

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

27 July 2023

Committee Members in attendance:	Mrs D Crook(C) D Morgan(VC), Mrs J Ayers, Mrs S Bell, A Bennison, P Hickmott, W Mallard and G Miners
Non Committee Members in attendance:	
Committee Members Absent with apologies:	Ms D King, Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf
Committee Members Absent without apologies:	
Council Staff Present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Members of the public:	2 present

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>see above</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of Interests</u></p> <p>Cllr Miners Agenda Item 7 and 12.1 Cllr Hickmott Agenda Item 7</p>
3.	<p><u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2023</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st June 2023 were agreed as a true record.</p>
4.	<p><u>Questions from the Public</u></p> <p><i>Pursuant to Standing Order 3 e & g Members of the public may make representation, 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</i></p>
8.	<p><u>To receive minutes and consider actions from the Open Spaces sub-committee, including suggestions for Play equipment in the Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>The Chairman moved agenda item 8 forward to allow Mr Pocock from Medway Valley Fisheries (MVF) to give a presentation on the the lake at Nevill Park.</p> <p>Standing orders were suspended.</p> <p>MVF are responsible for the fish stock at Nevill Park. For the last two years there have been substantial mortality rates of the fish relating to the oxygen levels of the lake. MVF feel the only option would be to remove the remainder of the fish and turn the lake into an eco pond.</p> <p>Cllr Ayers raised the point that Nevill Park is the only free lake in Snodland for the Children to fish.</p> <p>Cllr Bell raised concerns regarding the health of the remaining fish in the lake and how upsetting it is for residents to see the dead fish in the lake and welcomed the removal of the healthy fish.</p> <p>Cllr Hickmott raised the point that part of the agreement between MVF and Snodland Town Council was to restock the lake and would like the council to</p>

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1074	<p>rescind this and for MVF to consider arranging for permits to be available for children to carry out fishing activities at one of their lakes. Mr Pocock pointed out that this would not be viable as legally all juniors must be accompanied by an adult whilst fishing. The Council and MVF need to work together to come up with a viable option. Mr Pocock advised that he would forward details of a fishing coach who can work in conjunction with the Council and MVF to provide coaching for children with the possibility of costs being shared between the council and MVF. The logistics of this will need to be clarified.</p> <p>A health check would need to be carried out on the fish removed from the lake. There would be a cost involved in having the health check carried out to prevent the spread of disease being transferred to a new lake. The draining and removal of the fish would be carried out free of charge, together with the relocating to a closed waterway.</p> <p>RESOLVED to instruct Medway Valley Fisheries to remove the fish from Nevill Park Lake.</p>
1075	<p>RESOLVED to look into possible coaching of children, to work in conjunction with the Council and MVF to provide coaching for children with the possibility of costs being shared between the council and MVF.</p> <p>Standing orders were re-instated.</p> <p>The Committee considered the ideas put forward by the Open Spaces Sub Committee as follows –</p> <p><u>Nevill Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contact Kent Wildlife Trust to obtain a quotation for a consultation. <p>The CEO has contacted Kent Wildlife Trust. A quotation has been received from Kent Wildlife trust to carry out a site visit and report on Nevill Park to ascertain the best way forward for the park as a whole. The cost of the site visit and report is £875.00</p>
1076	<p>RESOLVED to instruct Kent Wildlife Trust to carry out a site visit and report on Nevill Park at a cost of £875.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any further work in relation to Nevill Park will be considered once Kent Wildlife Trust have carried out their report. <p><u>Willowside</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To check if the bank is mowed • Purchase wild flowers for the banked areas • Purchase of benches • Check S106 money available to spend on the above items. <p>The CEO advised that the bank in Willowside is mowed and provided pictures. The second bank that runs along the eastern perimeter of Willowside is not mowed, this was following a decision taken by the council a number of years ago, to provide better screening into the woods adjacent to the A228.</p>

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	<p>Concerns were raised regarding planting wild flowers on the existing well maintained mowed bank and it was agreed not to incorporate wild flowers on this bank, but to incorporate them into the unmowed area along the eastern perimeter of Willowside.</p> <p>Costs to be obtained for benches to put along the eastern perimeter.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding the lack of play equipment in Willowside. There is insufficient funding available from the S106 money to provide any significant play equipment at Willowside. It was suggested that a basketball hoop and small hardstanding could be provided. A consultation should be put forward for the installation of a basketball hoop.</p>
1077	<p>RESOLVED to carry out a consultation for the installation of a basketball hoop at Willowside.</p>
	<p>Cllr Miners requested that the goal posts in both Willowside and the Recreation Ground are turned around so that they face a different direction and the worn areas are filled and reseeded.</p>
1078	<p>RESOLVED to turn the goal posts in Willowside and the Recreation Ground in a different direction to allow regrowth of worn areas and to fill and reseed.</p>
	<p><u>Recreation Ground</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S106 money available to spend on Recreation Ground • Use play equipment renewal fund and also general reserves. • Gate has been removed from the play area as broken. • Should the fence be removed to create free flow play area. • Play equipment inside the fence needs upgrading. • Carry out consultation to see what sort of equipment should replace what is there. What age group. • Gym equipment inside the fenced area and enhance the outside play equipment. • Change the surface that surrounds the existing play equipment. (ask advice if this can be changed) • What age group should this be for? Do older children use play equipment? • Put flower bulbs under the trees – Bluebells and daffodils. • New tree for queens jubilee (oak) <p>The play equipment is an important addition and needs renewing. The demand is for younger children play equipment.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding there being only one area for the play equipment and that future plans should be looked into in more detail to include a secondary area away from the existing play equipment.</p> <p>The play equipment for the older children needs upgrading, a discussion took place as to whether this should be mended temporarily or whether that would not be cost effective.</p>

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	<p>A proposal was put forward that councillors should go to the recreation ground and look at the existing play equipment and the locations and come back to a meeting with further ideas.</p> <p>A second Proposal was also put forward that the surface under the existing play equipment should be replaced for wet pour. This should be carried out as soon as possible utilising the S106 from TMBC.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the planting of bulbs under the tree canopies. However it was felt that to plant anything in these areas would not be conducive, as they would get trampled in this well utilised area.</p> <p>RECOMMEND Councillors visit the Recreation Ground and look at the existing play equipment and the locations and come back to a meeting with further ideas.</p> <p>1079 RESOLVED to obtain quotes to remove the existing surface and replace with wet pour under the existing toddler play equipment at the Recreation Ground and to submit this proposal to TMBC to utilise the S106 fund.</p> <p>1080 RESOLVED not to plant the Queens Jubilee tree in the Recreation Ground until after the play equipment has been redesigned.</p> <p>1081 RESOLVED not to plant bulbs under the tree canopies in the Recreation Ground.</p> <p><u>Potyns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childrens play area. • Two fence panels need to be looked at. • S106 available to spend at Potyns (when available) replace existing play equipment. <p>Play equipment would be looked at once S106 money is available. New picnic tables and benches are waiting to be installed, however this needs to wait until the drainage work has been completed on the car park. The area of tarmac is currently too small to utilise for a learn to ride area and this needs to be extended. It may also be necessary to install a fence along the top or bottom of the pump track to protect the learn to ride area. This will be looked at in conjunction with the car park resurfacing. The existing warning and risk sign for the pump track has been vandalised again. When the new notice board is installed this will allow for the warning and risk sign to be put inside the notice board as well as moving the existing post to beside the new notice board and a new sign fixed to it. Concerns were raised regarding the motor cycles using the pump track. The police are aware and are patrolling the area. Any sightings should be reported to 101.</p>
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5.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></p> <p>The Committee received details of the next litter pick at Holborough Park and Ladds Lane on Saturday 5 August 2023 at 11am. To be co-ordinated by Cllr Hickmott . Meet at Junction with Manley Boulevard.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the need to amend the locations on the litter picking schedule. Most of the areas included on the schedule are areas that are litter picked on a regular basis by the site staff and it was felt that areas not currently covered by the staff would be more beneficial. It was felt that it is not feasible to carry out litter picking in areas where there is live traffic and the existing schedule will remain in place.</p> <p>Cllr Mallard advised that over flowing bins and flytipping can be reported on the country eye app.</p> <p>Cllrs Ayers and Hickmott are still looking into approaching Costa and Macdonalds regarding the excessive amount of rubbish from these establishments.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the overflowing bins in the recreation ground. The CEO advised that the bins are emptied twice a week, however during the summer holidays these will be emptied every day.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding comments on social media. This will be discussed under staffing at Full Council.</p>
6.	<p><u>To consider how to enhance the entrances into Snodland</u></p> <p>The first area entrance under discussion is from Ham Hill roundabout. The area in front of the sign has been cleared. The sign has been cleaned and the planter has been repainted.</p> <p>KCC are responsible for the area on the left hand side as you enter into Malling Road. Ownership of the area on the right hand side also belongs to KCC there is no public right of way or footpath. All areas are considerably overgrown and whilst the council appreciate that KCC do not have the resources too maintain this area, it is still very unsightly and does not enhance the entrance to Snodland. Cllr Lettington had previously advised that he would be writing to County Councillor Sarah Hohler and the CEO will chase this up. All Snodland signs need replacing, the bollards and street furniture needs painting.</p>
7.	<p><u>To consider the boundary in Sloughfields Allotment</u></p> <p>There are two issues with the boundary at Sloughfields allotments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the boundary • The flooding caused by the non-maintenance of the ditch that runs along the western boundary of the allotment. <p>The committee received a report regarding the long term issue with flooding on Sloughfields Allotment (Copy on file) and ways to prevent further flooding and increased health and safety measures surrounding the excavation to re-instate the ditch along the entire length of the allotment.</p>

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1082	<p>The committee studied the land registry map relating to the allotment to ascertain where the boundary lies. Land Registry documents show conflicting boundary lines.</p> <p>The Committee have concerns regarding the discharge of rain water from the drains in Orchard Way into the allotments. It was felt that water should not be discharged onto the allotments and this is causing a lot of problems. There is no oil trap on the drain and contact should be made with KCC Highways. A taskforce should be set up to investigate this matter further.</p> <p>RESOLVED for Cllr Hickmott to write to KCC Highways Officer to arrange a meeting to discuss drainage issues at Sloughfields Allotments.</p> <p>RECOMMEND to create a taskforce to deal with the drainage at Sloughfields Allotments.</p>
8.	<p><u>To receive minutes and consider actions from the Open Spaces sub-committee, including suggestions for Play equipment in the Recreation Ground</u></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM MOVED PLEASE SEE ABOVE</u></p>
9.	<p><u>To consider changes to the carnival and date for next years carnival</u></p> <p>Saturday 6 July 2024.</p> <p>Ideas and suggestions have been received for next years carnival.</p> <p>This years carnival procession had very poor attendance with group numbers dwindling each year. Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the procession would not take place next year. The events at Potyns should be enhanced to create a bigger event for the community. This can incorporate new Potyns, however this has vehicle limitations. The focus needs to be on the community involvement and not on any individual groups or clubs.</p> <p>Ideas on how the Carnival should evolve will be put forward to the next Carnival Committee meeting which takes place on Tuesday 19 September 2023.</p> <p>1083 RESOLVED to cancel the Carnival Parade due to costs and dwindling numbers. To email and inform existing participants and advise the residents that the parade is no longer viable.</p>
10.	<p><u>To receive ideas relating to community suggestions and receive details for Community Volunteers</u></p> <p>Following a advertising campaign to try and enlist volunteers to assist with community events, environmental projects, helping out in the community. The campaign has received 5 volunteers.</p> <p>Community suggestions were considered and have been pinpointed to the appropriate committee.</p>

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11.	<p><u>To received feedback relating to the use of the pump track</u></p> <p>Cllr Ayers had received feedback from the users of the pumptrack, who thanked the council for the track. The positivity that has come out of the creation of the pump track is immense, with older children engaging with the younger children.</p>
12.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p><u>12.1 Letter from an Allotment holder regarding trees on the allotment</u></p> <p>The committee considered a letter from an allotment holder regarding trees in the allotment.</p> <p>Following a recent visit to the allotment by the CEO and Cllr Miners, it was felt that a number of trees in the allotment have grown out of control and a new clause needs to be added to the allotment lease to insist that all trees should be pruned to a height of no more than 2 metres. The CEO will take advice to ensure that the height of 2 metres would be appropriate.</p> <p>1084 RESOLVED to put a new clause in the allotment lease that requires fruit trees to be pruned to a height on no more than 2 metres.</p> <p><u>12.2 Email from business regarding use of Potyns Sportsground</u></p> <p>The committee considered an email from a business regarding the use of Potyns Sportsground.</p> <p>The committee reiterated that Potyns holds a community event as part of the carnival to allow local charity and voluntary groups to participate. Potyns is primarily used under a lease to the football club for the football season which runs from the end of July until the end of May. Should the council consider the use of Potyns in the future this would be carried out on a commercial basis and be charged at the same levels as the Borough Council. This is not something that the council are considering at the current time.</p>
<p>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.</p>	
	<p><u>To receive an update on Brooklands Lake Café (Peridise) and if available sign and seal the new lease and deed of surrender.</u></p> <p>No further update has been received.</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:35