

**SNODLAND TOWN COUNCIL****16 March 2009**

Council Members Present: Cllrs C Block (Chairman), Miss A Moloney (Vice Chairman),  
J Atkins, Mrs S Boakes, D Brown, Mrs D Crook,  
J Tucker, L Withey, Ms K Woolley  
Mrs S Hunter (Town Clerk)

Members of the Public Present: J Boyes, J Oram, T Latham, P Hickmott, M Byrne,  
O Capeling

1. Apologies for absence  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L Baldock, B Garlick, C Grayhurst, Mrs B Keeley and D Keeley.
2. Declarations of Interest  
Cllr Mrs D Crook – Community Association  
Cllr Miss A Moloney – Community Association  
- Interest in Item 12 – Community Gardening at Nevill Park
3. County Councillor's Report  
Cllr Mrs Hohler had submitted her apologies but had not submitted a report.
4. Borough Councillors Report  
Borough Councillors Reports attached.
5. Chairman's Announcements
  - 5.1 There will be an extra item at Item 12 to discuss the Community Gardening Project at Nevill Park.
  - 5.2 A former Clerk to the Council, John Hamilton, passed away on 23 February 2009. A service will take place at All Saints church Snodland at 12.45 pm on Tuesday 17 March, followed by a cremation service at Vinters Park Maidstone at 2 pm. John's family have invited all those who new John to attend and to celebrate his life with music and refreshments at Snodland Working Men's' Club between 3 – 5.30 pm.
  - 5.3 The Chairman attended the opening ceremony of the start of the building works for the gymnasium and the boxing club at the Community Centre. He was joined by Cllrs D Keeley, J Atkins and L Withey, who met with representatives from Ward Homes.
  - 5.4 The Chairman attended the Mayor's evening to commemorate his completion of his year in office and he will also be attending the Mayor's charity ball this coming Friday.
6. Questions from the Public
  - 6.1 Mr Owen Capeling raised concerns regarding wires that have been erected at the Saltings Road entrance to Nevill Park, that they could cause injury to someone in the dark.  
Terri Latham said the wires had been placed there by a group of local residents who had taken on a community gardening project and they would remove the wires if it became a problem.

Terri Latham said that the residents would like to further the project at the entrance to Nevill Park with the children putting up bird boxes and continue with planting and weeding of the area.

The Chairman said he had visited the area and agreed that the work carried out by residents had made a great improvement.

Mr Capeling reiterated his concerns that the wire could cause harm, especially to a child.

Cllr Miss Moloney requested the Clerk monitors this.

Jo Oram read a prepared note. We would like to apologise to Anne Moloney for the misconception that she gave permission for this project to go ahead. It was in fact a communication error on part of another party. We take full responsibility for starting this project without Council permission. We would however like to thank Anne and Dilys for their ongoing backing whilst trying to get official permission for the hard work already achieved.

Mrs Byrne raised her concerns about pyrocantha being planted along her fence as per Item 4.1 of the Planning and Environment minutes of 25 February 2009.

Cllr Miss Moloney said only two pyrocantha plants had been placed there.

Mrs Byrne requested that no more pyrocantha is placed there.

Cllr Atkins said there is a need to clarify whose permission should be sought to tend the land and gave his recollection of the past history surrounding this piece of land. Mrs Byrne said the land was given to STC to look after, and has been in its possession for at least 21 years.

The Clerk will check the land certificate.

6.2 PCSO Kim Hatchard gave the crime statistics for the past month.

6.3 Police Sergeant Kevin Brigden informed the meeting that the police would be vacating the office and moving into the Woolfe Building at the end of April/ beginning of May. He stressed the point that the police do not want to lose the good relationship that has been built up with the Clerk and staff, and would like to keep some form of link with the premises. The room could be used for Police Surgeries and meetings for other agencies.

The police need guidance from the Council how to proceed with this. Sergeant Brigden made it clear the policing in Snodland would not decrease. A meeting will be arranged to discuss this with the police estates department.

6.4 Mr Hickmott asked if the Chairman would clarify the extra item being discussed at Item 12, and if there would be any other extra items. The Chairman replied there would be only one extra item to discuss the 'community garden at Nevill Park'.

The Chairman asked the Council if they would mind Item 12 being taken at this point in the meeting.

The Council agreed to discuss Item 12.

12. Any other items which the Chairman has decided are urgent owing to special circumstances

12. Cllr Miss Moloney has spoken to members of the public involved in the ground work which has taken place at the entrance to Nevill Park in Saltings Road, informing them that permission from the Council should have been sought before any work took place.

Cllr Mrs Crook thanked the members of the public for the hard work they have put into the gardening project and apologised to Mrs Byrne that this had caused her some distress.

The Chairman said the work had been carried out with the best of intentions and it was too late to return the area to its former state.

**RESOLVED** – For the ‘community garden project’ to continue with Jo Oram and Terri Latham being points of contact.

An agreement needs to be drawn up between the Council and members of the project to establish responsibilities for health and safety and consultation for any further major changes to this area of land owned by the Town Council. The Clerk will look into this further.

7. To confirm as a correct record the Part I Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2 February 2009 (pp 108 - 110)

**RESOLVED** that the Part I Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 February 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Signed.....

8. To receive Part I Reports of the Council’s Committees

8.1 **Amenities and Recreation – 9 February 2009 (pp 112–114)**

No recommendations.

8.2 **Planning and Environment – 25 February 2009 (pp 116-118)**

No recommendations.

8.3 **Policy & Resources – 2 March 2009 (pp 119 - 120)**

The Committee adopted the financial risk assessment under delegated powers. Item 9 – PFL Lighting – resolved under delegated powers to accept PFL as the contractor for STC street lighting for one year.

**RESOLVED** that the Part 1 minutes of the Council’s Amenities and Recreation, Planning and Environment, Policy and Resources Committee’s held since 2 February 2009 be confirmed and accepted as part of the proceedings of the Council.

9. To Receive Details of Cheques Signed Since the Last Council Meeting

The cheque list was circulated.

Cllr Atkins advised that he continues to be concerned about the amount STC pays for grave digging.

Cllr Tucker questioned the cost of the ‘salting of the roads’ by WR Browns during the recent bad weather. The Clerk explained this had been the practice in Snodland in past years and is a service to local resident to prevent accidents.

Cllr Withey asked if a total of monies paid to WR Browns for the past year could be provided.

**RESOLVED** that the cheque list be accepted.

10. Correspondence

10.1 An invitation to attend TMBC youth advisory group meeting on 31 March at Unit 1, Skate Park, Rochester, at 4.45 pm. If anyone is free to attend the Clerk has the details.

- 10.2 The CPRE is holding an event on Saturday 4 April 2009 at Hadlow College from 10.30 am – 3 pm. The Clerk has details if anyone would like to attend.
- 10.2 Article in the Kent Messenger mentioning WR Brown of Snodland constructing a new building in Horsmonden that has been visited by the Countess of Wessex was brought to the attention of STC by Mr Kevin Bush.
- 10.3 A letter has been received from Helen and David Orme of Taylor Road giving feedback on Leybourne Country Park. They think it is one of the best assets the Town has and believe it is worth every penny of STC contribution.
- 10.4 An invitation to attend a seminar at County Hall regarding the Commons Act 2006 has been received. The Clerk has the details.
- 10.5 KALC Newsletter – A copy is in each Councillors folder.
- 10.6 The K M 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Giving away a tree – The Town Council will receive an Oak Tree to replace the one that died in the Cricket Meadow.
- 10.7 The Snodland Partnership invites all members of the Council to attend the ‘fun day’ at Snodland C of E School on 4 April 2009 between 10 am – 4 pm
  
- 11. Reports from Councillors from meetings attended on behalf of STC
- 11.1 Parish Partnership Panel – Cllr Miss Moloney’s report is attached. She raised concerns that members of the public may make complaints regarding ‘choice based lettings’.
- 11.2 Snodland Partnership – Cllr Miss Moloney’s report is also attached. As part of the Snodland goes cleaner campaign spring clean, STC will ask the Scouts to do a barbeque and participants will get a burger at the end of the clean up day. This will go to the Amenities Committee to be confirmed.
- 11.2 The Clerk reported on the Carnival Meeting, that the major entertainment has been booked and confirmed, although one of the bands has had to cancel.

The Chairman moved that the Press and Public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.