



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of The Sea Festival and Events Committee Meeting
held on 29th September 2025 at 7.05pm

Chair: **Councillor:** **Simon Horton**

Present: **Councillors:** **Hazel Barret, Susan Claris, Rosa Morris, Tim Prater & Guy Valentine-Neale**

Clerk: **Gaye Thomas**

Public: **Sean Thompson-representing Mimosa Restaurant**

1. **Apologies for absence** – there were none
2. **Declaration of Interest** – none declared.
3. **Minutes of the Sea Festival Committee held on 29th September 2025 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**

Proposed by Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded by Councillor Simon Horton

Agreed by all.

4. **Sea Festival 2026–Plans and timetables.**

It was noted that the arrangements for this year's Sea Festival would broadly follow the format used last year.

Saturday Programme

Evening entertainment will take place on Saturday from **6.00 pm to 10.00 pm**, with **market stalls operating during the evening**, alongside live music staged at **Castle Road Car Park** and **Granville Parade**. The **fireworks display is scheduled for 9.00 pm**.

Sunday Programme

On Sunday, market stalls will operate from **10.00 am to 4.00 pm**, accompanied by live music at the same locations and during the same hours.

Town Centre and Business Engagement

It was hoped that there would be strong interaction from businesses on the High Street, with increased footfall encouraged towards a range of local venues throughout the event.

Mimosa Proposals

Mimosa expressed interest in hosting a band on the concrete apron outside the castle. This was agreed as a possibility, subject to a site visit, which will be arranged.

Mimosa also indicated that they may wish to provide live music on the **Sunday evening, potentially running until 7.00 pm**.

In addition, Mimosa showed interest in hosting an activity on the **Village Green**, which will be explored further.

Staging, Sound and Technical Support

It was noted that **Alex McNeice**, working with **Folkestone Music**, would be providing the sound systems and sound engineers for the stages.

Tonbridge Market will be supplying the physical stages.

Finance

The **Parish Council** confirmed that it would be increasing its financial contribution to the event by **£1,000**. The **RDHCT** has been contacted at an early stage regarding their potential donation towards the fireworks. A meeting is scheduled to take place in **February**.

Volunteers

It was acknowledged that an event of this scale requires a considerable number of volunteers. A **volunteer rota** will need to be finalised at an early stage to ensure that all required locations and activities are adequately covered.

Saga Car Park

Saga has agreed to the use of its car park for the event. The Clerk was due to meet with Saga the following day to discuss any additional support they may be willing to provide.

Library and Children's Activities

The library will again be used as the venue for the disco, as in previous years.

Councillor Tim Prater kindly agreed to set up the **Events App** for applications for tickets to the three children's discos.

As a pilot scheme, the library will also offer the front area of the library as a display and sales space for local artists. This initiative will be evaluated after the event to determine whether it should be continued in future years.

5. **Information:** None at this time

6. **Date of Next meeting:** TBC

Signed by the Sea Festival and Events Committee Chair

Date