

Snodland Town Council – Full Council

21 July 2022

Councillors in attendance:	Cllr Mrs S Bell (C), Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf (VC) A Bennison, Mrs D Crook, Ms D King, D Lettington, J Minter and Mrs S Shaw
Other Council Members in Attendance:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Others in Attendance	County Cllr Mrs S Hohler, Mrs A Finch (TMBC) Mrs S Edmonds (Community Safety Unit) DI E Jones (Kent Police) 8 Members of the public
Councillors Absent with apologies:	Cllrs Mrs A Barden, J Butterfield, Mrs N Misy, W Mallard and P Hickmott,
Councillors Absent without apologies:	
Other Apologies:	

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>See above.</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of interests</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.	<p><u>Report and representation from Kent Police & Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Team relating to anti-social behaviour in Snodland.</u></p> <p>DI Jones reported on the current situation in Snodland and what measures have been put in place to deal with anti-social behaviour. Additional police constables have been allocated to Snodland and Holborough lakes. They will provide a high visibility presence to deter criminality, hold offenders to account and to divert young people to positive and engaging schemes. Repeat offenders will be monitored and the necessary judicial options explored. It has become apparent that some of the youths are from outside of Snodland and additional resources have been requested to deal with these new findings. DI Jones advised that Snodland has been made a priority within the Tonbridge and Malling area. A multi-agency response is required to ensure that youths stop offending and the Police are working closely with TMBC and KCC. Mrs Finch from TMBC reported that they have successfully bid for youth support in Snodland, and this includes the commissioned services: The Ben Kinsella Trust, Salus and Olympia Boxing. KCC youth outreach workers will be operating twice a week at Holborough Lakes. Mrs Edmonds from the Community Warden Service advised that a permanent role for a community warden in Snodland had been secured and only been running for a year. Alongside that, KCC would like to promote working together with residents with the Community safety volunteer programme which would be working within the Community Safety team alongside community wardens being a visible presence within the community.</p>
6.	<p><u>Questions from the Public</u></p> <p>Pursuant to Standing Order 3 e & g Members of the public may make representation,</p>

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answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes.

This Agenda item was moved to enable question and answer session with the police.

- Are the police patrols in the evening as well as during the day? There will be a mix of patrols that work from 7am to 10pm and others that work 24 hours a day. The police look at the data to see when the offending is happening the most and direct the teams to work at those times.
- The antisocial behaviour in the cricket meadow in the last few months where the youths are congregating around the table tennis table and are bombarding the gardens with beer bottle, cans, football and any type of missile they can get their hands on is becoming intolerable, what will be done about this? Not acceptable and again the police are going to address the problems with the increased presence.
- What does serious violence entail does that mean that a child can go up to someone and smack someone 5 times and make their nose bleed is that serious violence, and do you feel that a community resolution is sufficient? Cannot give an answer without the details being known and cannot discuss individual cases. Cannot make general sweeping statements about individual cases.
- How far can we go to protect ourselves? Law says you can use reasonable force to protect yourself.
- Some of these youths are 15–16-year-olds and have younger people with them and that's the worry that they are showing the younger ones bad habits. There should be things put in place to protect the young more vulnerable people? Schools Officers try to build and develop a relationship with these young people so that they can learn to trust us, and we can divert them away from the bad influences.
- Is there anything that you would attribute the increase in Anti-social behaviour to in general or is it a mixed picture? We are looking at children that do not have discipline, or they are very unhappy at home and have dysfunctional lives. Therefore, they go out on the streets. It is made worse by the economic situation as a lot of these kid do not have the funds to pay for summer holiday club. Therefore, they have nowhere else to go other than hang around with their friends. What we need to do is create situations where they can be with their friends but also with trusted professional adults that can show them a different way of behaving.
- The level of antisocial behaviour has increased significantly, along with the increase in thefts from local shops, large groups of intimidating youths congregating in the high street. It is believed that they are coming to the area for at least three reasons, one is because of the ease it seems to be from some shops in the area to acquire alcohol/cigarettes/vapes. And the other is lack of help from the police in helping with theft and the third is the lack of cctv in and around the high street and car park. What is being done about this?

TMBC will speak to trading standards about increased test purchasing on

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	<p>alcohol. A bid has been put into TMBC for some mobile CCTV cameras and are just waiting to see if that funding has been agreed, and if it is then that will be live later in the year. This means that CCTV can be put up in problem areas. Existing CCTV in the Cricket Meadow will be repositioned to problem areas.</p>
4.	<p><u>County Councillor's Report</u></p> <p>Cllr Hohler (CC) reported on the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconnect is a Kent County Council led, community-based programme designed to get Kent's children and young people thriving following the pandemic. Clubs, businesses, and organisations have come together to create fabulous opportunities for children and young people. Together they can have fun, catch up on missed learning, engage in sports and activities, trips and experiences, receive mental health support, regain their confidence and gain access to career development opportunities. • Has been pressing for a Community Support Warden in Snodland for some time and hope that this will be supported and that we can recruit. • Police community club – who are asking for funds to help 10-11 year olds understand about the difficulties of being online and on the internet and being led into bad behaviour by their peers. What they are doing is promoting discussions between children their peers, teachers and parents and the wider community to promote internet safety and a wider understanding of the dangers around at the moment. The CC went on to say that she had paid for books for each child aged 10-11 at St Katherines and Roberts Road School which can be taken home and shown to their parents. Teachers will also share the information at after school sessions and there is also a script for a play which they can do with the school. • Childrens services had an Ofsted inspection in May and were given outstanding for three areas and excellent for one. • Cuts to some existing subsidised bus services, including some school bus services. • Reading challenge has started in the libraries, the challenge is to read 6 books during the summer holidays. • Covid is on the rise, and we need to be vigilant • Ukrainian refugees sponsors in place and the process is going quite quickly. <p>Councillors raised the following points –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils at all levels need to lobby government about the way bus services work, the County Council are reimbursed a pittance for free bus passes which is not acceptable, Rural services are being lost and developers are not always filling their obligations in 106 agreements. • The cost of the bus passes is over £1000 for 2 children to attend school in Maidstone, many parents are now looking at using train services as they are cheaper and more reliable, which will have a knock-on effect on the bus services as they will continue to reduce their services.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost and reliability of buses are causing a problem. 	
5.	<p><u>Councillor's Co-option</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the Candidate.</p> <p>The CEO advised that one of the candidates had withdrawn their application.</p> <p>Councillors had received a copy of the candidate's application form prior to the meeting and agreed that the candidate was ideally suited to the position.</p> <p>0926 RESOLVED to co-opt Victoria Lawrence as Councillor for Snodland Town Council – Snodland East and Ham Hill and the declaration of acceptance of office was signed.</p>	
6.	<p>Moved above item 4</p>	
7.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>None</p>	
8.	<p><u>To resolve the Minutes of the Full Council held on 7 June 2022 (pp 16 - 21) are a correct record</u></p> <p>0927 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7 June 2022 (pp 16 - 21) were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>Signed</p>	
9.	<p><u>To receive reports and recommendations of Council Committees</u></p>	
9.1	Planning and Environment – 20 June 2022	Cancelled
9.2	Policy and Resources – 30 June 2022	(pp 22- 24)
0928	<p>In the absence of the Chairman the following recommendation was put forward -</p> <p>RESOLVED to accept the costs for the Christmas Lights of £13622.50 to include the refurbishment of the existing lights, the supply of icicles along the shop fronts, the new Boule Motifs (2No.) across the High Street, new icicles along the shop fronts between 2 and 4a. A new power supply from the Lamppost opposite number 15 to supply the parade of shops from Number 1 to Number 15. A new power supply from the Lamppost next to number 3 Holborough Road to supply shops 3 and 3a Holborough Road. This will now mean that all power supplies are from the lampposts and none from the premises.</p>	
9.3	Amenities and Recreation – 7 July 2022	(pp 25 - 27)
	<p>The Chairman of the Committee put forward the following recommendation – to move the table tennis to a different open space location in Snodland.</p> <p>A number of open spaces were put forward these included Willowside, the Recreation</p>	

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	Ground, Nevill Park and Potyns Sportsground.	
	Following discussion, it was felt that Potyns Sportsground would be the best location to compliment the other sporting facilities already in the grounds. The exact location would need to be decided once the pump track had been completed.	
0929	RESOLVED to move the Table Tennis table to Potyns Sportsground into a suitable location once the Pump Track is complete.	
9.4	Planning and Environment – 11 July 2022	(pp 28 – 29)
10.	<u>Reports from Borough Councillors</u> Cllr Mrs S Bell The Café at Leybourne Lakes is now open The bin collections seemed to go well during the recent hot period	
11.	<u>Town Councillors reports on meetings, events and activities attended on behalf of the Council</u> Carnival Event – Mrs S Bell, Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf, A Bennison, Mrs D Crook and Ms D King	
12.	<u>To receive details of Payments and transfers from 31 May 2022 to 12 July 2022 for Nat West Bank Totaling £52361.77 and Unity Trust Bank totaling £3478.56 which includes BACS Payment lists pages 1373-1374, 1378-1379 and 1389-1393.</u> Council members received details of payments and transfers prior to the meeting. Councillor questioned a payment to Soho 66. This is for the Telephone Bill for the council offices.	
0930	RESOLVED to accept details of Payments and transfers from 31 May 2022 to 12 July 2022 for Nat West Bank Totaling £52361.77 and Unity Trust Bank totaling £3478.56 which includes BACS Payment lists pages 1373-1374, 1378-1379 and 1389-1393.	
13.	<u>Report from the Chief Executive Officer</u> The CEO reported on the following - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pump track start date 15 August 2022, this is due to delays on the contractors existing project. • Following a meeting with Tarmac regarding the land to the east of Holborough Road. They do not have any plans to develop the triangle of land and would be open to any proposals put forward but would not be able to fund any works at the present time. If future developments of Tarmac Land are being looked at, then consideration may be given to work with the Town Council on a car park project in this area. • CAB are continuing to run their drop-in video advice sessions every Monday in the MG Suite. The volunteer running the session connects you to one of the trained advisors via video, so they can help you face to face, whether it be about debt, benefits, employment, or a range of other issues. 	

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14.	<p><u>To approve the Town Council Newsletter</u></p> <p>A copy of the Town council newsletter was distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The CEO advised that a number of amendments had been suggested.</p> <p>A Councillor spoke on behalf of an absent Councillor to reiterate that he did not feel there was any need to repeat the yellow line survey as he knows that there is quite a lot of opposition to it. Councillors reiterated that it had been agreed at previous meetings that the survey would go ahead as the original survey had been carried out on behalf of a political party and should be carried out independently by the Town Council.</p> <p>A Councillor commented that he felt that it was better to remove double yellow lines wherever possible without it causing a danger on the road because of the lack of parking on Holborough Lakes.</p> <p>0931 RESOLVED The CEO advised to make the changes to the newsletter and send back out to Councillors for final review for printing.</p>
15.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p><u>THE COMMITTEE HAS AGREED That in view 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.</u></p>	
16.	<p><u>Staffing update</u></p> <p>The CEO advised of recent office changes to the existing arrangements.</p> <p>The site staff have been working well during the recent hot spell and the CEO has ensured that they have taken breaks during the hottest part of the day.</p> <p>The Council commented on how smart the site staff look in their new polo shirts and would like to extend the uniform to the admin staff with either blouses, polo shirts or T shirts.</p> <p>0932 RESOLVED to purchase uniform tops, including winter sweatshirts for the admin staff.</p>
17.	<p><u>To consider charges and the use of Potyns Sportsground for a Craft Fair</u></p> <p>The Committee considered the request for the use of Potyns Sportsground for a Craft Fair.</p> <p>0933 RESOLVED Not to allow the Sportsground to be used for a Craft Fair. The pitch needs time to rejuvenate over the closed season.</p>

being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:20