

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

23 January 2024

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

1.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> see above
2.	<u>Declaration of Interests</u> Cllr Miner declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 (Snodland Fireworks Event)
3.	<u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2023</u> The minutes of the meeting held on the 30 th November 2023 were agreed as a true record.
4.	<u>Questions from the Public</u> <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>
5.	<u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u> The CEO advised that a new schedule of litter picks had been distributed. The first litter pick will be on Sunday 3 March at 11am in the Cricket Meadow. Cllr Mrs Barker volunteered to head the pick and will arrange for collection of the hoops, bags and sticks from the office. A request for more bag holders was requested with the black hoop and elastic band.
6.	<u>To Consider how future council events will be run</u> Standing orders were suspended to allow non committee members to participate.

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<p>The committee discussed council events and how they were currently run by the staff and a few councillor volunteers. There have been a number of different views on whether Councillors should become involved with these events.</p> <p>The CEO advised the committee on new legislation that is currently being considered by Parliament for the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) draft Bill (Martyn's Law), which is to improve the safety and security of public venues and keep the British Public safe from terrorism.</p> <p>Following lengthy debate relating to the events, the following options were discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could the council seek quotes from security companies for events to see what the financial implications are of having the events with paid for security if we cannot find another solution. • Consideration could be given to reduce the number of events that the council run, with the council not necessarily being the main organiser but a supporter of the events, with outside parties running them and the council make a financial contribution. If cut backs were made in this way, it would enable more resources to be put into the ones that remain under council control with more staffing and security, so that it doesn't fall onto Council Staff. • the events that the council do run are well received by the community, cancelling events will send out the wrong signals • Some councillors cannot participate which is acceptable. It is wrong to continue assuming that 15 Councillors can be the only people that volunteer for the events. • There is sufficient money in the budget to provide these events. We can look at the financial consequences of any new laws that come in when it happens. • There is only enough money in the budget to continue with the events the way they have been run in the past. • Changes that require extra paid stewards and security has not been allowed for in the budget and it is quite clear that the events cannot continue to be run in the same way as they have been in the past with insufficient volunteers. • The Council does not want to stop events from happening but it does need to look at the resources required to run the events. • The Council should be looking at the cost of the events, whether they can be done in a different way, how the cost can be managed, how the staffing resource can be managed and looking forward so that the events can remain successful. • We do not know the implications of the new legislation. We should just ensure that we have contingency plans in place when we have more detail. • The council need to consider if they will be changing the way in which they participate in the Christmas in Snodland Event. The councils
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1153	<p>responsibility is the turning on of the lights. The rest of the event is Scout led, with Santa's Grotto being an addition run by volunteers, however there are no volunteers that help, so it falls on Council Staff. If the event continues in the same format a new venue needs to be considered as standing outside for 9 hours without a break is not sustainable. There may also be alternative option to split the market and the light switch on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the years many events that have been in place including the boundary walk, 5k, 5 a side tournament, Carnival parade have been stopped and and we are still considering stopping more which would be a great shame for the community. • Engage with the community and get a volunteer database in place. It was noted that this has already been tried via the Council newsletter with very little response or take up. This can be reconsidered however this also takes a lot of staff resource to set this up and keep it up to date. • A Volunteer outreach event was suggested from the library 1 day a month. • Write to the groups/clubs/schools to see if they can offer more assistance and engage. • A council run stall at the Carnival which shows what we do as a council, what we've done in the past year, what we are responsible for and we can ask for volunteers at the same time. • Look at getting an external company to help run the firework event. • Talk to other councils to see how they run their events and how they are dealing with the new bill. • Consider the number of lights that the council provide without any contribution from the retail units. • There are a number of community groups that are having their own events which then has an affect on the number of volunteers available for the council events. • The event meetings are not frequent enough and there are not sufficient volunteers to ensure that actions are carried out in a timely manor. Many of the attendees at the events meeting are there for the benefit of their own groups. Councillors committed to attend the next meeting on 20 Fenruary 2024. • Concerns were raised about the time span left to get staging and acts for the carnival. • There is not a comprehensive list of community groups in Snodland. • Before a letter can be sent requesting assistance, they want to know what is required of them. <p>RESOLVED To accept the commitment of time from Cllr Mrs Ayers and Mrs Barker to spend some time in the office to look at the resources required for events and to reach out to outside clubs and organisations for assistance.</p>
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	<p>RECOMMEND To compile a checklist for councillors to ascertain what events councillors are able and prepared to commit to attending. Following a review of the list, if there are not sufficient volunteers to carry of the event in a way that meets current Health and Safety requirements and working time for staff. That additional paid stewards/security are recruited.</p> <p>Standing orders were re-instated.</p>
7.	<p><u>To Consider quotation for the repairs to the stain glass panels and installation of polycarbonate sheets at the Cemetery Chapel</u></p> <p>Due to the specialist nature of the repairs only one quote has been received.</p> <p>1154 RESOLVED to accept the quote of £3521.30 for the repairs and installation of polycarbonate sheets at the Cemetery Chapel. Ensure that the polycarbonate is non yellowing.</p>
8.	<p><u>To consider renewal quotes for the 3g maintenance</u></p> <p>Two quotes have been received which both appear to be offering the same service, however the difference in the costs are quite significant.</p> <p>1155 RESOLVED to allow the CEO to discuss both quotes for the 3g maintenance with both companies to ascertain the significant difference and accept the quote that offers the best service.</p> <p>An audit has also been carried out by the existing maintenance company, which has recommended an infill of rubber crumb to increase existing infill levels by 2-3mm across the 3g surface.</p> <p>1156 RESOLVED to obtain a second quote for the infill of rubber crumb on the 3g and accept the quote that offers the best service.</p>
9.	<p><u>To consider options relating to Brooklands Lake Car Park</u></p> <p>A report (copy on file) was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting which detailed problems and options relating to the security at Brooklands Lake.</p> <p>1157 RESOLVED To keep Brooklands Lake car park opening and closing times of 8am to 4pm daily at the present time and review in April.</p> <p>1158 RESOLVED To approach the two companies who have registered an interest in running Brooklands Lake car park to put forward a proposal of what they are offering.</p>
10.	<p><u>To agree to new Snodland entrance Signs</u></p> <p>The existing signs at the entrances to Snodland are looking very tired and delaminating.</p> <p>Comments were made that the brick pillars need some coping stones replaced at the top. The CEO will source the replacement bricks for repair.</p> <p>1159 RESOLVED to replace the entrance signs into Snodland.</p>

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11.	<p><u>To discuss Youth engagement in Snodland.</u></p> <p>A report (copy on file) was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting which detailed the Salus Youth Centre closure. The CEO also advised that she had received two email enquiries from residents who would be interested in becoming involved with Youth engagement. Cllrs Mrs Barker and Miss Lawrence, together with Cllr Mrs Bell who was not in attendance volunteered to become involved with future Youth Engagement. The CEO will email Salus and the two residents to set up a meeting.</p>
	<p><u>To receive an update relating to the resurfacing proposals for the Cemetery and to consider additional kerbstone space.</u></p> <p>The CEO updated the committee regarding the resurfacing proposals for the cemetery. The area that is being looked at for resurfacing is around the North and South Islands, however there are significant tree roots that are causing issues. The CEO is in discussion with a contractor who is currently looking at options that can be used in the area.</p> <p>The CEO advised that there are only 3 kerbstones left to purchase in the Cemetery. The Committee considered the options available to place more kerbstones and the following areas were considered -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) South west next to the existing rose garden on the Lawn Section – This would then limit the space for burials on the Lawn Section. Not a viable option. 2) A second row in North and South Section behind the existing rows. 3) Along the eastern boundary behind the existing row. <p>Options 2 and 3 were considered as viable option.</p> <p>RECOMMEND to order new kerbstones to be funded from the general reserve budget and to consult with the Maintenance staff to gain feedback on which area they considered to be the better from a Maintenance view point.</p>
12.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:08