SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

Held on Monday 9 November 2026 at 6.30 pm

Present

Chair: Councillor Susan Claris

Councillors: Rosa Morris and Nicola South

Clerk: Gaye Thomas

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

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

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 14 September 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Proposed: Councillor Susan Claris
Seconded: Councillor Nicola South
Approved by all

4. Update on key priorities

4.1 20mph Speed Limit – Speedwatch and Repeater Signs

Members noted that additional 20mph repeater signs, including their proposed locations, had been included in the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP).

4.2 Bathing Water Quality – Granville Parade

Members noted that Sandgate Granville Parade had been designated as a Bathing Water by DEFRA on 15 May 2026, following an application submitted by Sandgate Parish Council in late 2025.

The Environment Agency took water samples on twenty occasions between 15 May and 30 September 2026, during the official bathing season. The results were published on the Bathing Water Profile.

A report prepared by the Chair was attached to the Minutes.

4.3 Boathouse Solar Panel Project

Members received an update on the proposed installation of solar panels on the Boathouse roof.

Discussions with Folkestone & Hythe District Council were continuing, and further updates would be provided as the project progressed.

4.4 Sprucing and Planting Projects

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

Councillor Rosa Morris had been working with Vic Harmer to identify suitable locations for bulb planting and to arrange the necessary cutting back of plants at various locations throughout the parish.

Ivy had been removed from plants at Battery Point, and the supporting stakes would now be removed. Californian poppies were appearing in the grass at the Seabrook end. Further planting and maintenance work was planned at the triangle on Sandgate Hill and at Sandgate Park.

Arrangements would be made for the **Spruce Up of Golden Valley**, with a poster to be displayed in local shops to encourage volunteers to take part. It was encouraging to note that more volunteers had come forward to support the initiative.

The planters at the War Memorial had been removed from Kent County Council's maintenance programme. A decision would be needed regarding future planting and maintenance at this location.

5. Other Environmental Projects:

5.1 Solarium Benches - Members noted that replacement benches had now been installed at the Solarium and were a welcome
improvement to the area.

5.2 Golden Valley Active Travel improvements - plans had just been received from Kent County Council for the Golden Valley and Military Road Crossing Works which are capital works from our successful £20k bid to the SR25 Active Travel Funding via the district council, following the site meeting held on 25 September.

The plans are comprehensive and include dropped kerbs and tactile paving at 14 locations in the Golden Valley, which would improve accessibility in the area and contribute towards providing an alternative walking route from Shorncliffe via the Golden Valley, rather than using the steep narrow footway on Military Road by Sandgate Park.

The plans also include a comprehensive scheme for the Military Road junction at Sandgate High Street, to build out the footway, tighten the corner radii, narrow the carriageway so that the crossing distance is 6.4m and provide a raised table. As well as improving safety, this would help to bring the War Memorial and the Village Green together as one connected space. The start of the High Street 20mph Zone would be moved slightly further along Military Road to support these improvements.

Members of the Committee welcomed these plans and recommended proceeding with each and feeding that back to the Active Travel Team at KCC. The plans will also be circulated to all councillors for information.

5.3 Esplanade Build Out - Members noted that the proposed build-out on the Esplanade would proceed to public consultation. If objections were received, the matter would be considered by the Joint Transportation Board.

5.4 - Highways Improvement Plan - further discussions on the Highway Improvement Plan were scheduled for Friday, when the projects and proposals included in the Plan would be reviewed and confirmed.

6. Information

There were no further items of information at that time.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environment Committee would be held on **11 January 2027**.