



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday 26 October 2026

Time: 6.30 pm

**Venue: Sandgate Parish Council and Library Offices,
James Morris Court, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate**

Present

Chairman: Cllr Tim Prater

Councillors: Hazel Barrett, Susan Claris, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Simon Horton, Rosa Morris and Guy Valentine-Neale

Clerk: Gaye Thomas

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Peter Hickman, Kirsty Hogben and Nicola South.

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.

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 28th September 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Simon Horton

Seconded: Susan Claris

Decision: Agreed unanimously.

4. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Correspondence

High Street / Military Road Repairs

It was noted that repairs to Sandgate High Street and junction with Military Road had taken place the previous week. While the quality of the work appeared to be good, concern was expressed about the lack of advance notice given to residents. Cllr Tim Prater had raised a complaint with the relevant parties.

It was also noted that a pothole outside Nordens remained in need of repair.

Christmas Garlands

It was noted that replacement Christmas garlands were required for Sandgate High Street, as the existing garlands were no longer serviceable. Sourcing suitable replacements was proving difficult.

Christmas Lights Event – Parking

It was noted that Saga had kindly offered parking facilities for the Christmas Lights event. Thanks were extended for its generous support.

Farmers' Market

Concern was expressed about the low number of visitors attending the Farmers' Market, with the possibility that this could lead to a reduction in stallholders. It was hoped that visitor numbers would increase, particularly given the quality of the goods on offer.

KALC Nomination

The Clerk was asked to ensure that the nomination for a KALC Community Award was included on the agenda for the November Full Council meeting.

5. Planning Committee

It was noted that the minutes of the previous Planning Committee meeting had not yet been circulated.

6. Environment Committee

The latest bathing water results had been circulated, with results ranging from very good to very poor. It was noted that water quality could vary considerably between locations, with Sunny Sands reporting good results when Sandgate Beach had recorded poor results.

It was also noted that the new multicoloured benches remained in storage at Harmers, pending works to the Sir John Moore Memorial.

No response had yet been received following the Active Travel meeting attended by Tim Prater and Susan Claris. Tim Prater was continuing to follow this up.

7. Finance Committee

It was noted that the minutes of the previous Finance Committee meeting had not yet been circulated.

8. Library Committee

It was noted that the Library continued to be successful, with new books continuing to arrive. Requests for new book purchases should be directed to Gaye Thomas.

9. Sea Festival Committee

The next Sea Festival Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 27 October 2026. It was noted that event feedback received so far had been predominantly positive.

10. External Auditor's Report – Financial Year 2025/26

To receive and consider the external auditor's report in respect of the 2025/26 financial year and determine any actions arising

The Clerk, Gaye Thomas, was thanked for her efforts, and it was noted that a clear AGAR had been received.

Minor observations had been provided in a separate document, including a small discrepancy in the asset register compared with 2024/25. It was noted that this discrepancy had since been addressed. It was further noted that a deficiency in the composition of the Variance Form supplied by Mazars had meant that the requirement to provide additional information about the asset variance had not been made sufficiently clear.

Thanks, were also extended to the Internal Auditor, Lionel, who continued to provide internal audit services to hundreds of parish and town councils. It was noted that the proposal for the formal appointment of an Internal Auditor would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the External Auditor's Report and Certificate for the financial year 2025/26, with no further actions arising.

Proposed: Cllr Tim Prater

Seconded: Cllr Simon Horton

Decision: Agreed unanimously.

11. Christmas Lights and Fireworks Event

It was noted that the Christmas Lights event would take place on 4 December 2026, and it was hoped that the fireworks deferred from the Sea Festival could be incorporated into the event.

It was noted that Folkestone & Hythe District Council usually has a 12-week processing period for granting permission for events on its land, but we have asked if there is any way that could be shortened to allow an event on 4 December. The Clerk had completed and submitted the application form that day and had also contacted the first aid providers used for the Sea Festival to obtain a quotation for the event.

The Clerk had further contacted the Parish Council's insurers to seek clarification on whether additional insurance cover would be required, with the aim of expediting a response in view of the event date.

12. Information

It was noted that the Old Fire Station was very soon to become a licensed venue approved by Kent County Council for civil marriages and partnerships.

13. Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was proposed that, under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest in maintaining confidentiality.

Proposed: Cllr Tim Prater

Seconded: Cllr Guy Valentine-Neale

Abstention: Cllr Simon Horton

Decision: Agreed by seven votes.

14. Confidential – Councillor Update

A councillor provided a verbal report on a confidential matter. The report was noted.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Sandgate Parish Council was scheduled for **Monday 23 November 2026.**

Signed by the Chairman: _____

Date: _____