



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 24th November 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 Nicola South & Guy Valentine-Neale

Clerks: Gaye Thomas

1. **Apologies for absences: Peter Hickman**
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 27th October to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
Proposed by Michael Fitch
Seconded by Simon Horton
Agreed by all

4. **Chair's opening remarks & correspondence-** None at this meeting but information and comments in agenda item 9.

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.

It was noted that several applications to which the parish had raised no objection were nevertheless refused by the District Planning Authority.

6. **Environment Committee Report**

Bathing Beach

- The online consultation regarding the designation of Granville Beach as a Bathing Beach was submitted to DEFRA on 24 October 2025.

20mph Scheme

- A provisional implementation date of 5 January has been provided for elements of the 20mph scheme, including the repainting of roundels by the library and near the Coastguard Cottages.

Solar Panels on the Boathouse

- Progress on the project had been delayed due to a lack of communication from UK Power Networks. Contact has now been re-established, and the project is moving forward.

Sandgate Sprucing and Greening

- It was noted that a substantial number of bulbs have been planted throughout the parish, which are expected to enhance these areas attractively in the spring. Many thanks to Simon for buying many of them for the Parish, and Rosa for leading / mainly doing the planting!

It was noted that small Environmental Improvement projects were being sought. Under this heading, the potential purchase of reusable 6ft x 2ft banners promoting the 20mph limit was suggested, with possible installation at the Library or the Royal Norfolk for a limited period.

7. Finance Committee Report

It was noted that the Clerk and Simon were working on developing the budget for the new fiscal year, with the aim of keeping the increase in the precept below 3%. It was further noted that there would be no additional contribution from Taylor Wimpey and that, due to the 4.1% increase in the minimum wage, all staff members would require salary increases.

The Clerk would be in contact with KCC regarding an increase in their contribution to staff costs.

It was also noted that the proposed budget would need to be agreed by members at the meeting on 15th. December, and submitted to the district no later than 9 January 2026.

It was proposed that retrospective approval be agreed for payments of:

- £2300.00 to Kingsfords Solicitors in relation to the proposed purchase of the UKPower Networks part of the Boat House building and
- £114.25 for replacement of defibrillator pads at the Boat House

Proposed by Simon Horton

Seconded by Rosa Morris

Agreed by all

8. Library Committee Report

It was noted that Sandgate Library would be hosting Santa on 5 December and that a range of events and activities would take place throughout the High Street, including a choir performing by the Christmas tree on the green. Members were encouraged to volunteer to assist at the event and to help ensure the safe movement of the public from the library to the various activities.

It was further noted that KCC was producing a library leaflet designed to support individuals with neuro-divergence, and that once finalised it would be widely disseminated.

9. Information

A potential purchase for the new year would be a concrete table-tennis table for Fremantle Park. It was highlighted that the surrounding surface would also need consideration, as placing the table directly on the ground could result in the area becoming muddy and slippery. Suitable surfacing—such as rubber matting or another poured material—would therefore need to be included in the costings.

The library is designated as a ‘Warm Space,’ and Saga had kindly agreed to donate coffee, tea, and biscuits. This would enable the library to host a weekly winter coffee morning, free for all residents, to encourage people to visit and keep warm.

The CEO of Saga will visit the library on 11 December to meet Members and members of the community who are able to attend.

Alex McNeice will be attending the library on the 25th to meet with Tim, the clerk, and Simon to discuss entertainment for the Sea Festival. Preparations for the Festival are already under way: the application has been submitted, parking management has been agreed with FHDC at the reduced rates used last year for car park closures, and stallholders have expressed their wish to return.

It was agreed that requests for donations to the “Barrow of Booze” should be made in the early New Year, as many residents are likely to have surplus alcohol following Christmas celebrations and gift-giving.

Members were informed that the new rainbow bench on the village green will include plaques available for purchase by the public at a cost of approximately £150. The first plaque has been dedicated to former Chair Robert Bliss, and several additional spaces have already been reserved. Further opportunities to purchase plaques will be publicised.

It was also noted that new benches installed at the War Memorial site will similarly offer plaque spaces as part of the bench replacement programme.

Local Government Reform was discussed, and it was noted that Kent is currently progressing through a major Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) aimed at replacing the existing two-tier system with a smaller number of unitary authorities. Under the preferred **Option 3A**, Kent would be divided into three unitary councils, with **East Kent** formed by bringing together Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, and Thanet. These new authorities would take on all responsibilities currently split between county and district councils, enabling more streamlined decision-making and clearer accountability. Although Kent is not yet part of the Government’s Devolution Priority Programme, the reorganisation is expected to support future devolution, with the potential for additional powers to be transferred from central government to local leadership in the coming years.

10. Date of the next meeting 15th December 2025

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