

SNODLAND TOWN COUNCIL

7 July 2008

Council Members Present: Cllrs C Block (Chairman), Miss A Moloney (Vice Chairman), J Atkins, L Baldock, D Brown, Mrs D Crook, B Garlick, Mrs B Keeley, D Keeley, J Tucker, L Withey
Mrs S Hunter (Town Clerk)

Members of the Public Present: Mr B Porter, Mr J Boyes, Mr R Bayne, S Norton

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs S Boakes, Mrs B Brown, C Grayhurst.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs D Crook – Community Association.
Cllr Miss Moloney – Community Association.

3. County Councillors Report

Kent Highways have repaired 11,314 pot holes throughout the County in the past few months.

The Kent test for 11 plus has been moved to September. Although this is short notice, it will be fairer for the test to take place before schools are chosen by parents. The short notice of the change is due to government processes and on balance this is a good thing for the future.

Several questions were put to Cllr Sarah Hohler. She will investigate the issues and report back to the Council.

4. Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Block attended the motorcycle event at Brookland Lake which was a great success.

The Valley of Visions presentation day, which included a boat ride along the river Medway, was excellent. It was very informative

There have been several Bash the Trash events which are part of the quest to make Snodland cleaner.

5. Open Forum

5.1 Presentation from the Valley of Visions

Mr Rick Bayne gave a presentation explaining the structure and aim of the Valley of Visions. The main aim of the Valley of Visions is to reconnect people with the landscape and there are several ways to make this happen. Valley of Visions website will be available in the near future.

The project will be initially for three years, and they hope to secure a legacy beyond the three years.

Cllr Atkins spoke about the restoration of Holborough Park and the improved access that would be necessary from the Town and the new development.

Cllr D Brown spoke of the importance of the Snodland Riverside and the need to preserve as much as possible from the erosion of the riverbank.

The Council should receive a brochure within the next couple of weeks listing events, talks, walks and free training events that will be taking place.

Cllr Block thanked Mr Rick Bayne and Mr Bayne left the meeting.

- 5.2 PCSO Kim Hatchard reported this month's crime figures:
 A total of 48 crimes this month opposed to 56 last month.
 7 of these were theft
 10 Assaults
 13 Criminal Damage
 9 Vehicle crimes
 1 Arson
 5 Fuel thefts
 2 Burglary from sheds
 1 Domestic violence

Thefts from the petrol station are improving as the area is patrolled on a regular basis.

Cllr Block said it was nice to see a reduction in crime.

Cllr Withey stated that he had received two complaints this week from members of the public about traffic speeding along Constitution Hill. PCSO Hatchard said if this is a regular occurrence she will look in to it.

Cllr Tucker also complained about speeding motorcycles on the bypass.

Cllr Miss Moloney asked PCSO Hatchard what progress, if any, there was regarding anti-social behaviour in Holborough Park. PCSO Hatchard and PCSO Oliver Coppard patrol Holborough Park, although they have not encountered any problems while they have been there.

Mr Sean Norton asked if PCSO's powers could be increased, especially regarding alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

PCSO Hatchard explained that they are allowed to confiscate alcohol and do so frequently. They visit the parents of under age drinkers. PCSO Hatchard will pass on the comments to her superiors.

6. To Confirm as a correct record the Part I Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 May 2008 (p1- 4)
- 6.1 Item 9.4 – The goalposts are deeply concreted into the ground. The staff will attempt to fill and re-grass the area.
- 6.2 Item 4 – Cllr D Brown pointed out that he is not a member of the Amenities and Recreation Committee. The Clerk will remove his name.
- 6.3 Item 13 – The bench is working very well. We have not received any complaints and the area is much cleaner than in the past, (less litter).

RESOLVED that the Part I Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 May 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Signed.....

7. To receive Part I Reports of the Council's Committees

7.1 **Amenities & Recreation - 12 May 2008 (pp 6-8)**

RESOLVED – to agree a deed of grant of right of way for Brook Street Property Developments subject to the District Valuer's report.

RESOLVED – permit a greenhouse on plot 29a Sloughfields allotments.

RESOLVED – Safe Play to carry out repairs to play equipment.

RESOLVED – Clerk attends Cemetery Course.

RESOLVED – Cllr Mrs Crook will ask the Community Centre Caretaker to lock/unlock the gates at Potyns and the Town Council will pay for his time.

7.2 **Planning & Environment - 19 May 2008 (pp 10-11)**

Item 7 – The Council has received a reply offering an alternative.

7.3 **Policy & Resources - 9 June 2008 pp (12-5)**

RESOLVED - £100 TO &2 Crew (Sec 137)

RESOLVED – to accept the quotation from Peter David Associates Ltd.

RESOLVED - to go ahead with the solid fuel burner for the Cemetery Lodge (quotations for fire and radiators were forwarded to all Councillors and agreed).

RESOLVED – accept the quotation from Highways and Utilities Construction Ltd.

RESOLVED – purchase IT equipment.

RESOLVED – To re-word ‘Open Forum’ to Questions from the Public.

RESOLVED – give consent to utility companies to cross the Council’s land to install their services at Catts Alley.

RESOLVED – local farmer to cut the new area at Potyns.

7.4 **Planning and Environment – 2 July 2008 pp (17-19)**

RESOLVED Snodland Town Council is minded to grant permission for you to perform this operation on its land, which you kindly offered to fund.

RESOLVED that the Part 1 minutes of the Council’s Amenities and Recreation, Planning and Environment, Policy and Resources Committee’s held since 6 May 2008 be confirmed and accepted as part of the proceedings of the Council.

8. Borough Councillors report

At the Annual Meeting of the Borough Council Cllr Chris Smith was elected as Mayor and Cllr Sue Murray, who will attend the Carnival on Saturday, as Deputy Mayor. Cllr Martin Coffin will be the Cabinet Member for Leisure.

TMBC is looking at how it can save half a million pounds on its budget, as the funding from the Government has been greatly reduced.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Worrall, has been awarded an OBE and has been Leader of the Council for over twenty years.

The parking review for Snodland may get underway by the end of September. It clearly takes time to carry out the review which will be a good thing.

The Clean Kent Campaign has begun, and a start has been made in the cleaning of the gully at Birling Road. The last Snodland ‘Bash the Trash’ event was only carried out for an hour, as it rained heavily.

9. Request for Section 137 Donation ‘Snodland Goes Cleaner’

‘Snodland Goes Cleaner’ needs a banner to display at events (eg Carnival) and it will cost £100.

RESOLVED – to give ‘Snodland Goes Cleaner’ £100 under Section 137 for a banner.

10. Clocktower Trust (sign mandates)

The mandates for the Clocktower Trust need to be signed. It was agreed the Clerk would take these to individual Councillors for their signature.

The Clerk had asked the workforce if they could clean the pigeon mess from the inside (top) of the Clocktower. They are not very good with heights, so the Clerk has asked the fishermen for a quotation to carry out this work.

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

The cheque list was circulated.

Various questions were asked, which the clerk answered.

RESOLVED that the cheque list be accepted.

12. Container for Goalposts

Cllr D Keeley reported that the Council had received a letter from Aaron Hill at TMBC that it does not require planning permission to place a container at Holborough Park.

Cllr D Keeley has ordered the container and it will cost £1500, which is the cheapest to be found, as it had previously been agreed that the Council should obtain one.

RESOLVED – to place container at Holborough Park for the above sum.

13. To Confirm Work to be carried out on the Cemetery Footpaths
The tree roots cannot be cut out as this would make the trees unstable. The old tarmac will be removed, the tree roots will be covered, and then re-tarmac, shaping over the roots to form a smooth surface.
14. Correspondence
 - 14.1 The Clean up Kent CD is available in the Office if anyone would like to view it.
 - 14.2 The Council has received some correspondence regarding the A228 lay-by. These are available for Councillors to view.
 - 14.3 The updated Kent Local Wildlife Schedule is available in the Office.
 - 14.4 The Council has been advised that the KCC spreadsheet has been changed and will only be used for reporting major highway matters. Day to day requests such as pot holes, faulty lights, pavement repairs, vegetation overgrowth, can now only be reported to the telephone help line 08458247800, or to the KCC website.
 - 14.5 The TMBC Corporate Performance Plan 2008/9 is in the Office for perusal. This can also be viewed on TMBC website. Councillor's comments will be welcome.
 - 14.6 The Council has received a KCC HGV movement survey. This will go to Policy and Resources for comment.
 - 14.7 A letter has been sent to the local KCC Liaison Officer asking that she attend a Council meeting.
 - 14.8 Letters of thanks will be sent to both Holmesdale Technology College and Mr Dough Cable for the help they are giving for the Carnival.
 - 14.9 The Festival organisers would be grateful for help from any Councillors available on 19 & 20 July. Please contact Mr Mel Rayfield to offer help.
15. Any other items which the Chairman has decided are urgent owing to special circumstances
 - 15.1 Carnival – the staff, Cllrs Miss Moloney, Block, Tucker and Atkins will meet at Potyns at 8 am. Cllrs D Keeley, Baldock and D Brown will be at Holmesdale at 8 am. The Clerk will contact Cllr Grayhurst to see if he will cover the Bull corner during the procession. The Clerk will confirm that Mr Kevin Bush is available to MC at the Carnival. Mrs Comber and Mrs Tipp will pass the results of the floats to Steve at Potyns via telephone, when the judges have made their decisions. The toilets at the Community Centre will be covered by Declan and a friend of Mrs Tipp. Cllr Block will meet the Deputy Mayor at Holmesdale at 1.45 pm. The Clerk will order a bouquet of flowers for the Deputy Mayor.

The Chairman moved that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.