

SNODLAND TOWN COUNCIL**7 December 2009**

Council Members Present: Cllrs C Block (Chairman), Miss A Moloney (Vice Chairman), J Atkins, Mrs S Boakes, Mrs B Brown, D Brown, Mrs D Crook, B Garlick, Mrs B Keeley, D Keeley, P Misy, J Tucker, L Withey, Ms. K Woolley.

Mrs S Hunter (Town Clerk)

Members of the Public Present: Cllr Mrs S Hohler (KCC), PCSO Kim Hatchard, Mr D Laverty

1. Apologies for absence
Cllr Luke Baldock
2. Declarations of Interest
Cllr Mrs D Crook – Community Association
Cllr Miss A Moloney – Community Association
Cllr P Misy – Community Association
3. County Councillors Report
Cllr Mrs Hohler wished everyone a happy Christmas and new year. KCC members have been working hard on the budget to keep council tax down, making cuts etc, but not affecting services. The Highways budget will not be cut. Cllr Mrs Hohler gave her apologies for not being able to attend Christmas in Snodland, but had attended the opening of the Wolfe Building at Holmesdale. Various questions were asked which Cllr Mrs Hohler answered.
4. Chairman's Announcements
 - 4.1 The Chairman requested that Item 13 be taken after Item 10. Agreed.
 - 4.2 The Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 11 November had been left off the agenda, so can not be approved at this meeting.
 - 4.3 Since the last Full Council meeting there have been several important events in the Town. Fireworks display, Remembrance Parade, the official opening of the gym and boxing club and Christmas in Snodland. All events had been well attended and my thanks to all the organisers. The Lights for Life had been well supported with many taking it up.
A special thank you to Cllr Withey for acting as Father Christmas for the day.
The amounts collected at the special events were:

Firework Display	-	£1184.79
Lights for Life	-	£443.00
Bucket Collection – Christmas	-	£201.34
 - 4.4 Cllr Garlic had arranged a tour for Councillors and staff to view the Holborough Lakes last week. This was very interesting and gave the opportunity to discuss the forward planning of Holborough with representatives from Berkeley Homes.
 - 4.5 The Chairman had attended the Crime Prevention Panel and there had been a decrease in crime in the area.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 A letter from TMBC informing STC of the change in the Parish ward boundary between Ditton, East Malling and Larkfield.
- 6.2 An invitation for the Chairman of the Council to attend the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Civic Service.
- 6.3 A request has been received from Mr. Glanfield to prune trees, erect a shed and plant fruit which takes more than 12 months to establish. It was pointed out that the allotment agreements do not allow for the planting of fruit trees, only bushes. **RESOLVED** to allow Mr Glanfield to erect a shed and plant fruit bushes, but to point out that trees are not allowed on allotments.
- 6.4 KALC is holding another training course at Lenham on 13 January 2010. It would be useful for Councillors to attend. In particular Committee Chairmen or their Vice Chairmen. Cllrs Garlick, D Keeley and Ms K Woolley would attend.
- 6.5 The Internal Auditors interim report had been circulated.
- 6.6 A letter of thanks had been received from Crossroads Young Carers.

7 Questions from the public

- 7.1 PCSO Kim Hatchard gave a report on the current crime figures: Criminal Damage – 9, Theft – 9, Assault – 6, BOTD - 9, Burglary – 2, Robbery – 1, Other – 2.
After answering various questions from Councillors, PCSO Hatchard left some shed alarms for Councillors as a lot of the thefts have been from garages and sheds.
Cllr Withey thanked the police for their donation towards Christmas in Snodland day.
- 7.2 Mr Laverty asked if Councillors knew why the TMBC road sweeping vehicle goes the wrong way up the High Street early in the morning. The Clerk to look into this. He also expressed concern about the dwindling size of the Friday market. The market is the responsibility of the market manager and not the Council. The recent bad weather could have a lot to do with this.

8. To answer questions from Councillors

There were no questions from Councillors.

9. To confirm as a correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2009

- 9.1 Item 4.1 should read Cllr Mrs Boakes and not Cllr Mrs Brown.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 October 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Signed.....

10. To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting

13. To receive the Minutes of the Council's Committees

13.1 **Amenities and Recreation – 26 October 2009 (pp 63-64)**

13.2 **Planning and Environment – 11 November 2009 (pp 67-68)**

Item 6.1 – There is no further progress on Catts Alley.

13.3 **Policy & Resources – 16 November 2009 (pp 70-71)**

- 13.3.1 Item 8 – To discuss and adopt the formal complaints procedure -not on Council Agenda – to be taken at next Full Council.

13.3.2 Item 9

RESOLVED – to appoint a panel made up of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Policy and Resources and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Amenities making a total of six councillors, but only needing three at any one time allowing for holidays etc. to agree expenditure up to £1000.

13.3.3 Item 12

RESOLVED - to agree changes to accounting programme if necessary.

13.3.4 Item 13

RESOLVED – the changes to internal audit for the year 2010/11.

13.3.5 Item 15

RESOLVED – to accept the NALC changes to pay.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council's Amenities and Recreation, Planning and Environment, Policy and Resources Committees held since 12 October 2009 be confirmed and accepted as part of the proceedings of the Council.

11. To receive reports from Borough Councillors.

11.1 Cllr D Keeley would be attending the Section 106 Agreement meeting at the Borough on Tuesday.

11.2 Cllr Withey had attended six Borough meetings, but there was very little new information to report.

11.3 Cllr Mrs Boakes reported on the Environmental Board meeting. Bash the Trash had been a success and was now being used in other parts of the Borough.

11.4 Cllr Mrs Brown reported on the KCC Grant Workshop on 18 November 2009. The diving school at Holborough Lake is looking for an additional venue as the current lake is too deep and cold in the winter months.

11.5 Cllr Miss Moloney reported that the planning application for 43 Malling Road – pizza parlour – has been refused by Area 3 Planning.

12. To receive and consider reports from Members representing the Council on outside bodies and organisations

12.1 The Chairman had attended a Crime Prevention meeting and reported that there have been more break-ins to garages and reminded everyone not to leave keys near doors and windows in houses.

12.2 Cllr Miss Moloney had attended a meeting of the KALC at Ditton. She also reported that there would be quarterly meetings with Berkeley Homes.

12.2.1 Cllr Tucker had attended the Medway Valley Rail Partnership meeting and reported that the mural for Snodland Station has now been completed by Holmesdale and is ready to be put up. There is a new timetable out and a new high speed train will run between Strood and St Pancras.

12.4 Cllr Ms Woolley had attended a Probity in Planning Meeting which had been very interesting.

12.5 The Clerk had attended a Kent Highways training day and a KCC Procurement training day, both of which were very informative. The Clerk pointed out that any tenders which are drawn up for the Council must be done by a qualified person, i.e. solicitor as now stated by E U policy.

14. To receive details of cheques signed since the last Council Meeting
The cheque list was circulated. Various questions were asked, which the Clerk was able to answer.
RESOLVED that the cheque list be accepted
15. To discuss and agree whether a notice is erected near the War Memorial informing people of the penalties for damaging a War Memorial as suggested by the Ministry of Justice
Following a discussion a vote was taken, It was unanimously agreed to leave things as they are as the war memorial is situated inside the cemetery grounds and less open to vandalism than many.
16. To Discuss and agree the Draft Lease for the Snodland Sports Hall
Cllr Mrs Crook voiced concern over the wording of the lease with reference to its use. Following discussion it was
RESOLVED to agree the Draft Lease for the Snodland Sports Hall as written.
17. To consider and if approved, agree a sum to be placed in the Budget for 2010/11 for upgrading the All Weather Pitch
RESOLVED to agree a sum of £5000 be placed in the Budget for 2010/11 for upgrading the All Weather Pitch.
18. To consider and if agreed, approve the proposed S106 agreement relating to the Bowling Green and Pavilion
After discussion and due to the time scale involved it was
RESOLVED that delegated authority be given to the Chairman of the Council and two other Council Members to sign the S106 Agreement relating to the bowling green and pavilion once all concerns have been resolved.
19. To agree the date for special Budget meeting of the Policy Committee and Special Meeting of the Full Council to agree the Budget for 2010/11
A Special Budget meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee will be held on Wednesday 6 January 2010 and a Budget meeting of the Full Council to be held on Tuesday 12 January 2010.

THE COMMITTEE HAS AGREED

"That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw"

20. To discuss the new Mowing contract
The Clerk had received a letter from KCC Landscape Services, which she read out together with her reply.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

CONFIDENTIAL

20. To discuss the new Mowing contract

The Clerk had received a letter from KCC Landscape Services, which she read out along with her reply. The Clerk had sought advice on this situation and it would appear that the Council is not liable. The new contractor has been informed and he is not concerned.

The Clerk reported that Kevin Wise's agreement has expired and that he has sent a new agreement, which she read out. Cllr Atkins recommended that the Borough Councillors check with TMBC.