



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 27th October 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: Gaye Thomas

1. **Apologies for absences: Nicola South & Guy Valentine-Neale**
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 29th September to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
Proposed by Simon Horton
Seconded by Susan Claris
Agreed by all
4. **Chair's opening remarks & correspondence**

It was noted that a total of £1,024.22 had been donated to the RNLI. Representatives from the RNLI attended prior to the meeting to receive the cheque in person.

The Council also expressed appreciation to Charlotte Bliss, daughter of former Chair Robert Bliss, who, together with her family, organised a highly successful raffle on behalf of Sandgate Parish Council. The family has kindly agreed to run the raffle again next year. The Council recorded its thanks to Charlotte and her family for their outstanding contribution.

It was noted that the application for the designation of Sandgate Granville Parade Beach had been submitted to DEFRA. The Council expressed its gratitude to everyone who contributed to the preparation and submission of the application. The Council now awaits DEFRA's decision.

It was reported that the application for the Sandgate Sea Festival 2026 had been submitted to Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC). FHDC had kindly agreed to waive the increase in charges for road closures, as they had done the previous year, resulting in a saving of £1,100 for the Parish. The Council expressed its appreciation to FHDC for their prompt and considerate decision.

5. **Planning Committee Report**

It was noted that the minutes of the previous Planning Committee meeting had been duly circulated and that a further meeting was scheduled to take place following the current Council meeting.

There had been significant Planning Committee discussions regarding the Sandgate Manor application at the last meeting, with local residents in attendance to share their views and concerns. While several issues were raised relating to some aspects of the development on neighbouring properties, none were considered to constitute formal grounds for objection. The Committee continues to liaise with the relevant District and County Council departments to help address and mitigate these issues.

6. Environment Committee Report

The Committee had not met since the last Council meeting.

It was noted that the 20mph scheme remains pending, with some delays caused by necessary road closures for the repainting of roundels—particularly near the Coastguard Cottages. The most recent update indicated that the scheme would not commence before Christmas. *(Since this meeting a provisional implementation date of 5th January has been given).*

Sandgate Environmental Action Group will be meeting on Thursday afternoon to discuss their upcoming “Wild About Sandgate” project—a community initiative designed to raise awareness of Sandgate’s public green spaces. The project will include:

- An illustrated map showcasing all local green spaces; and
- A public launch event featuring family-friendly workshops on topics such as increasing biodiversity in small gardens and balconies, and tips on capturing quality wildlife photography using smartphones.

It was also noted that the Village Green wooden display frame, which previously housed a stylised map of Sandgate, may be repurposed to display the new *Wild About Sandgate* map. Efforts are being made to locate the original map.

8. Finance Committee Report

The Committee met at **6:00 p.m.** It was reported that the six-month financial summary indicated that the Parish’s finances were in good order and performing as expected.

The Tree Survey results were received, confirming a completely clean bill of health—no works were required or recommended. All recommendations from the previous year have been fully implemented. The Council noted this positive outcome, particularly given the significant expenditure on tree works in the preceding year.

9. Library Committee Report

It was noted that the Sandgate Library continues to benefit from an excellent selection of new books and a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Preparations are underway for the annual Santa event.

The Clerk met with Anna Hendy from Kent County Council (KCC) Library Services, who confirmed that KCC remains highly satisfied with the performance of Sandgate Library.

KCC has recently taken a lease on 14 Sandgate Road, which will serve as a shared site for the Adult Education Centre and Library Services. Although intended as a temporary measure, it is anticipated that this arrangement will remain in place for several years before a possible return to Grace Hill.

Tim Prater noted that he had preferred alternative temporary sites; however, this location has been chosen and would now serve as a library after an absence of over two years in the town’s centre.

- 5. **Information** There was none
- 6. **Date of the next meeting** 24th November 2025

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