilities.
- The Sandgate Society, Sandgate Environmental Action group, and wider community (via Facebook) would be approached to assist.

5. Budget

- It was noted that £1,120 had been spent on topsoil and planting at Battery Point.
- £1,880 remained available for suitable projects.
- It was proposed that part of this sum be used for durable signage/posters highlighting areas designated as dog-free beaches or dogs-on-leads zones.
- The Clerk would obtain quotations.

6. Other Items

6.1 Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

- The HIP update would be deferred until completion of the 20mph scheme.
- Discussions were ongoing with East Kent Highways regarding the installation of a crossing point at Castle Bay. Members expressed a preference for a build-out option opposite Spencer Court, providing safe access to bus stops.
- Cllr Tim Prater was in discussion with Highways regarding improvements to the crossing between Battery Point and the BP garage.
- Discussions were also underway with Kent Highways regarding the installation of 30mph repeater signs on Pond Hill Road, North Road, and West Road in Folkestone.

6.2 Beach Accessibility

- It was agreed to investigate ways of improving accessibility to the beach, including the potential installation of metal walkways during the high season.
- Ownership, permissions, agreements, and costings would all need to be investigated.

7. Information

- The Sandgate Environmental Action group had received a grant to produce the *Wild About Sandgate* map, showcasing local green spaces.

SEA: *'Wild About Sandgate will be a community based project aimed at raising awareness of all the existing public green spaces in Sandgate; educating and enthusing people about the existing biodiversity in their local area and encouraging them to take positive action by making micro nature reserves in their own gardens/balconies . This will create a patchwork of mini habitats across Sandgate so encouraging the spread of species and increasing the biodiversity in the area. The project will include an illustrated map of all the green spaces with a launch event with mini, family friendly workshops on different ways to increase the biodiversity in small gardens and balconies and how to take good 'wildlife' photos on your phone. The launch will be followed by a series of mini events such as moth trapping; bird walks; mini beast safaris etc. Wild about Sandgate will link to our existing citizen science project, Sandgate Watch, where through an app people can record local wildlife and fauna from algae on tree bark to seaweed; to trees and flowers and animals of all description. Through this project we also hope that more people will become actively involved in Sandgate Environmental Action and all its environmental and sustainable projects such as home thermal surveys and community events like Sandgate sustainable fashion show and Sandgate Sale Safari.'*

- Additional funds from the Safari Sale brought the total project fund to £1,300. The Parish Council would liaise with the group and provide assistance where appropriate.
- It was noted that Romney Avenue was scheduled for resurfacing within the current financial year.
- Sandgate High Street (from the Parade to Coolinge Lane) was also included in resurfacing plans.
- The broken Heras fencing on the Esplanade had been replaced with a more robust fence. Thanks were extended to Simon Horton and Cllr Tim Prater for identifying the landowners to enable the repairs.

7.1 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on **Monday 10th November 2025 at 6.30pm.**