



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of The Sea Festival and Events Committee Meeting

held on 17th April 2026 at 12.30

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**Chair: Councillor: Simon Horton**

**Present Councillors: Hazel Barrett, Kirsty Hogben, Rosa Morris & Tim Prater**

**Clerk: Gaye Thomas**

**Public: Sean Thompson & Ahmet Okmen-representing Mimosa Restaurant**  
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- 1. Apologies for absence – there were none.**
- 2. Declaration of Interest – none declared.**
- 3. Minutes of the Sea Festival Committee held on 26th January 2026 to be confirmed as a correct record and signed.**

Proposed by Councillor Tim Prater

Seconded by Councillor Hazel Barrett

Agreed by all.

4 4. Sea Festival 2026 – Plans and Timetables

Arrangements for the 2026 Sea Festival will broadly follow the format used in the previous year.

The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust has confirmed funding for the fireworks. The area surrounding the firing point will be appropriately cordoned off. Live music on the Saturday evening will commence slightly earlier, at approximately 6:00pm.

Stallholders will have the option to trade on both days and will be invoiced accordingly. In addition to outdoor pitches, opportunities will be available for stalls within the library and on the Village Green.

Three children’s disco sessions will be held in the library at no charge, with tickets available via an events application.

Mimosa– Conditional Proposals

Proposals have been received from Mimosa regarding participation in the festival. All elements remain subject to final agreement and any necessary approvals.

Band Performance (Concrete Apron by the Castle)

A proposal is a beach bar with some recorded music / a DJ – no live band.

Bar Stall (Castle Area – Sunday Only)

Approval is granted for a single bar stall within the designated castle area, operating in the style of a beach bar, subject to the following conditions:

- Trading permitted on Sunday only.
- Operating hours between 10:00am and 6:00pm (later start preferred where appropriate)
- No trading permitted on Saturday under any circumstances.

The stall may include background music using self-contained equipment and power. Speakers must be directed towards the beach and away from other festival areas. Limited seating may be provided, provided it remains within agreed boundaries and does not obstruct public access.

All deliveries must be undertaken without vehicle access, using appropriate manual handling methods. Adequate security must be maintained within the trading area throughout operating hours.

No other traders will be allocated to this area. A single stall fee will apply to the full allocated space.

Village Green Pitch (Both Days)

A request to use a larger-than-standard pitch at the end of the Village Green for both Saturday and Sunday is approved in principle, subject to final layout agreement. A single stall fee will apply to the extended space.

Permitted activities may include the sale of ice cream and similar refreshments. Responsibility for managing the immediate trading area, including discouraging unauthorised vendors, will rest with the operator.

Evening Entertainment (Restaurant Premises)

Live or recorded music may be provided within the restaurant premises on Saturday evening, with the possibility of similar arrangements on Sunday, subject to compliance with licensing and local regulations.

Staging, Sound and Technical Support

It was noted that Alex McNeice, working with Folkestone Music & Seaview Studio, will provide sound systems and sound engineers for the stages.

Tonbridge Market will supply the physical staging infrastructure.

Finance

The Parish Council confirmed an increased financial contribution of £1,000 towards the event.

Volunteers

It was acknowledged that an event of this scale requires a substantial volunteer team. A volunteer rota will need to be finalised at an early stage to ensure all locations and activities are adequately staffed.

5. Information

Saga has confirmed agreement to the use of its car park for the event.

A designated drop-off arrangement will be required for musicians, with vehicle registration details provided in advance. Clear instructions must be issued regarding which vehicles may remain on site, and which must depart immediately after unloading.

Saga is to be contacted regarding the provision of a bouncy castle on the flat area. In the absence of volunteers, consideration should be given to a financial contribution towards the cost of car park security. A wide range of activities will take place throughout the parish. Confirmation is required as to whether Tim requires an updated licence. Final finishing times for all participants and activities must also be confirmed.

6. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

Signed: _____

Sea Festival and Events Committee Chair

Date: _____