



The
Sandgate
Society

COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

NOTES From

Agenda for January 2026

3rd November 2025 meeting

1.0	Attendees Sal Kenward Giles Topping Liz Smith Lizzie Smith Vicky Feaver Heidi Bailey Guy Valentine-Neale Rosie Sanders Steve Blunt Apologies Eddie Grimble Kevin Roberts	Apologies
2.0	Committee & Previous Minutes The previous Minutes were reviewed and agreed. Sal signed off and issued for digital filing as below. Sal reported that, after a request from a member, Guy has posted the 2025 Committee minutes on the website. They will be posted when agreed each meeting	Previous Minutes
3.0	Events SLF: This was an outstanding success and thanks were recorded to the sponsors. The final profit was £2,000 which will be ring fenced in the main SanSoc account to be taken into account for next year's SLF budget. Thanks were expressed to Ennelyn for her immaculate accounting. The big news for SLF 26 is that Lisa Jewell, our 2025 headline author, has agreed to be Patron of the Festivals. Her name will open more doors for future events and we are very grateful to her. Bake Off - due to the lack of support it is possible this may be moved to Yaps on Saturday. Liz and Vicky to liaise and let those interested know of possible changes. Committee members' prizes – bottles to be dropped off to black box outside Lizzie's house for the raffle. Sal to remind. All committee given £50 of raffle tickets to sell. Because of cost of depositing cash (and to give a stricter paper trail) members are asked to keep the cash and transfer funds online, with name-raffle tickets on the reference. If any member does not want the cash, Sal is happy to transfer. Christmas party – slow uptake realised to be due to emails going into spam. Vicky to email from old gmail account, asking members to check.	Events

	Carol singing around tree on Village Green – agreed to coincide with the Christmas Light switch on, 5th December and not provide mulled wine. Lizzie & Bryan will organise handbells to the chosen carols to be audible from a phone connected to speaker. Carols to be chosen and distributed in next two weeks. Nick Varian can do 10-11-12 November 26 for his talk Tales from the Rails. Sal to ask Saga which dates could be considered and whether there is a cost.	Events
4.0	Premises and Reading Rooms Light fittings: the new bulbs make a difference but feedback from the Jenny File exhibition was that there were too many shadows. Replacement Blind remote controller is on order, the previous one having been misplaced Before any next exhibition, Steve to procure more hanging wires for the last 2 panels. Leigh to be asked if she could bring a theatre lighting director over to assess the lighting and advise on uplighters. Visitors to the Jenny File exhibition praised the Reading Rooms and had enquired if it was available to hire. A new PR scheme in New Year to be planned, and a target to Art Societies for exhibitions. Murder dinner took place and the Room worked very well. The works to the roof have stalled and the weather has precluded the works this year. Sal to send L&K roofing details to Guy who would also approach (with Peter Godden) Jason Button.	Premises
5.0	Planning & Conservation 144 Sandgate High Street – SanSoc had put in comments. 32 RADNOR CLIFF, FOLKESTONE, CT20 2JJ Demolition of existing house, garden structures, and boundary treatments. Erection of two dwelling houses and one holiday house, together with associated landscaping, slope stability and driveway works. Erection of new boundary wall. Comments sent to FHDC. 25/1855/FH 23 Sandgate High Street, Sandgate, CT20 3AH Listed building consent for the conversion of single storey building to form a two bedroom residential unit together with associated internal works. This building was found to be the rear of the old Fleur de Lis pub, actually in Castle Road. The former Garage site, Sandgate High Street. This application has been withdrawn from planning agenda on 11th November and will be decided by officers. Land at the Undercliff– there is space for a large dwelling but no applications have been received.	Planning & Conservation Reporting exceptional items only.

6.0	Parish Council Guy reported on the Bluewater Monitoring. Because the required number of swimmers were present the application has been submitted for constant bluewater monitoring which measures the seawater contents. Vicky reported that she has seen measuring taking place already. The potholes in Romney Avenue are due to be dealt with this financial year. Sandgate High Street will be closed overnight 5th January for the painting of the 20 mph signs. Thanks were given to SanSoc for their grant submission to help this important project to succeed. It was confirmed that Speed Watch is carried out every Friday and although the cost of cameras would be prohibitive, it is proven that in a 20 mph limit vehicles tend to travel around 24-25 mph, down from 34-35 in a 30 mph limit which will be an improvement. The Sea Festival gave a donation to the RNLI. Guy reported that the current Parish Councillors are a very strong team, working together for the benefit of the community.	Parish Council
7.0	Social Media & Communications October Instagram figures up 42% from previous month at 12,500 views, a peak of 4,300 views immediately following Lisa Jewels SLF event.	Social Media & Communications
8.0	Environment & Sustainability SEA have been successful in securing a £1000 “Green grant” from FHDC to help fund the Wild about Sandgate nature project. A launch event for the project is scheduled for June 7th 2026, Saga have kindly agreed to our using the Saga Lawns to launch the event. Full details of the project will be reported once plans are finalised. The hot composter team at Folkestone college are seeking more volunteers to assist with running the unit.	Environment & Sustainability
9.0	Treasurer Eddie will circulate the quarterly water bill on his return. Octopus Energy have replied to our submission to the Ombudsman and Eddie has commented on these points to the Ombudsman.	Treasurer
10.0	Membership New members Denise Gibbons, Kemi Phillips (not yet paid), Professor Paul Kadetz and Sarah Gillen and joint Chris & Yvonne Jones. Jeanette Grafstom (single) has upgraded to joint with husband Tim Rogers. Liz confirmed Denise Kirtley is still very unwell.	Membership
11.0	Archives Archives will be moving their railway exhibition to the Library but no update. The Archives team have been asked to use the new archives@sandgatesociety.com email address in line with all the other branches of SanSoc for transparency and professionalism. Confirmation is awaited as to whether they require tuition on the usage.	Archives Liz will keep an eye on the exhibition change and report to Committee.

12.0	AOB New email addresses. Bryan had given details on how they all work and teething problems being worked through. Committee supper now confirmed Wednesday 14 January at the Providence with their pop-up Thai menu. Sal to get menus and food choices prior to this date. Thanks were given to Guy and Bryan for their work on updating the email addresses and the website.	Heidi to advise re walking routes planned for autumn 2025.										
13.0	Next Meeting Monday 12 January 2026 at 1700	2026 Meeting schedule <table><tr><td>Jan 12th</td></tr><tr><td>Feb 9th – without Sal</td></tr><tr><td>March 9th</td></tr><tr><td>April 13th</td></tr><tr><td>May 11th</td></tr><tr><td>June 8th</td></tr><tr><td>July 13th</td></tr><tr><td>Sept 7th</td></tr><tr><td>Oct 5th</td></tr><tr><td>Nov 9th</td></tr></table>	Jan 12th	Feb 9th – without Sal	March 9th	April 13th	May 11th	June 8th	July 13th	Sept 7th	Oct 5th	Nov 9th
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