

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

18th September 2024

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

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 1st August 2024</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st August 2024 were agreed as a true record.</p> <p>Update on actions from meeting –</p> <p>The area has been measured up and spoken to the neighbour, who has no objections to the container being placed against the fence line. Some work is required before the container is put in place. There are trees that need to be topped and the area cleared. The trees require professional work and the ivy and foilage needs to be cleared back to the fence and weedkilled – probation to clear. The container needs to be painted green and guidelines included in the cricket club agreement for next year regarding painting and maintaining the foilage behind the container.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION – to give permission for the cricket club to position a container in the area between the side of the pavilion and adjacent to the fence.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION - to carry out required works to the trees.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION – to carry out work required to the foilage.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION – to update the cricket club agreement with guidelines relating to the container regarding painting and maintaining the foilage behind the container.</p>
	<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>

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4.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></p> <p>The next litter pick is scheduled for Saturday 5 October at 2pm at Potyns Sportsground. Meet in Community Centre Car Park.</p> <p>Cllrs Hickmott and Miners are unable to carry out the co-ordination of the litter pick.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Ayers can co-ordinate it and Cllrs Mrs Crook and Morgan will assist. Office to advise co-ordination arrangements for the collection of the litter picking equipment.</p>
5.	<p><u>To consider proposal for a replacement roundabout at Nevill Park</u></p> <p>Following the failure of the shaft of the existing roundabout, the committee considered a replacement at a cost of £3885.00. The Committee discussed the possibility of replacing with an accessible roundabout for disabled.</p> <p>1302 RESOLVED to replace the existing roundabout at Nevill Park at a cost of £3885.00. The committee approved the installation of an alternative accessible roundabout if this could be carried out under £5000.</p>
6.	<p><u>To consider the Potyns Sports pitch analysis and new equipment purchase</u></p> <p>The Committee discussed the proposal and advised that they had visited the pitches, which need significant maintenance work.</p> <p>The Committee requested a deferral of this agenda item and requested further information and a breakdown with regards to the expenditure costs. They also requested that the CEO arrange a meeting with the football club to discuss their proposals in more detail as they believe there is more scope for the football club to obtain funding for maintenance of the pitches from the FA.</p> <p>The Car Park was also discussed. The CEO advised that an application to Southern Water has been submitted to gain permission to allow surface water drainage into their network. This application has an estimated cost of £400. The CEO is also trying to ascertain a ball park figure for the entire works as this seems to have escalated with the changes required relating to drainage.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO to meet with the Football club to ascertain their proposals. • Greater detail relating to our current expenditure.
7.	<p><u>To consider proposal for access control on 3g pitch</u></p> <p>Due to the imminent retirement of the 3g caretaker a proposal has been sought for an automatic locking and unlocking system for the 3g pitch.</p> <p>Automatic access will allow the council to monitor the usage more accurately.</p>

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	<p>The proposal has highlighted that there may not be an electricity supply on the first floodlight pole, which would be required for system.</p> <p>There is also the added technicality relating to the control of the floodlights which are regulated from the changing rooms. And concerns regarding access to the changing rooms.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CEO to meet with the Security contractor and Electrician to ascertain what electrical source is available on the floodlight pole. • Councillors to monitor use of the pitches when they are in the area. • Office to email Councillors with a copy of the booking schedule.
8.	<p><u>To consider proposals for CCTV at Potyns</u></p> <p>This item has been deferred > Investigations needed to establish electrical source.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CEO to meet with the Security contractor and Electrician to ascertain what electrical source is available on the floodlight pole.
9.	<p><u>To consider proposals for CCTV at the Council Offices</u></p> <p>The committee considered the proposal with concerns raised regarding the need for a camera in the main office and the lack of a camera at the front of the building.</p> <p>The main office is public facing and camera required for the staffs safety. A camera at the front of the building could have child protection and GDPR issues.</p> <p>1303 RESOLVED to install CCTV at the Council Offices as per the proposal. To discuss with staff the concerns relating to an office camera and if the staff are happy to allow for the install.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go back to company requesting quote for additional camera and information regarding what safeguarding measures can be put into place • Speak to Pre-school about views and requirements
10.	<p><u>To receive an update on the upgrade of play equipment in Snodland</u></p> <p>The CEO gave an overview of the situation with regards to the upgrade of the play equipment. Quotes have been received from a number of suppliers and the council has insufficient budget to fill all the empty spaces within the play areas. The Committee were presented with 3 pieces of equipment to be considered one of each area (Nevill Park Brook Lane end, Nevill Park Saltings Road end and Recreation Ground). Estimated total cost £59000. Current</p>

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	<p>available funds £25000 (although £5000 now agreed for spend on roundabout in item 5 above).</p> <p>Additional funding of £18000 may be available via Rocfort Road section 106 money, however this is awaiting clarification from TMBC. Money re-imbursed from Community Centre 106 funding of £20000, which has been returned to General Reserves could be transferred to the play equipment fund which will be discussed further at Policy and Finance.</p> <p>Nevill Park Saltings Road end, we need something bold, big and exciting to replace the electra unit being removed, the board rider fits the bill although concerns were raised regarding the mechanism and board make up.</p> <p>Nevill Park Brook Lane end, timber snake, concerns raised regarding cost of replacement parts. This cant be put on wet pour existing, as its too big and therefore defeats object of filling in the spare places.</p> <p>Recreation Ground Air Rider, concerns raised regarding cost of replacement parts.</p> <p>It was suggested that a working party could be put together to remove the Electra Unit at Saltings Road end of Nevill Park, this would reduce costs.</p> <p>Suppliers have advised that it is difficult to place items on existing wetpour due to new equipment having different surfacing depth and footprint. By just patching, you would have multiple areas where the wetpour will likely separate causing trip hazards, look unsightly and would not be covered by guarentee.</p> <p>In principle the committee were happy with the items suggested and requested further investigation relating to the concerns stated.</p> <p>Suggestions were made to have hop scotch/snakes and ladder stencilled onto the existing redundant wet pour.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much work would it cost to replace the items if broke • Revised costs for the three items discussed • Costs to put hop scotch/snacks and ladders on redundant wet pour
11.	<p><u>To consider the additional items to be entered into the Allotment Policy</u></p> <p>The committee considered the items to be added to the allotment policy and raised the following comments -</p> <p>Permissable events</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding the increasing number of BBQs being held with complaints received from other allotment holders and neighbours. Wine racks and optics have been observed on some allotment plots. The allotments are not an extension of of ones garden for social gatherings. Is it fair to the other allotment holders. This is not a party venue.</p>

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1304	<p>The purpose of a social event should be for allotment clearance/maintenance, plant sharing. These should be limited to one per quarter. Office staff to oversee requests and make the decision.</p> <p>Bamboo There is 1 person at the moment that is growing bamboo, it is very invasive</p> <p>Ponds Size limit – a metre square/round and no more than 30 cm No more than 1 pond per tenant and need to apply for permission.</p> <p>Toilet Signs have been put on a shed saying that it is a toilet. Unknown where the human waste is being disguised. These are not permitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED to update the allotment policy to include new restrictions on permissible events, Bamboo, ponds and toilets.</p> <p>The committee received an update regarding the drainage issue at the allotment, which advised that it is unlikely that permission would be given to go into the existing sewer and that a soak away would be the best option.</p> <p>A discussion ensued and concerns were raised regarding the following – pollution into a soakaway as the surface water if from the road. Re-instate the trench – pollution and health and safety risk due to depth. Professional advise needed from a consultant. Length of time taken to come up with a solution and council should now seek professional advice which will be costly but a requirement. Different views being given on the number of pipes and their location.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>CEO to source drainage expert to carry out a survey and solution to the problem. Cllr Loader to attend any meetings.</p>
12.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>Cllr Ayers has received communication from residents requesting a dog bin at the top section of the dogwalking field at New Potyns to facilitate the dog walkers along White Dyke Road. The CEO advised that there was already a dog bin within the dog walking area and the town council do not have the resources for a second bin. White Dyke Road is a public footpath and falls within the remit of KCC and they should be approached by the residents to request a dog bin in that location.</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:00