

Snodland Town Council – Full Council

28 October 2021

Committee Members present:	Cllrs Mrs S Bell (C), J Minter (Dep VC), Mrs D Crook, P Hickmott, Ms D King, W Mallard and Mrs S Shaw
Council Staff present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Other Councillors Present:	CC Mrs S Hohler
Members of the public:	

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf (VC), A Bennison, J Butterfield, and Mrs N Misy</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of interests</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
3.	<p><u>Report from the Neighbourhood Police Team</u></p> <p>There were no representatives from the Neighbourhood police team. The Committee had received an E-Watch report prior to the meeting.</p>
4.	<p><u>County Councillor's Report</u></p> <p>The County Councillor reported :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hohler explained how the process regarding traffic regulations in relation to planning for the Oast House on Hollow Lane. • A228 complaints regarding noise levels from a resident in Saltings Road. There is a significant difference in the noise levels on the road surface along the carriageway and this is on the list for resurfacing towards the end of 2022 early 2023. • The new method for resurfacing has proved to be very successful and over 126 miles of resurfacing has been carried out in Kent over the summer. The surface is good for carbon emissions with less waste, a smoother surface and more cost effective. • The speed bumps in St Benedicts Road have been installed. One complaint received that they are bigger and worse than the ones in Hollow Lane. They are in accordance with the national safety standards. • Grass Cutting – Cllr Hohler explained about the problems with grass cutting and maintenance. Problems was staffing and exception weather conditins have also exasperated the situation. Cllr Holher went on to explain the timetable for grass cutting and maintenance. • Will be in Snodland for the Pensioners fair at Holmesdale on Friday 29 October 2021. <p>The CEO advised that she had recently received detailed maps and schedules regarding the schedules and had passed these on to councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Bell advised that when issues are logged on the KCC portal they take a considerable amount of time to deal with the issue and never report back.</p> <p>Cllr Bell also raised concerns regarding over running road works by utility companies which one instance last week in Larkfield caused considerable tailback all along the A228 to Snodland.</p>

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	<p>Cllr Hickmott raised concerns that there is still an area of St Benedicts Road that had not been resurfaced.</p> <p>Cllr Hickmott also raised a question regarding Public rights of Way. He explained that Snodland Town Council have cut the footpaths in previous years, however due to work levels had been unable to do them this year. The cutting of the footpaths is KCC's responsibility, however if KCC are unable to meet their responsibilities they should consider sub-contracting this out to Snodland Town Council who would schedule it into their own works programme. Footpaths are not regularly cut and only done when they are reported on the KCC portal as overgrown and if KCC had the budget to cut them. Cllr Hohler advised that they are looking to put more money for PROW in the budget, Cllr Hohler added that school run footpaths should be classed as priority. The CEO will provide Cllr Hohler with a list of the footpaths in Snodland, especially the ones what are well used on school runs. Cllr Hickmott asked that the Town Council are kept updated.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Questions from the public</u></p> <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>None</p>	
7.	<p><u>To resolve the Minutes of the Full Council held on 9th September 2021 (pp 45-50) are a correct record</u></p>	
0786	<p>RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th September 2021 (pp 45-50) were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>Signed</p>	
8.	<p><u>To receive reports and recommendations of Council Committees</u></p>	
8.1	Planning and Environment	28 September 2021 (pp51-52)
8.4		21 October 2021 (pp57-58)
	<p>The Chairman of the Planning and Environment committee reported on both planning and Environment meetings that there were no recommendations and the minutes were agreed.</p>	
8.2	Policy and Resources	Cancelled
8.3	Amenities and Recreation	14 October 2021 (pp53-56)
0787	<p>The Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee reported on the following recommendations – Queens Platinum Jubilee</p> <p>RESOLVED To set up a Sub Committee to discuss Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations to include the lighting of the beacon to take place on Thursday 2 June (Bank Holiday). To place the Beacon in Potyns and light the Beacon as part of a celebration which could include individual pipers and pipe bands are being asked to play "Diu Regnare" as their personal tribute to Her Majesty The Queen. A notice will be put out in the new year asking for volunteers to be part of the Committee to organize the event.</p>	

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<p>0788</p> <p>0789</p> <p>0790</p>	<p>Remembrance Day – Final Arrangements are to be discussed under Agenda Item 18. Christmas In Snodland</p> <p>RESOLVED To set up a Gazebo and have Elves giving out presents, rather than having our regular Grotto which is a confined space. To put out a notice for help on the day of the event. To speak to Father Christmas and see if he would like to attend. Put forward a request to the Choral Society to ascertain whether they would like to carry out their normal carol singing.</p> <p>RESOLVED to increase Cemetery prices in-line with RPI rounded to the nearest whole pound.</p> <p>RESOLVED to increase amenity prices in-line with RPI and to increase hall hire facilities to take into consideration additional costs required for any additional licences required rounded to the nearest whole pound.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Reports from Borough Councillors</u></p> <p>Cllr Hickmott had attended a TMBC Council meeting and reported the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported on Brown Bin refuse collections being covered by one crew across two Boroughs. • Car Parking charges in Rocfort Road car park had been deferred. Cllr Hickmott to check on the date this was being deferred to and also the date for the Snodland Parking Review. • New leader of TMBC committed to climate change • First Eco friendly café to be built at Leybourne Lakes. <p>Cllr Bell had attended the same meeting as Cllr Hickmott.</p> <p>Cllr Bell in her capacity as Deputy Mayor attended the Tonbridge Lions Summer Fete and Wrotham Festival of Lights. Cllr Bell reported that the Wrotham Festival of Lights was a very popular event and felt that something similar could be incorporated with the Snodland Firework Display. A meeting with the event organizer, Cllr Bell and the CEO would be arranged.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Town Councillors reports on meetings, events and activities attended on behalf of the Council</u></p> <p>Cllr Mallard attended the Mens Mind Project.</p>
<p>11.</p> <p>0791</p>	<p><u>To receive details of payments and transfers from 1 September to 20 October 2021 totaling £200740.63</u></p> <p>Committee members received details of payments and transfers prior to the meeting. A list of BACS payments had been omitted from the report and would be supplied at the next full council meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED - to accept the details of payments and transfers from 1 September to 20 October 2021 totaling £200740.63 and to provide a BACS Payment listing for the next Full Council.</p>

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<p>12.</p> <p>0792</p>	<p><u>Report from the Chief Executive Officer</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She had met with a KCC Highways Officer regarding the parking at Holborough Lakes. They spend a very productive 2 hours walking around the estate looking at areas where existing double yellow lines could be removed to provide additional on street parking spaces to help alleviate the parking problems. The CEO will report back once the report has been completed by the KCC Highways Officer. • She had met with the new Highways Schemes project manager who is very proactive. They have revisited and amended the Highway Improvement plan and actions from the plan are being looked at. This will be added to the next Planning and Environment meeting agenda. • Apologies for absence from meetings should be given in advance of any meeting. The last two meetings have had very poor attendance and a third meeting had to be cancelled as it was not quorate. <p>RESOLVED to email all councilors advising of the importance of sending in apologies for absence prior to the meetings.</p>
<p>13.</p> <p>0793</p>	<p><u>To receive an update relating to Snodland Clocktower Trust to include a bank mandate to authorise revised signatories to the current bank account for the Clock Tower Trust account.</u></p> <p>A report was given on the current situation regarding the bank mandate for the Clock Tower Trust.</p> <p>RESOLVED The authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 1.3 for Clocktower Trust be changed in accordance with section Authorised signatories to remove Mrs. J Chapman, Mr. G Chapman, Mr. P Hegarty, Mr. M Buffini and to add Mrs. Karen Sowten</p> <p>The current mandate will continue as amended – Councillor Paul Hickmott and Mr. B Miners are already authorised signatories on the account and will remain.</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p><u>To receive a response from KCC regarding the proposed bus stop in Rocfort Road</u></p> <p>KCC have advised that they still have resource allocated for this project, but the bus industry is still struggling to return to pre-pandemic levels. Arriva are no longer guaranteeing that they will be able to serve a new stop at this location.</p> <p>KCC are still liaising with Arriva on a regular basis and hope to have some concrete idea of what the network will look like soon. Central government support for the bus network is soon due to expire and at that point operators will need to make decisions regarding the future of the network.</p> <p>Cllr Hickmott will Pursue Arriva to ensure that the stop is incorporated into the timetable as the distance that elderly resident have to walk to the nearest bus stop is unacceptable.</p>

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<p>15.</p> <p>0794</p> <p>0795</p>	<p><u>To consider in the current climate the option on 1, 2 or 3 year contracts on utility contracts and to authorise CEO to proceed with contracts based on best available price.</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that the gas contract for the Devonshire rooms is due for renewal at the end of November. The CEO has obtained best market prices (copy of file), however in the current uncertain climate the council felt that a 1 year fixed rate would be prudent to see if the markets steady.</p> <p>The Council also felt that any utility contracts due for renewal should be dealt with by the CEO and the prices obtained fluctuate on a daily basis and prices reported to councillors when the agendas are sent out are no longer valid on the day of the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED to continue with our existing gas supplier on a 1 year contract as the market rates are so unstable at present.</p> <p>RESOLVED to give authority to the CEO to renew contracts and report retrospectively on the contract agreed. To be mindful of using established suppliers</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p><u>Notice of the KALC 2021 AGM, which is being held virtually on Zoom on Saturday 13 November 2021.</u></p> <p>Cllr Bell will attend the AGM.</p>
<p>17.</p>	<p><u>To receive a response from KCC regarding Highways grass cutting</u></p> <p>Councillors received grass cutting maintenance schedules prior to the meeting. The Council are now in a position to monitor the grass cutting now that dates have been provided by KCC.</p>
<p>18.</p> <p>0796</p> <p>0797</p>	<p><u>To advise on final arrangements for Remembrance Day and Councillor Responsibilities</u></p> <p>Council discussed the final arrangements for the Remembrance Day parade. It was noted that the meeting was light on Councillors and Councillors should be emailed reminding them of the event.</p> <p>RESOLVED to email all councillors reminding them that this event is going ahead and they are expected to attend.</p> <p>RESOLVED Cllr Minter to lay the wreath on behalf of the Council as Cllr Bell is representing Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council as Deputy Mayor.</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p><u>To Consider, if received, quotes for the replacement heating in the Devonshire Rooms</u></p> <p>Quotes for the replacement heating have still not been received. The CEO is having difficulty in obtaining contractors available to quote. CEO will continue to pursue this.</p>

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20. 0798	<p><u>To approve the opening of a new bank account with Unity Trust</u></p> <p>A report on the difficulties with current banking arrangements was presented (copy on file). Other High Street banks have been looked into, however they do not offer the online banking requirements required by a Town Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED to switch the council's current account to Unity Trust Bank, including applying for internet banking. Authorised signatories in accordance with the bank mandate.</p>
21.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>A letter has been received acknowledging how nice the hanging baskets looked this year and to compliment those who had planted them up.</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>	
22.	<p><u>To receive an update on Brooklands Lake Café (Peridise)</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that the existing tenant would like to renew his lease for Brooklands Lake Café.</p>
23.	<p><u>To receive an update on Brooklands Lake lease</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that the solicitor was in the process of amending the final details on the lease. Once this is done it would be sent to the tenant for their consideration.</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.