



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 14th September 2026 at 6.30 pm.

Present

Chair: Councillor Susan Claris

Councillors: Kirsty Hogben, Rosa Morris, Tim Prater & Nicola South

Clerk: Gaye Thomas

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Hickman

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 **20 July 2026** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Proposed: Councillor Rosa Morris

Seconded: Councillor Tim Prater

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 have been added to the HIP.

4.2 Bathing Water Quality – Granville Parade

It was noted that, following 18 water quality tests, there were significant differences between the water quality measurements recorded at Sandgate Beach and those recorded at Seabrook. This provided further evidence to support and validate the efforts to secure the formal designation of Sandgate Beach as a bathing water.

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. Further updates will be provided as negotiations progress.

4.4 Sprucing and Planting Projects

Members noted that the Parish Council had applied for Green Grant funding to establish two new wildflower areas within the parish, at Sandgate Park and Fremantle Park, and that the outcome of the application was awaited.

Members expressed their thanks to Councillor Rosa Morris for her ongoing work in helping to improve and maintain the planting areas throughout the parish.

It was noted that she would liaise with Vic Harmer regarding the locations for bulb planting and the need for specified cutbacks of plants in various locations throughout the parish.

It was agreed that Jana would be contacted regarding the removal of the planters at the War Memorial from the KCC maintenance lists.

Members noted that the planters at Golden Valley were looking untidy. Councillor Nicola South would arrange a further community weed-clearing event.

The Clerk would contact Harmers regarding compost for the planters at the War Memorial.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase a wheelbarrow to assist with planting and maintenance activities.

Members discussed the areas where planting and maintenance work was being undertaken, including the triangle on Sandgate Hill and the honeysuckle planting at Sandgate Park, where the plants are to be trained and interwoven through the wire fencing.

5. Other Environmental Projects

Members noted that the table tennis table at Fremantle Park had now been installed.

It was also noted that the replacement benches for the Solarium had been delivered and, following completion of the works to the SJMM surface, would be installed.

Councillors Tim Prater and Susan Claris would undertake a walk and talk around the areas being considered for the Golden Valley Active Travel Grant on 25 September 2026, to review the proposed locations and discuss opportunities for improvements.

6. Benches at the War Memorial and Other Environmental Initiatives

The colour scheme for the benches at the War Memorial was discussed. It was agreed that the benches should alternate between red with black legs and black with red legs, creating an alternating arrangement.

The Clerk would contact the manufacturers to confirm continuity of supply and ensure that the chosen design was not due to be discontinued.

7. Information

Members discussed a proposed Garden Gnome Tool Library, which would operate from premises in Cheriton, with tools being donated and made available for residents to borrow. The proposed location is on Cheriton Road. Members noted that the initiative would fit well with and support the Parish Council's Carbon Plan.

Members also noted the Pink Bin Scheme for recycling old electrical items. A collection bin is located outside Councillor Tim Prater's business and is proving to be very well used. The facility is available Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **9th November 2026**