



SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 28th September 2026 at 6.30pm
At Sandgate Parish Council/Library Offices
James Morris Court, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate.

~~~~~

**Present**

**Chair:** Tim Prater

**Councillors:** Hazel Barrett, Michael Fitch, Gary Fuller, Simon Horton, Rosa Morris & Nicola South

**Clerk:** Gaye Thomas

---

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Susan Claris, Peter Hickman, Kirsty Hogben and Guy Valentine-Neale.

**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 Parish Council Meeting held on 27th July 2026**

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

**Proposed:** Hazel Barrett

**Seconded:** Rosa Morris

**Decision:** Agreed by all.

---

**4. Chair's Opening Remarks & Correspondence**

**Kent Highways / Golden Valley Active Travel Improvements**

It was noted that Cllr Tim Prater and Cllr Susan Claris had joined colleagues from Kent County Council Highways to discuss the Golden Valley Active Travel Improvements.

A two-hour site meeting had taken place with three KCC officers to consider the proposed pedestrian refuge island on Military Road, dropped kerbs at various locations within Golden Valley and an alternative walking route to Military Road.

The dropped kerb at the new town houses on Enbrook Road had also been discussed, including the possibility of introducing double yellow lines to address parking and access issues.

**Action:** KCC designer to return with proposed designs and associated costs.

**Esplanade Crossing – Castle Bay**

The detailed plans received from Kent County Council for the long-awaited new pedestrian crossing point on the Esplanade, near Castle Bay, were noted.

The proposed scheme will result in the loss of approximately four parking spaces to allow the build-out to provide appropriate sight lines and a safe, visible crossing point. It was acknowledged that this was more parking provision than had initially been anticipated.

The Council discussed the balance between the loss of parking spaces and the benefits of providing a safer pedestrian crossing. It was noted that there are now additional parking opportunities following the introduction of the overnight van restriction.

**Decision:** The proposed crossing scheme was approved, with the plans to proceed to the appropriate consultation process.

#### **Memorial Bench – The Green**

It was noted that the memorial bench on The Green now had its full complement of plaques. Thanks were recorded to Simon Horton for undertaking the installation.

A further bench opposite the War Memorial had now been identified for replacement, and two memorial plaques had already been applied for.

---

### **5. Planning Committee Report**

The Planning Committee report and minutes had been circulated and were noted.

**Decision:** Report received and noted.

---

### **6. Environment Committee Report**

#### **Bathing Water Quality**

It was reported that all 20 bathing water quality tests for the season had now been completed, with the final test undertaken on 23 September. The official bathing water season ends on 30 September.

Following the first 18 water quality tests, significant differences had been identified between the water quality measurements recorded at Sandgate Beach and those recorded at Seabrook. Members noted that this provided further evidence to support and validate the Parish Council's efforts to secure the formal designation of Sandgate Beach as a bathing water.

**Action:** A brief report summarising the full season's testing results will be prepared for presentation to the October Full Council meeting.

#### **Green Grant – Wildflower Areas**

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. The outcome of the application is 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.

**Action:** Councillor Morris to liaise with Vic Harmer regarding suitable locations for bulb planting and the need for specified cutbacks of plants in various locations throughout the parish.

#### **Sprucing Sessions**

It was noted that a session will be organised to tidy and improve the planters at the Golden Valley shopping centre. Further community sprucing sessions are also intended to be arranged within the village.

**Action:** Clerk to contact FHDC regarding weeding the pavements and car park at the Valley.

#### **Military Road – Sandgate Park**

It was noted that the fence alongside the narrow pavement by Sandgate Park on Military Road had come down and required re-erecting.

It was noted that reinstating the fence in the correct position would provide approximately 30cm of additional walking space on the pavement.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Harmers regarding the re-erection of the fence.

---

### **7. Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee reports were received and noted.

The following reports were received:

- **Monthly Finance Information**
- **Play Park Checks**
- **Contractor Certificates and Qualifications**
- **Grant Funding**
- **2027/28 Budget**

The reports were received for information and no decisions were required in relation to these items.

It was noted that further discussion regarding the 2027/28 budget would take place at the October Full Council meeting, when Members would have the opportunity to raise any anticipated expenditure or projects for consideration as part of the budget-setting process.

**Decision:** Finance Committee reports received and noted.

**Action:** Further discussion of the 2027/28 budget to take place at the October Full Council meeting.

### **Retrospective Approvals**

The following payments were presented for retrospective approval:

- **£410.40** – replacement parts for a defibrillator.
- **£2,400.00** – event production equipment and services.

**Proposed:** Cllr Tim Prater

**Seconded:** Cllr Gary Fuller

**Decision:** Retrospective payments approved. Agreed by all.

---

## **8. Library Committee Report**

It was noted that new furniture had been purchased using S106 funding, with Sandgate being one of the few libraries to benefit from both new furniture and new literature purchased from S106 monies arising from the Shorncliffe development.

It was further noted that the anthologies donated as part of the annual H G Wells Short Story Competition had now been catalogued and were housed in the library.

Thanks were recorded to the HG Wells Short Story Competition for his kind donation.

**Decision:** Library Committee report received and noted.

---

## **9. Sea Festival Report**

It was noted that the Sandgate Sea Festival had been a brilliant event and that predominantly positive feedback had been received.

Members acknowledged the work undertaken by those involved in organising and supporting the event.

**Decision:** Sea Festival report received and noted.

---

## **10. Nepal/Tibet Flood Disaster Relief**

It was noted that the Deputy Clerk had suggested that the Parish Council might wish to consider making a grant towards the relief fund for victims of the recent flooding and associated disaster in Nepal and Tibet.

Members noted the longstanding connection between the local community and the Royal Gurkha Rifles, who have been stationed at Shorncliffe, Sandgate, for approximately the last quarter of a century. The Gurkha community was recognised as being an important part of the local community.

It was proposed that the Parish Council make a **£500 grant** to the relief fund.

**Proposed:** Cllr Tim Prater

**Seconded:** Cllr Gary Fuller

**Decision:** A grant of **£500** to the relief fund was approved. Agreed by all.

---

**11. Christmas Lights and Fireworks Event**

It was agreed that the Christmas Lights event would now incorporate a fireworks display.

The Deputy Clerk is identifying suitable funding for the fireworks from existing Council budgets.

It was noted that a Halloween event had previously been suggested as an alternative. However, the timescale for organising a Halloween event was considered challenging, given the amount of administration and arrangements required within a relatively short period.

Although some local businesses had indicated a preference for a Halloween event, the Council had predominantly been expressing support for holding the event in conjunction with the Christmas Lights. The decision was therefore taken to proceed with the Christmas event for practical timing and administrative reasons.

It was noted that the Christmas event would include the usual **Santa event in the Library**, with music, together with the Christmas Lights switch-on.

It was hoped that the **Sandgate Society Choir** would be able to provide music around the Christmas tree when the lights are switched on.

The possibility of a **winter craft fayre in the Chichester Hall** was also discussed.

**Decision:** The Council agreed to proceed with the Christmas Lights event incorporating a fireworks display.

**Action:**

- Deputy Clerk to identify suitable funding for the fireworks from existing Council budgets.
  - Clerk to contact David Cowell to establish whether he would like to organise a winter/Christmas craft fayre as part of the event.
- 

**12. Information**

It was noted that the Golden Valley car park and pavements required weeding.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange for the weeding of the Golden Valley car park and pavements and to liaise with FHDC as appropriate.

---

**13. Additional Item – Confidential Matter**

It was noted that an additional item had been identified which, if considered, would have required the exclusion of the public from the meeting.

As the Member concerned was not available to participate in the discussion, the item was not considered and was therefore voided.

**Decision:** The additional item was not considered.

---

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Sandgate Parish Council will be held **26 October 2026**.

---

**Signed by the Chair**

---

**Date**

---