



Minutes of First Annual General Meeting of Sandbanks Community Group

1. Welcome & Apologies

David Morley (DM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Mike & Margaret Everett and Tom Moore.

2. Vote of thanks

The service to the community by Gerry and Theresa Lamb (and Paul Johnson in his absence) who daily pick up litter as they walk their dog, was formally recognised and they were made Honorary Members. Jennie Paterson made a small presentation to them on behalf of the SCG.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

David Morley began by reprising the formation of the Sandbanks Community Group (SCG) from the merger of the Sandbanks Association, which existed for over 20 years, and the Protect Sandbanks Group, in May 2018. SCG now has over 500 subscribers.

DM then outlined the Mission of SCG:

- Represent – speak for Sandbanks
- Build – community spirit
- Engage – with visitors & local businesses

And the Values:

- Unity
- Advocacy
- Community Spirit
- Openness & Constructive Dialogue with other stakeholders
- Forward Thinking
- Independence
- Inclusiveness

DM reported the increase in support with 560 subscribers and a 75% increase in paid up members resulting in a louder voice and greater influence. There is a regular newsletter sent by email.

The current situation for the Haven plans was covered, with the plans stalled and the current guestimate for a decision Q4 19 at the earliest. The council is faced with 4100 docs over which 3K are objections, including the National Trust and environmental issues. SCG have mounted a successful PR campaign and put in a legal objection to the “related” nature of the plans and received a professional opinion from BNP Paribas suggesting that contrary to the plans submitted, it is not necessary financially to sacrifice The Haven to flats to make a profit to pay for

redevelopment of Sandbanks Hotel & Harbour heights hotel since those projects are financially viable on a standalone basis. However, DM stressed that when the plans are presented to the planning Committee SCG will have “to up our game”.

David reported on the other activities, namely the development of the website, the membership drive as well as:

- Roads & traffic - there have been considerable efforts in identifying all the issues, consultation with the council. However, very little has changed so we have appointed Paul Basham Associates, specialists in Traffic issues to come up with fresh ideas. A meeting is being held on 26/7 to discuss their ideas, to which all are invited.
- The future of the Ferry – a meeting with the Ferry owners has taken place at which they stated that in 5-15 years the Ferry will be unserviceable, and they need to begin making provision for the financing of a new ferry. Therefore, a fare increases in 2020 is inevitable.
- Burglar Alert – we are considering piloting a text service to alert members when burglaries or suspicious activity are reported.
- Future of the beaches – DM outlined his vision – i.e. to become Sandbanks “Reserve”, rather akin to Balmoral Beach near Sydney, which is litter, alcohol, smoking and barbecue free. It is therefore cherished by visitors as well as the community and is fun and safe for families with variety of dining options and top-class public facilities.
- Upcoming events – 26th July and Members dinner on 30 Nov.
- At that point DM introduced Martha Covell and Rachel Nevoke of ECA who have been appointed to help develop the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Martha explained that SCG would qualify for a grant from the Council to assist in the development of the NP. She explained that in order to get a plan developed there would need to be:
 - o A neighbourhood forum – a subset of SCG comprising at least 21 people
 - o A defined geographical area
 - o 6 stages of development, beginning with Consultation
 - o Members were invited to give their immediate thoughts

Once completed the NP would provide a framework for planning and a vision of what Sandbanks would look like. It would also mean that SCG would qualify for 15% of any community development levy received in respect of plans in the area.

People were asked to volunteer to be part of the neighbourhood Forum.

A resolution was put to the meeting that SCG should go ahead with the Neighbourhood Forum, to develop the NP. Passed unanimously.

4. Presentation of Sandbanks Festival, by Johnny Wheeler (JW)

JW was accompanied by Tom Powell, the events manager at BCP. He had previously met with a sub group of the SCG Committee- Sue Morley, Bertie Webb, Tiffany Chawner along with Councillor Mohan Iyengar

JW explained the evolution from Polo on the beach to Sand Fest, and that he has teamed up with the council to develop the idea of a Sandbanks Festival. The idea is to expand the event to about 10 days, with:

- first w/e of July - Polo
- Monday – “quiet day”
- Tuesday - Chiquita bar and food & open-air cinema
- Wednesday -Community events for local schools
- Thursday -Classical concert on the beach
- Friday – Fiesta/Tango & closing party for Chiquita & reconfigure for W/E
- days Sandfit – Fitness Festival inc – cross fit championships, cycle legends
- 2 ½ days take down

A discussion followed. JW recognised there had been concerns about noise/congestion/anti-social behaviour but last year there were no complaints.

- Concerns were expressed about the disturbance from work starting at 6am – JW said they shouldn’t start till 7am, and the issue of building regs (8am starts) was raised.
- The voluble swearing by the DJ 2 years ago was also raised – JW said they would be more careful with selecting acts.
- JW was asked if it were a commercial operation – to which the answer was yes, and the accts are monitored by the council
- Having stated that Sand Fest raises money for charity – JW was asked how much, which he could not specify but promised to give the historic numbers.
- JW was asked how much goes back to Sandbanks – to which the answer was it goes to the Council.
- JW noted that there is a hotline for any complaints.
- A question was raised about extending the commercialisation and setting a precedent – DM responded that we don’t have a veto.
- There was also a concern raised that the Sandbanks Festival would be in conflict with the Sandbanks Reserve concept. DM noted that that was not necessarily the case as the Australian beach to which he had referred had lots of “events”.
DM suggested that the Sandbanks Festival could be added to the Agenda for 26/7.

5. Treasurer’s Report

Copies of the Treasurer, Alison Sepping’s (AS) report had been handed to all attendees.

AS noted that:

- Income has increased due to an increase in membership, some corporate income and private contributions to the cost of fighting the Haven redevelopment.
- Expenditure included, the cost of the BNP report, legal fees, the website and the PayPal facility. AS commented that it was money well spent.
- As a result, reserves have decreased slightly, but there is still £17,500.
- AS also said that next year members will be sent a reminder for membership fees.

The members present unanimously adopted the Treasurers Report.

6. Committee Open Forum

Each member of the cttee introduced themselves and explained their specific roles on the cttee.

DM invited questions from the membership.

- The siting of the bus stop by the shops on the narrow pavement was raised as an accident waiting to happen? It was confirmed that this would be looked at by the Traffic Consultants
- The potential conflict between the Sandbanks and the Sandbanks Reserve was raised. On a show of hands 52 of those present said they were against the Sandbanks Festival.
- The issue of Jet Skis powering into the coves where children swim was also described as an accident waiting to happen.DM confirmed this would be raised with the Council
- It was asked SCG had talked to other hotel operators about taking over the Haven to which DM noted there had been some indirect discussions which did not get very far.
- The perennial issue of dog mess was discussed.
- It was suggested that the traffic issues around the “yellow box” and those queuing for the ferry and those trying to get into Golden Gates is a problem and tempers get frayed. It was suggested that this would be a Police matter.

7. DM advised the members that they had all been sent a copy of the new Constitution and described the rationale. There were no questions raised. The members present unanimously approved the new constitution.

8. Under the new constitution the Chair and Committee have to stand down and put themselves up for re- election. There being no one else having put their name forward, a vote was taken.

- The Chair was re-elected unanimously
- The entire committee was re-elected unanimously

9. There being no other business, after a vote of thanks to DM, the meeting concluded.