

**SNODLAND TOWN COUNCIL****AMENITIES & RECREATION COMMITTEE****10 JULY 2019**

Committee Members present:	Cllrs Mrs D Crook (C), Mrs A Barden (VC), A Bennison, P Hickmott, A Keeley, Mrs D King, Mrs N Misy, Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf and Miss L West
Council Members present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO), Cllr J Butterfield and Miss E Jones
Members of the public:	One member of the public present

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr W Mallard and Mrs S Bell.</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of Interests</u></p> <p>There was one declaration of interest from Cllr Mrs D Crook in respect of item 10.</p>
3.	<p><u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were agreed as a correct record.</p>
4.	<p><u>Questions from the public</u> (<i>Members of the public are advised that they may speak for up to three minutes</i>)</p> <p>There were no questions from the members of the public.</p>
5.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner – Including responses from TMBC regarding the poor level of service with regards to street cleansing, litter and bottle banks</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that she had recently written to the Waste department at Tonbridge and Malling BC with regard to the numerous waste complaints that are received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overflowing recycling bins;</li> <li>• Overflowing dog bins;</li> <li>• Replacement of vandalised waste bins;</li> <li>• Road sweeper;</li> <li>• Dog warden.</li> </ul> <p>A response was received from TMBC with explanations to the above and the CEO reported that since her e-mail, recycling bins have been kept well managed and dog bins have also been regularly emptied. The point was raised that when a dog bin was not available, dog litter can be placed in waste bins. Broken litter bins and dog bins should be reported to TMBC. A Councillor requested that in order for the cricket meadow to be kept as litter free as possible, more bins be purchased and be placed in the cricket meadow.</p>

0507	<p>The CEO advised that the litter bins cost in the region of £350 each. The CEO also raised the point that empty pizza boxes are filling the bins and it was suggested that under planning regulations, food chains have a responsibility to help with litter issues. With this in mind, it was suggested that the pizza chain be approached for assistance by way of a donation for a new bin.</p> <p>The CEO advised that this item would be continually added to the Agenda so that waste issues could be discussed.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – to purchase extra metal, fixed bins for the cricket meadow and approach the pizza chain for assistance by way of a donation for a bin.</p>
6.	<p><u>To receive a report from the Allotment Advisory Committee – to include details of flooding coming from Orchard Way</u></p> <p>The Chairman of the Allotment Advisory Committee gave a brief report on the Allotment meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019. He drew the Committee’s attention to the problem of catapults being used at the allotments and the hazards it could cause. He advised that in order to deter the problem, allotment holders have been told to report any incidents on 101 and once a pattern had been formed, the police would be able to investigate further. It was also recommended that the PCSOs are also briefed of the situation so that they can assist with the problems. The full report can be viewed on file.</p> <p>The CEO advised the Committee that allotment holders had requested a skip to be delivered to the allotments so that they could dispose of all their rubbish. The CEO explained that the gate entrance would not be big enough for the skip. The CEO also advised that there is an asbestos shed which needs to be dismantled which needs to be removed by a competent contractor who also holds a waste carrier’s licence. The CEO advised that she has contacted a contractor which has the appropriate credentials who would be agreeable to removing the asbestos.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – to agree for the CEO arrange for the remove the asbestos and to arrange for the rubbish removal as appropriate.</p> <p>The CEO also reported that a water leak had occurred in Sloughfields Allotments, emanating from a large pipe in Orchard Way. South East Water and Southern Water were contacted, inspected the site and confirmed that they were not responsible. KCC Highways have also been contacted and will investigate the possibility that the water could derive from a storm drain. The CEO will give a further report and how the problem is to be resolved at the next meeting.</p>
7.	<p><u>To consider a request from a resident to install a rear access gate into the recreation grounds from their garden</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that she had received a request from a resident at Fletcher Gardens to install a rear access gate into the recreation grounds. The point was raised that as a few gates have already been authorised and this had set a precedent and it was agreed that the residents may install the gate on the proviso that the area is kept free of waste.</p>

0509	<b>RESOLVED</b> – to allow the installation of a rear access gate into the recreation ground be agreed on the proviso that the area is kept clear of waste and that the Council reserve the right to disallow the access if problems occur in the future.
8.	<p><u>To consider the use of pitches for training at Potyns Sports ground</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that the office were receiving numerous requests from other football clubs and groups to train or hire the Potyns sports pitches or use of the land for a recreational event. The CEO advised that she was in the process of drawing up a policy for the hire of Public Open Spaces and asked the Committee for their recommendations. She advised that Snodland Town Football club pay a charge to STC for the lease of the 3.5 pitches and she recommended that this charge should include the use of the pitches for training. The CEO advised that during the summer months (July and August) the pitches are rested for treatment to be carried out in preparation for the new season in September (eg the goal mouth).</p>
0510	<b>RESOLVED</b> – to only allow STFC as the current main lessee to train on the Potyns Sports ground in order to limit wear and tear to the grass.
9.	<p><u>To receive a report from the Carnival and Christmas Committees</u></p> <p><u>Carnival</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that a carnival ‘mop-up’ meeting was held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to discuss any problems that arose from the carnival day. The CEO advised that it went very well even though there were only 3 floats in the parade, which could be due to the fact that the larger lorries are harder to obtain due to the health and safety implications of tacographs and drivers’ working hours. There were quite a few points raised at the meeting and these can be viewed on file. The CEO reported that due to health and safety demands, it is getting increasingly more difficult for her to arrange and delegate STC staff and she reminded all councillors that they should make every effort to attend Snodland Town Council events. This would ensure that there was sufficient personel in order that STC staff can be freed up and utilised more effectively.</p> <p>The CEO reported that a tribute band may be booked for the arena at next year’s carnival in order to draw a bigger crowd to the event. Six hundred and sixty pounds was raised for the Breast Awareness charity.</p> <p>The CEO advised that a few tables were not returned and that a more effective booking in/out system should be adopted for next year.</p> <p>A Councillor reported that the Co-op had expressed their disappointment that they were let down with their float at the very last minute and the CEO suggested that groups should try and acquire smaller trucks for next year’s carnival as they would not be restricted by tacographs and drivers’ working hours.</p>

0511	<p>The CEO thanked everyone who helped with the Carnival.</p> <p><u>Christmas</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that Christmas preparations would soon begin and gave an update on KCCs previous instruction to replace the 3 pin sockets on the streetlights to commando sockets, so that they were in line with KCC policy. She was advised that if this was not carried out, KCC would withdraw their permit. The CEO has now instructed the Council's electrical contractor to obtain a quote for the work to be carried out and she has also contacted Cllr S Hohler (KCC) to ask for a grant to help with the cost. The CEO reported that she has budged for this added expenditure.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs D King advised that she would be running a tombola at the Christmas event and would be asking for more donations nearer the time. The CEO advised that the Scouts organised the stalls for this event.</p> <p>Cllr P Hickmott thanked the STC for help with the beer festival on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and requested that he book the cricket meadow for 2020.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – to allow the use of the cricket meadow for the 2020 beer festival on <b>27<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b>.</p>
10.  0512	<p><u>To consider use of Potyns Sports ground by regular users of the Community Centre</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that a complaint had been received querying public access rights to the Potyns sports ground while an area is being used by separate group/organisations. The CEO reported that groups or organisations hiring the community centre are not permitted to have sole use of the sports ground (or part of the sports ground) as this is a public open space and should not be cordoned off.</p> <p>As STC own the sports ground, it was agreed that permission should be sought for special events to be held on the playing fields (eg charity events, parties, weddings or clubs). STC would need to see a copy of their liability insurance and risk assessment documents for the event to go ahead.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – that regular users of the community centre may have access to the sports ground but are not permitted to cordon off areas as the ground is a public open space. Special events must be given prior permission by the Council and relevant insurance documentation must be provided.</p>
11.	<p><u>To consider the Council's involvement in the Kent and VE Day 75 celebrations on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (see Appendix 1)</u></p> <p>The CEO requested that Councillors read through the information to decide whether to hold an event on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. This would then be discussed at the next Amenities and Recreation meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019.</p>

12.	<p><u>To receive a report regarding further vandalism and ASB at the Cricket Meadow, with a view to installing further CCTV and locking the gates to the Cricket Meadow in the evenings</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that many aspects of anti-social behaviour (youths riding bikes across the cricket square, litter, alcohol and drugs, dog fouling) have historically and continue to occur in the cricket meadow and the CEO advised that the cricket club would like a solution to this continuing problem. It was suggested that the gates could be locked at certain times of the day but this would be difficult to work around members of staffs' working hours.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that the anti-social behaviour of youths could be tackled by installing another 3 CCTV cameras at the Pavillion Cafe which are facing the cricket meadow to capture the offenders. Hard evidence could then be presented to the police for action to be taken.</p> <p>A Councillor suggested that in order for the Council to remain proactive and to keep abreast of the situation, the Council could keep a record of crime number references so that these can be presented to the police and for them to take appropriate action. These could be e-mailed directly to the office or via the STC website (not on social media).</p> <p>A Councillor enquired about the Youth Centre opening times – The CEO advised that SAMAYS (Holmesdale School grounds) is open on <b>Wednesdays from 6.30 – 8.30pm.</b></p> <p><b>0513 RESOLVED</b> – to purchase 3 new CCTV cameras to be erected in the Cricket Meadow.</p>
13.	<p><u>To discuss the recent flooding throughout Snodland</u></p> <p>The Chairman gave a report on the recent flooding throughout Snodland. He reported that after the extreme flooding, he had contacted the Director of KCC Highways regarding the amount of blocked gullies in surrounding roads in Snodland. He advised that some of the gullies have now been cleared but there are still gullies which remain blocked. The CEO suggested that councillors and residents be vigilant of gullies and drains and to report any that are still blocked, paying special attention to the flooded hot spots.</p> <p>The CEO advised that she had a meeting with a KCC engineer at the allotments tomorrow and would speak to him regarding the concerns.</p>
14.	<p><u>To consider the feasibility of installing an electric car charging point in Snodland</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that this had been requested as an agenda item by a Councillor. As the Councillor was not present at the meeting, the item would be put on the Agenda for the next Amenities and Recreation meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019.</p>

15.	<p><u>To consider planning application – TM/19/01293/FL – 9A Gorham Close – Retrospective planning consent for a rear addition to a detached garage together with the conversion of internal space for use as a hobby room with storage space</u></p> <p>No objection – on the condition that the title deeds are not divided.</p>
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There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.47pm.