



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 29th September 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, Peter Hickman, Kirsty Hogben Simon Horton, Rosa Morris & Guy Valentine-Neale

Clerks: Gaye Thomas

1. **Apologies for absences: Gary Fuller & 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 23rd June 2025 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**
The Sea Festival Committee meeting would take place following the Full Council meeting. This would provide an opportunity to review feedback from the previous Sea Festival and to discuss plans for the next event. The most recent festival was considered extremely successful, with the good weather contributing significantly to its success.

The Parish Council had received detailed plans for the introduction of a 20-mph zone and had paid for the quotation received. It was hoped that the scheme would be completed by the end of 2025.

A theft occurred over the weekend at the junction of Lister Way and Castle Road. Dashcam evidence was being sought. The incident was not captured on the Parish CCTV cameras. However, the CCTV system had been praised by the local police for its value in assisting with several incidents, including serious crimes. It was also noted that the cameras provided an unquantifiable deterrent benefit.

A budget was in place for CCTV maintenance and equipment. The electrical contractor, Luke Hall, would provide guidance on any items that required replacement. In addition, the CCTV signage required updating.

The Environmental Wardens were due to meet with Tim Prater to discuss appropriate signage regarding dogs on the beach. The Parish Council felt that further signage was necessary.

The budget-setting process was now underway. While ongoing budgetary requirements would be incorporated, members were invited to suggest additional project ideas for consideration.

The planting and maintenance of flower beds and green spaces had been identified as a potential area for budget allocation. Feedback should be provided to Susan Claris and Simon Horton for inclusion in the budget planning process.

5. **Planning Committee report**

It was noted that the minutes had been duly circulated and that a further meeting was scheduled for 6th October.

It was also noted that the 62-68 Sandgate High Street application, to which the Parish Council had raised no objection, had subsequently been “called in” by the Tim Prater. Tim explained that this action had been taken in response to several representations received from residents of the Undercliffe. In view of these concerns, Tim considered it prudent that the application be referred for further consideration by the FHDC Planning Committee. He further confirmed that, although he had abstained from the original decision, he regarded the referral as both procedurally correct and ethically appropriate, ensuring transparency and enabling wider scrutiny in the interests of the community.

6. **Environment Committee report**

It was noted that a meeting of the Environment Committee had taken place two weeks prior.

The online consultation regarding the designation of Granville Beach as a Bathing Beach is due to close at the end of September, with over 150 letters of support already received. Bathing counts recorded on 22nd and 23rd August showed 317 and 208 bathers respectively. Thanks were given to councillors and to Lola Leveridge for engaging the Sea Swimmers and many of the councillors getting wet!! Susan Claris and clerk will be reviewing the application and supporting documents, with a final submission due by 31st October.

Funding for the 20mph scheme has been secured, and the project is now with Kent County Council for implementation.

On the Boat House solar panel project, communication from UK Power Networks is still awaited, with Simon Horton reaching out to them directly. FHDC support and grant funding remain in place, although this cannot be sustained indefinitely without progress.

Sandgate sprucing and greening projects continue to develop. Cllr Rosa Morris is maintaining the Sandgate Road triangle and was thanked for her excellent work. At Golden Valley, the planters require attention, and Cllr Nicola South will lead this project with help from volunteers and local businesses. Lee Knight is working with the homeschooling team on Fremantle Park, though some beds there still need further assistance. Publicity will be arranged to encourage volunteer support, particularly for watering, and groups such as the Sandgate Society, Sandgate Environmental Action, and the wider community will be invited to get involved.

7. **Finance Committee report.**

The Finance Committee met the previous week, and the minutes of the meeting had been duly circulated. Appreciation was expressed to Mandy Taylor and to the clerk for their diligent work. It was reported that the bank reconciliations for July and August had been successfully completed at the first attempt, and that the September reconciliation was scheduled for completion on 2nd October, with all payments processed and recorded on the management system.

Preparation of the quarterly budget is underway and is expected to be circulated by mid-October. It was noted that there had been a significant financial outlay on the Toilet Block; however, this investment

ensured the facility presented the Parish positively during the Sea Festival, with all toilets open and fully operational. The Council recorded its thanks to the Boathouse staff for maintaining cleanliness throughout the day, and to Harmer and Sons for their assistance in ensuring the facilities remained in good working order.

Whilst the Toilet Block expenditure was considerable, savings from the 20mph project will provide some balance, and this will be reflected in the forthcoming budget. The retrospective payments related to essential works required to keep the Toilet Block operational.

**Retrospective approval of these payments was proposed by Cllr Tim Prater,
Seconded by Cllr Hazel Barrett,
Agreed by all**

- 8. **Library Committee report**
It was noted that the library continued to benefit from an excellent selection of new books.
- 9. **Information**
- 10. **Date of the next meeting 27th October 2025**

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