

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation

7 July 2022

Committee Members in attendance:	Cllr Mrs D Crook (C), Mrs D King, A Bennison, P Hickmott
Non Committee Members in attendance:	
Committee Members Absent with apologies:	Cllr Mrs S Bell, Mrs N Misy, Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf and W Mallard
Committee Members Absent without apologies:	Cllr Mrs A Barden
Council Staff Present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Members of the public:	7 members of the public present

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>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2022</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 31 May 2022 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> <p>A member of the public raised concerns regarding item 6 relating to the anti-social behaviour surrounding the location of the Table Tennis table in the Cricket Meadow. The behaviour has made living in the houses that back onto the Cricket Meadow intolerable. Nothing is being done to alleviate these problems and a request has been put forward to move the table to a different location.</p> <p>A member of the public raised a request to use Potyns Sportsground for a craft market.</p>
5.	<p><u>Representatives from Snodland Community Cricket Club and the Pavillion Café to attend meeting and discuss issues regarding the use of the cricket meadow and the Pavillion</u></p> <p>Representatives from the Pavilion Café advised that since procedures have been put in place tidiness has improved dramatically. The only issues at the moment are the cigarette butts that are being left around the Café garden. The Café have purchased a wall mounted cigarette bin which the Cricket Club representative has agreed to install. A suggestion was made that the Cricket Club purchase some ashtrays, as well as 50% cost of the wall mounted bin.</p>

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	<p>The other issue is the Kitchen door being left open when no one is in attendance during the matches.</p> <p>The Cricket team only need the use of the kitchen to fill up 3 jugs and the use of the fridge. The Cricket club have suggested that they purchase their own fridge to put in the store area provided by the Café.</p> <p>The Cricket club have agreed that the kitchen and dining room door are locked when not in attendance.</p> <p>The cigarette bin needs to be emptied by both parties. The cricket club need to do a final check through the pavilion before they leave to ensure that the area is clean, including that toilet rolls and paper towels have not blocked the toilet.</p> <p>The Cricket Club would like to see the club flourish in the future and the only way that can happen is with co-operation between the Club and the Café.</p> <p>The Cricket Club representative raised concerns regarding the closing time on a Saturday and the Café have now made allowances and stop serving at 11.30.</p> <p>The Cricket Club feel that improvements need to be made to the Pavilion. A plan needs to be formulated by both parties and brought together for consideration.</p> <p>The grass at the Pavilion also needs to be cut shorter on the outfield. The trees also need attention on the lower branches. The CEO will look into this.</p> <p>The Anti-social behaviour is also causing problems and needs to be addressed. The Committee advised the Cricket Club that they have requested that a senior police officer attend a meeting of the council to discuss ongoing concerns.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding wayward cricket balls reaching the car park and pavement, which skimmed a member of the public. After discussion to ascertain when the incident happened, the Cricket Club advised that they was not playing at the Cricket Meadow on Sunday and this could have been just youths playing. They went on to advise that it is a rare occurrence for this to happen however members of the public also need to be vigilant when walking near the ground.</p> <p>Councillors were pleased to hear that positive steps have been made to work through the problems and resolve them between themselves and suggested that just one representative could liaise with the Café, rather than the whole cricket team, to try and mitigate the bad atmosphere between the two parties.</p>
6.	<p><u>To Consider a request for the removal of the Table Tennis table from the Cricket Meadow and how to address to anti-social behaviour</u></p> <p>A proposal was put forward to move the table tennis table to a different open space in Snodland where it can be sited without it causing problems to residents.</p> <p>RECOMMEND to move the table tennis to a different open space location in Snodland.</p>

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7.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></p> <p>The next litter pick is scheduled for Saturday 6 August 2pm at the Cricket Meadow. Cllr Hickmott to co-ordinate.</p>
8.	<p><u>To receive a report and recommendations from the Allotment Committee</u></p> <p>In the absence of the chairman of the Allotment Committee the CEO reported on the meeting, with one recommendation.</p> <p>0924 RESOLVED to change the date of the Annual Allotment Rents from 1st February to 1st October with effect from October 2023. The Rent due in February 2023 will be pro rata until October 2023.</p>
9.	<p><u>To Consider Charges for the Use of Potyns Field for the Craft Fair</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that the Football Club use the field from the end of August until the end of June. The pitches are then rested and treated ready for the next season, which makes it difficult to lease the field out for other uses. Potyns is public open space and sportsfields and the use of this land has to be considered. The use of Public Open Space for Commercial purposes is something that needs to be considered by Full Council when a full compliment of councillors would be in attendance.</p>
10.	<p><u>To inform Council of Legal advice received regarding the extension of the Snodland Town Football Club Lease</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that she had received legal advice regarding the extension to the football club lease. There is nothing preventing the granting of a lease for 50 years, but Council may wish to consider whether they would like the ability to bring the lease to an end during that time. Unless the Council is satisfied that it wouldn't want the property back at all in the next 50 years, taking into account that something unforeseen may come up, it would be prudent to think about agreeing an early termination with the tenant.</p> <p>The Committee could see no reason why they would want to bring the lease to an end as the land has covenants through Fields in Trust and cannot be developed for any other use.</p> <p>0925 RESOLVED to allow the extension of Snodland Town Football Club lease to a 50 year period</p>
11.	<p><u>To receive an update on the Pump Track</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that the Contractors had advised of a revised start date of 15 August, due to delays on their existing project. The funding from British Cycling would not be affected and further checks were being made to confirm that the Derbyshire Trust funding would not be affected.</p>
12.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:37