



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 27th July 2026 at 6.30pm

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

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**Present**

**Chair:** Cllr Tim Prater

**Councillors:** Hazel Barrett, Susan Claris, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Simon Horton, Rosa Morris, Nicola South & Guy Valentine-Neale

**Clerks:** Gaye Thomas  
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1. Apologies for absences: Cllrs Peter Hickman & Kirsty Hogben

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests on items on the agenda as required by the Council's Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011.

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd June 2026

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

Proposed: Simon Horton

Seconded: Guy Valentine-Neale

Agreed by all.

4. Chair's Opening Remarks & Correspondence

It was noted with sadness that, within just a few days of the installation of the new table tennis table, which was funded through the District Member Gary Fuller's grant with additional support from Sandgate Society, the equipment had been subject to vandalism.

Efforts would be made to assess the damage and determine whether repairs or remedial works could be undertaken. However, it was deeply disappointing that an amenity intended to provide an additional recreational facility and something positive for residents to enjoy had been damaged so soon after installation.

5. Planning Committee Report

It was noted that the Planning Committee minutes had been circulated and that a further meeting would take place following the meeting of the Full Council.

Members noted that the SAGA consultation had taken place, which had provided an initial indication of the proposed development. It was acknowledged that no firm views, decisions or conclusions could be reached until the detailed plans had been formally submitted and the full proposals were available for consideration.

In terms of potential community benefit, it was noted that the initial proposals included the refurbishment of the pavilion, which would provide enhanced opportunities for wider community use. It was also hoped that there could be improvements to drainage infrastructure which would result from better management of water runoff, providing a positive benefit in addressing existing drainage concerns.

6. Environment Committee Report

Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) Update

Members received feedback from the Environment Committee meeting held the previous week, including the results of discussions with the KCC Highways Officer, Lezanne.

It was noted that the 20mph speed limit scheme had now been successfully implemented and would therefore be removed from the list of outstanding HIP priorities. Any future request for additional 20mph repeater signs would need to be submitted as a separate HIP scheme.

The Committee noted that the proposed Military Road pedestrian refuge island had been incorporated within the successful Golden Valley £20,000 improvement scheme, and that the Golden Valley dropped kerbs had also been included within this project.

It was reported that KCC had been exploring the use of edge-of-carriageway markings as an alternative solution for Enbrook Valley, although the installation of bollards remained KCC's least preferred option. The proposed dropped kerb at 99 High Street/Tower Court continued to present engineering challenges due to underground utilities.

Members 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 these schemes were being delivered as part of the Golden Valley improvement project, the HIP would be updated accordingly, with completed schemes removed from the outstanding priorities list.

The Committee had also noted KCC's advice that a maximum of two HIP schemes could be progressed each year. Following discussion, the Environment Committee had agreed that the following items should remain as priorities within the HIP:

- Enbrook Valley improvements;
- the proposed dropped kerb at 99 High Street/Tower Court;
- additional 20mph repeater signs throughout the parish; and
- the installation of double yellow lines on Romney Avenue at the junctions with Hythe Close and Sandwich Close, following concerns raised by a resident regarding parking obstructing the junctions.

Members were advised that, at Shorncliffe (West Road), bus boarders and bus stops had been installed in different locations to the existing bus shelters. The KCC Bus Stop Team had been contacted regarding this matter, and Tim Prater was seeking a response.

7. Finance Committee Report

It was noted that the previous meeting had been very speedily concluded.

8. Library Committee Report

It was noted that the library continued to be very successful and that there would be significant new stock when the S106 monies had been released.

It was suggested that the Clerk contact James Pearson, Head of Service, to discuss the possible release of all S106 monies early to preclude any future delays.

9. Sea Festival Committee

It was noted that arrangements for the Sea Festival were progressing well and that event planning was now well underway. Members were advised that banners advertising the event would shortly be erected throughout the parish.

Councillor Tim Prater noted that assistance with putting up the banners would be gratefully received, as would suggestions for suitable locations where they could be displayed.

Members noted that, as in previous years, the shortage of volunteers remained a concern. All Councillors were encouraged to support the event by volunteering their time during the two-day festival.

Members were also asked to donate any unwanted bottles for the bottle raffle. It was noted that the bottle raffle remained the main way in which the Sea Festival generated its contribution to the RNLI, and that a further appeal for bottle donations would be promoted through social media.

10. Information

It was noted that a new bin store was planned at Sir John Moore Court so that bins do not continue to be stored by the front doors of SJMC, with the inherent fire, environmental and safety risks associated with the current arrangement.

Guy Valentine-Neale raised concerns regarding loud motorcycles travelling along Military Road and surrounding areas in the early morning and evening. It was agreed that this matter would be raised with the local Police for their consideration.

Hazel Barrett commented about increased amounts of rubbish from the sea gulls raiding rubbish bags put out overnight. It was decided to ask Daniel Welsh for additional seagull proof bags to be held in the library.

In response to a question raised by Nicola South, Members discussed the delay to the opening of the new Folkestone Leisure Centre. It was noted that some of the delay had been due to vandalism at the site; however, further time had also been required to undertake additional works to improve the facility and ensure that residents would benefit from a better centre when it opened.

11. Date of Next Meeting

28th September 2026

Signed by the Chair: _____

Date: _____