



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 20 July 2026 at 6.30 pm

Present

Chair: Councillor Susan Claris

Councillors: Rosa Morris, Tim Prater & Nicola South

Clerk: Gaye Thomas

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Hickman and Councillor Kirsty Hogben.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other interests in items on the agenda in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on **11 May 2026** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Proposed: Councillor Rosa Morris

Seconded: Councillor Nicola South

4. Environment Committee Updates (2026/27)

4.1 20mph Speed Limit – Speedwatch and Repeater Signs

Members noted that the Speed Indicator Device (SID), operated through the Speedwatch initiative, continued to provide an effective visual reminder to motorists of the 20mph speed limit and had proved valuable in encouraging improved driver behaviour.

The provision and siting of additional 20mph repeater signs were discussed as a means of further reinforcing compliance throughout the parish.

4.2 Bathing Water Quality – Granville Parade

Members welcomed the successful designation of Granville Parade as an official bathing water following the Parish Council's campaign.

It was noted that the Environment Agency now undertakes regular water quality monitoring during the bathing season (15 May to 30 September), testing for *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) and intestinal enterococci. Results are published on the Swimfo website.

Members were advised that the sample taken on **19 May 2026 at 10.04 am**, following significant rainfall, recorded elevated bacterial levels:

- **E. coli:** 3,100 cfu/100ml
- **Intestinal Enterococci:** 4,800 cfu/100ml

The Committee noted that rainfall events can have a significant short-term impact on bathing water quality through surface water run-off and storm overflow activity. It was noted that all other tests (9 to date) have shown good results

The Committee welcomed the continued Environment Agency monitoring programme and the transparency provided by the Swimfo website.

4.3 Boathouse Solar Panel Project

Members noted progress regarding the proposed installation of solar panels on the Boathouse roof. Discussions continue with Folkestone & Hythe District Council and UK Power Networks concerning the potential purchase of the two end sections of the building, which would assist in progressing the project and resolving ownership and infrastructure matters. Further updates will be provided as negotiations progress.

4.4 Sprucing and Planting Projects

Members noted that the Parish Council is applying for Green Grant funding to establish two new wildflower areas within the parish at **Sandgate Park** and **Fremantle Park**.

Whilst a previous attempt had achieved limited success, valuable lessons had been learned regarding site preparation, planting techniques and ongoing maintenance. Members considered the revised approach to be an exciting opportunity to enhance biodiversity, improve the appearance of the parks and deliver wider environmental benefits.

The Committee discussed the anticipated establishment and maintenance costs, noting that grant funding would assist in delivering the project.

Other Environmental Projects

Members noted that:

- the base for the table tennis table at Fremantle Park has now been installed and the table itself is expected shortly;
- the replacement benches for the Solarium have not yet been ordered, although arrangements will be progressed during the coming week.

5. Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

5.1 Review of Current HIP Priorities

Members received an update following a meeting with the KCC Highways Officer, Lezanne.

The Committee noted that:

- the 20mph speed limit scheme has now been successfully implemented and will be removed from the list of outstanding HIP priorities;
- any future request for additional 20mph repeater signs would require submission as a separate HIP scheme;
- the proposed Military Road pedestrian refuge island has been incorporated within the successful Golden Valley £20,000 scheme.
- KCC has been exploring the use of edge-of-carriageway markings as an alternative solution for Enbrook Valley, but bollards remain KCC's least preferred option;
- the proposed dropped kerb at 99 High Street/Tower Court continues to present engineering challenges due to underground utilities;
- the Golden Valley dropped kerbs have also been incorporated into the Golden Valley improvement scheme.

Members welcomed the progress made in securing external funding which has enabled a number of HIP priorities to move forward.

Action: Request Lezanne to provide updated speed survey data for the 20mph zone.

5.2 Further Highways Updates

Members received further updates following discussions with the KCC Highways Officer.

It was noted that the design for the **embankment build-out and dropped kerb scheme** had progressed and had been submitted for a **Road Safety Audit on 23 June 2026**.

Subject to confirmation that both schemes are being delivered as part of the Golden Valley improvement project, the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) will be updated as follows:

- the **20mph speed limit scheme** will be moved to the list of completed projects;

- the **Military Road pedestrian refuge island** and **Golden Valley dropped kerbs** will be removed from the outstanding HIP priorities,
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Members also noted KCC's advice that a maximum of **two HIP schemes** may be progressed each year. It was confirmed that the installation of **additional 20mph repeater signs** would constitute a separate HIP scheme.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that the following items would remain as priorities within the Highways Improvement Plan:

- **Enbrook Valley** improvements;
- the proposed **dropped kerb at 99 High Street/Tower Court**; and
- the installation of **additional 20mph repeater signs** throughout the parish.
- Installation of double yellow lines on Romney Avenue at the junctions with Hythe Close and Sandwich Close (following correspondence with a resident there about the problems that parking on the junctions causes).

Members noted that at Shorncliffe (West Road), bus boarders and stops have been installed at different locations to the bus shelters. The KCC bus stop team have been contacted about this. It was agreed that Tim would contact them to chase for a response.

6. Information

6.1 Princes Parade

Members discussed the future of Princes Parade.

It was noted that the previous planning permissions had now lapsed and Members expressed the hope that the site's allocation for development would, in due course, be removed from the Local Plan, while noting that this is a "lengthy process".

6.2 Sandgate Park Car Park

Members noted that the fencing at Sandgate Park car park had recently been damaged by a vehicle, following which fly-tipped rubbish had been deposited at the site.

Harmer and Sons responded promptly, making the area safe and completing repairs within 48 hours. The Committee recorded its appreciation and thanks for the company's swift and efficient response.

7. Date of Next Meeting 14th September 2026