



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 23rd February 2026 at 6.44pm

At Sandgate Parish Council/Library Offices
James Morris Court, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate.

Present

Chair: Cllr Tim Prater

Councillors: Hazel Barrett, Susan Claris, Gary Fuller, Simon Horton, Rosa Morris, Nicola South and Guy Valentine-Neale

Clerk: Gaye Thomas

- 1. Apologies for absences: Michael Fitch, Peter Hickman, Kirsty Hogben**
- 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 26th January 2026 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**
Proposed by Simon Horton
Seconded by Hazel Barrett
Agreed by all
- 4. Chair's opening remarks & correspondence**

It was noted that the 20mph speed initiative had been very positively received. This was also true of the installation of the speed repeaters on West Road and North Road.

Members noted that Romney Avenue would be resurfaced from 18th March for a few days. It was suggested that a letter be delivered to all residents prior to the works to advise them not to park on the road during the resurfacing period.

It was further noted that:

- A new pedestrian crossing would be installed on the Esplanade near Castle Bay.
- Tactile paving would be installed at the junctions of Wellington Place and Sunnyside Road.

No confirmation had been provided regarding the exact timing of these works; however, they had been budgeted for in the next financial year.

Members noted the Government consultation on the restructuring of councils in Kent and Medway. Details of the consultation are available on the Parish Council website.

It was noted that the Clerk would be away for a couple of weeks from 17th March.

Members thanked Harmers for clearing the shingle from the solarium area of the Esplanade.

It was noted that the “Bench Project,” aimed at replacing parish benches with recycled ones and providing the option for inscribed plaques to be purchased and installed for a fee, had commenced. Several members and the Clerk had already purchased plaques, which were being fabricated, including one in memory of the former Chair, Jonathan Greenwall.

.5. Planning Committee Report

It was noted that the planning committee had met immediately previously to the Full Council Committee.

6. Environment Committee Report

It was noted that spring planting and general sprucing continued throughout the parish, and crocuses were beginning to appear.

Members expressed delight that the Parish’s application for the designation of Granville Beach as a bathing beach had successfully passed the first stage and was one of thirteen applications submitted by DEFRA for formal consultation.

It was noted that designation as a bathing beach under DEFRA’s statutory framework would bring a number of benefits, including:

- Regular monitoring and testing of sea water quality to ensure public health and safety.
- Recognition of the beach as meeting national environmental and safety standards; and
- A positive impact on the parish’s reputation, encouraging tourism and community use.

Members welcomed this progress and the potential long-term benefits of achieving formal bathing beach status.

7. Finance Committee Report

It was agreed that the reinvestment of some PWLB funds should be undertaken. Members noted that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) limit has increased from £85,000 to £120,000. In light of this, it was agreed to consolidate a number of existing deposits into fewer accounts where appropriate. Members noted that the Council currently holds a bond with Redwood Bank which is due to mature in April, and that a bond previously held with Hampshire Trust Bank has now matured.

Two suitable investment opportunities offering competitive rates of interest were identified:

- A five-year bond with Hampshire Trust Bank paying 4.00%.
- A two-year bond with Redwood Bank paying 4.15%.

It was agreed that both new bonds would be opened using the proceeds from the existing bonds and topped up, where necessary, to the £120,000 FSCS limit.

It had been agreed that both bonds would be referred to Full Council for approval, although technically only investments exceeding two years in duration require such approval.

The opening of the bonds was:

Proposed by: Councillor Tim Prater
Seconded by: Councillor Simon Horton
Agreed by: All

8. Library Committee Report

It was noted that the library continues to purchase new books from the S106 funding. It was further noted that one of the plaques being fabricated for the “Bench Project” was in memory of Judy Murray, a former library volunteer who was greatly valued and much missed by her colleagues.

9. Information

It was noted that a design for signage relating to the restriction of dogs on beaches between 1st May and 30th September had been agreed with FHDC. The signs would be positioned in appropriate locations to clearly communicate the expectation that dogs are not permitted on beaches during this period.

10. Date of Next Meeting 23rd March 2026

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