



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on**  
**Monday on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6.30pm**

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**Present:**

**Chair**            **Councillor Susan Claris**

**Councillors:** **Rosa Morris, Tim Prater, Nicola South & Guy Valentine-Neale**

**Clerk:**            **Gaye Thomas**

1.     **Apologies for Absence;** 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 last meeting** - that the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 January 2026 having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed.  
          **Proposed by Cllr Rosa Morris**  
          **Seconded by Cllr Tim Prater**

**4. Environment Committee update 2025/26**

The Chair introduced the Environment Report circulated with the agenda, noting it provided a useful summary of the Committee's work over the past year.

Updates discussed included:

- No update had yet been received from DEFRA regarding the bathing water consultation, despite the bathing season formally commencing on Friday.
- The wildflower planting at Battery Point was reported to be looking particularly successful this year, with more colour diversity than in the previous season.
- It was agreed that seeds could potentially be spread further along the site at the end of the flowering season.
- Final financial figures for the year would be obtained from Simon before submission to Full Council.

It was agreed that, subject to the above amendments, the report would be finalised and submitted to Full Council.

**5. Review of Priority Actions 2025/26**

The four Priority areas agreed for 2025/6 were discussed and reviewed:

**a) 20mph Scheme ("20 is Plenty")**

The Committee formally welcomed the implementation of the 20mph scheme.

- Community Speedwatch monitoring had commenced.
- The necessity to keep the 20-mph signage at Wilberforce Green visible was discussed and regular hedge trimming would be organised via Harmers

**b) Sea Water Quality**

The Committee continued to await DEFRA's response regarding designated bathing waters.

It was noted that future water quality data could be used to support engagement with Southern Water regarding sewage outfalls and infrastructure improvements.

**c) Solar Panels on the Boathouse**

Members discussed ongoing attempts to engage UK Power Networks regarding the proposed solar installation.

Despite previous engagement and correspondence, communication had ceased. It was agreed to retain this as an ongoing action for the coming year.

#### **d) Sprucing and Planting Projects**

The Committee recorded thanks to Rosa for ongoing work coordinating environmental improvements and planting projects.

Updates included:

- Positive progress at Battery Point.
- Previous “sprucing” work at Fremantle Park had improved the area, though further work was required.
- Return visits to Fremantle Park and Golden Valley would be scheduled.
- Maintenance of memorial planters remained outstanding.

It was agreed that “Sprucing” would remain a standing priority action.

**The Committee reviewed the longer-term priority list previously developed.**

#### **a) Play Equipment and Recreation**

Members noted:

- Play surface improvements had been completed through grant funding.
- A new table tennis table for Fremantle Park had been funded via a County Councillor grant and would shortly be ordered.
- Installation was expected within approximately 6–8 weeks.
- The proposed location would be behind the play area while avoiding football activity zones.

Future surfacing requirements would be monitored after installation.

#### **b) Cycle Parking**

The Committee noted cycle parking improvements at the Village Green and library. An active travel bid for covered cycle parking remained under consideration by Kent County Council.

Potential locations discussed included:

- Wilberforce Green
- The area opposite Riviera Court near The Ship

#### **c) Solarium Improvements**

Members discussed replacing benches lost during storms and agreed this should become a priority action for the coming year.

The possibility of additional seating and future recreational installations was considered.

#### **d) Water Storage and Watering Facilities**

The Committee discussed using underspent planting budget funds to improve watering infrastructure.

Potential projects included:

- Large water storage bowsers at Wilberforce Green
- A possible installation near the Village Green
- Rainwater harvesting from nearby downpipes where feasible

Indicative costs would be obtained.

#### **e) Future Wildflower Areas**

Following the success at Battery Point, members discussed extending wildflower planting schemes to:

- Sandgate Park slope
- Additional locations requiring clearance and preparation work

Costings would be sought.

## **6. HIP – to identify issues for inclusion in the 2026/27 Highways Improvement Plan**

### **Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)**

The Committee reviewed current HIP priorities, and a meeting with the new Kent Highways officer is to be organised.

- Military Road Pedestrian Refuge

This remained a key priority to improve pedestrian safety.

- Enbrook Valley Bollards

The issue of bollards near the dropped kerb remained unresolved and would stay on the HIP.

- Sandgate High Street Dropped Kerb

Members discussed difficulties regarding necessity for dropped kerbs between Tower Court and nearby properties. Possible temporary accessibility improvements using rubber kerb ramps were discussed for further investigation.

- Castle Bay Crossing

An update was provided regarding the proposed crossing improvements near Castle Bay. Kent Highways had revised the design following local feedback. The proposed scheme would involve a pavement build-out reducing the crossing distance and removing one parking bay. Further design details were awaited.

- 20mph Repeater Signage – Sandgate High Street (Vine Cottage / 82 Sandgate High Street)

Members noted that the island light recently replaced (following its previous destruction in an RTC several months ago) provides an excellent potential location for additional 20mph repeater signage.

Members agreed this would represent a highly effective, visually prominent and relatively low-cost improvement in speed limit reinforcement. It was further noted that, subject to Kent Highways approval, the Parish Council would be willing to consider contributing financially if required.

This proposal was agreed to be added to the Highways Improvement Plan for discussion with Kent Highways.

## **Funding opportunities**

The Committee briefly discussed the possibility of pursuing grant funding or community fundraising for vehicle activated speed signs.

Indicative costs were estimated at £10,000–£12,000.

Post meeting, an email was received advising that KCC had confirmed the SR25 funding round (DfT Integrated Transport Fund 2026/27) was now open, with a submission deadline of 29 May. It was suggested that SPC may wish to consider submitting a further request for funding support for the dropped kerb scheme in Enbrook Valley.

## **ACTION**

Clerk and Chair to meet to update the Highways Improvement Plan.

## **7. Information**

### **Big Green Fair**

- The Chair informed members of the forthcoming Big Green Fair taking place on Sunday 7 June at the Saga grounds as part of Big Green Week.
- The event was being organised primarily by Sandgate Environmental Action and Sandgate Society.
- The Parish Council would have a presence at the event to promote environmental initiatives including “Sprucing”.
- Members were invited to assist during the event.

**Date of the Next Meeting: Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**