

## Snodland Town Council – Full Council Minutes

5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Councillors in attendance:	Cllrs D Lettington (C), Mrs S Bell (VC), A Bennison, Mrs D Crook, P Hickmott, G Miners, S Loader, Mrs N Misy, Ms D King
Other Council Members in Attendance:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO) Mrs K Miners
Others in Attendance	County Cllr Mrs S Hohler, Acting Inspector Turtle (Kent Police) and Sgt Dyson (Kent Police)
Councillors Absent with apologies:	W Mallard, Mrs V Lawrence-Rose, D Morgan
Councillors Absent without apologies:	Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf (DVC), Mrs J Ayers,
Other Apologies:	

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>See above.</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of interests</u></p> <p>Cllr Lettington – Agenda Item 11</p>
3.	<p><u>Report from the Neighbourhood Police Team</u></p> <p>The Council members had received an E-Watch report prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The police reported on Halloween-related concerns and anti-social behavior (ASB) in Snodland and Kings Hill, addressing key incidents and their response:</p> <p>Key Incidents Reported: Snodland:</p> <p>Roberts Road: 4 youths throwing eggs. Lee Road: 30 youths smashing vehicles. Dominos: Fireworks involving a group of 20 youths. Malling Road and Saltings Road: Additional reports. Kings Hill: Similar issues occurred.</p> <p>Response and Challenges: A dispersal order was in place with extra police staffing. Challenges include the time/resources required to enforce dispersal orders, particularly for younger offenders who must be taken home. Older individuals can be barred from returning for 24 hours, with arrests made if they do. Police actions: Focused on using a common-sense approach and prioritizing hotspot zones like Snodland. Funding: A bid for additional funding for Snodland has been authorised to increase police presence and deter future incidents. Youth Activity: Approximately 150 youths were in Snodland, including some from out of the area.</p>

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1340	<p>Identifying individuals was difficult due to costumes and mobility when police were present. Investigations are ongoing regarding vehicle damage, with one suspect identified but no arrests in Snodland (one arrest occurred in Kings Hill).</p> <p>Support and Recommendations:</p> <p>Police confirmed they accept evidence such as ring doorbell footage and rely on mobile phone and camera data.</p> <p>Firework Night: Police presence was planned, with efforts to prevent ASB, particularly around hotspots like the Coop store.</p> <p>Encouragement for the community to report incidents online or via 999 for emergencies.</p> <p>Collaboration:</p> <p>Discussions with local schools (e.g., Holmesdale) to address criminal damage and ASB.</p> <p>Engagement with Arriva regarding bus services, awaiting updates.</p> <p>Plans for the community hub to improve coordination between police and residents.</p> <p>The CEO advised the Council of an email that had been received giving the Council an opportunity to attend a community meeting regarding the ASB along with other agencies. Copied in KCC, Community Warden leader and Police. The meeting is n Thursday 7 November 2024.</p> <p>The CEO advised the Council that she had been made aware that no other agencies could attend the meeting due to the short notice.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> the Chairman would write a statement to put on social media and the council's website clarifying the points raised at this evenings council meeting and that the Town Council are happy to facilitate a meeting in the future with other outside agencies if required.</p>
4.	<p><u>County Councillor's Report</u></p> <p>Councillor Mrs Hohler reported on the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like a copy of the details regarding the community meeting on Thursday.</li> <li>• Bluewater security asked people to leave if dressed in Halloween costumes.</li> <li>• With many pensioners missing out on fuel payment, there is household support funding, Visit Kent together website for more details.</li> <li>• News and features on the Kent website is the best website to view what you are entitled to.</li> <li>• Budget – KCC cutting staff and cutting top ranks. Fewer staff who will be chosen over their capability rather than capacity.</li> <li>• People going abroad problems with boarder control and new systems on tunnels/ferries. A nation/international issue.</li> <li>• Community Wardens following extensive consultation number of wardens has been cut to 2 per district. Surprised Snodland was missed out? Thinks this is wrong and proves that Snodland needs more help. You can get a community warden but you will have to pay.</li> </ul>

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	<p>Cllrs raised the following concerns –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maidstone are getting 4.5 wardens, not in proportion.</li> <li>• There were 150 youths here on Halloween, we have a demand for having a community warden here. Seems we are forgotten.</li> <li>• Not impressed with the way KCC have worked their figures out. We have been short changed. Our warden is going to Barming, and they haven't had a warden before.</li> <li>• We have the need here, we can't afford to lose our community warden.</li> <li>• Don't agree with the figures, why would you want to send our warden to Barming, this town needs our support.</li> <li>• We are very upset about it. We will continue to contact KCC Officer, do not agree with criteria and figures need looking at.</li> <li>• Wardens have been looking after vulnerable older people, not naughty teenagers.</li> <li>• Couldn't believe that this had happened.</li> <li>• Statistics, discussed at Policy and finance meeting. KCC was completely opaque, nothing stated on how they came by data. If you look at vulnerability, unemployment and additional needs in Snodland, it is extremely high.</li> <li>• Hard to understand that we are the most in need, and all resources have been withdrawn and placed in areas that have less need. We would be grateful for Cllr Mrs Hohler to take this on.</li> </ul> <p>The Councillors re-iterated that they will be writing a letter to KCC, to request information in the first instance.</p>	
5.	<u>Questions from the Public</u>	
	None	
6.	<u>To resolve the Minutes of the Full Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 (pp64 - 68) are a correct record.</u>	
1341	<b>RESOLVED</b> to accept that the minutes are a true record of the Full Council held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024	
	Signed .....	
7.	<u>To receive reports and recommendations of Council Committees</u>	
7.1	<u>Planning and Environment</u>	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 (pp 69-70)
	Cllr Mrs Bell advised that she had received general information regarding HMO (houses of multiple occupancy) where potential impact of parking and waste facilities are not taking into consideration when considering the HMO license. There are no statutory consultees as part of the HMO licensing process.	

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7.2	<u>Amenities and Recreation</u>	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 (pp71-76)
1342	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the quote from Safeplay for all three areas. Nevill Park - Board Rider £12836.00. Nevill Park – Snake Swing. Safeplay £8530.00 (using Robinia equipment). Recreation Ground – Air Rider Safeplay £4271.00 (using Swing Air Rider)</p> <p>This equipment cannot be installed until the Spring due to ground surface conditions.</p>	
7.3	<u>Policy and Finance</u>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 (pp77-81)
8.	<p><u>Reports from Borough Councillors</u></p> <p>Cllr Mrs Bell advised that Enforcement officers went out to Roberts Road and have been around the town. Couldn't go to St Katherines as need Police for presence there.</p> <p>Cllr Hickmott advised that TMBC are taking on 2 extra wardens, will work till 9pm and perhaps some weekend work. The local plan is still going through the system. Leaders meeting next week, so maybe more information then.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Town Councillors items to be brought to the attention of the Council</u></p> <p>Litter pick carried out at the Recreation Ground Sunday 3 November 2024 – Cllrs Hickmott, Bennison, Miners and Mrs Crook attended.</p>	
10.	<p><u>To receive details of Payments and transfers from 26 September 2024 to 28 October 2024 from Unity Bank totaling £102780.65 and Nat West Bank totaling £150057.36 which includes BACS Payment lists pages 1876-1878, 1884, 1889-1991</u></p>	
1343	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> to accept details of Payments and transfers from 26 September 2024 to 28 October 2024 from Unity Bank totaling £102780.65 and Nat West Bank totaling £150057.36 which includes BACS Payment lists pages 1876-1878, 1884, 1889-1991</p>	
11.	<p><u>To consider costs relating to the fencing at Willowside.</u></p> <p>The Committee received a report relating to costs of fencing at Willowside. The CEO advised that two different heights of fencing had been requested by a councillor. Following discussion it was agreed that the lower height would look nicer as Willowside is a nice park to see, and didn't need to be hidden behind a higher fence.</p> <p>The Community Payback team will be asked to clear the foliage in the area prior to the fencing being installed.</p> <p>Three quotes were received Quote A: 1200mm high - £5611.60 1500mm high - £6462.23 Quote B: 1500mm high - £9152.98 Quote C: 1200mm high - £6240 1500mm high - £7640</p>	



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Insurer	Policy	2023	2024
Q Underwriting	Commercial Combined	£14,858.79	£14,634.75
Aviva	Computer	£408.80	£433.33
Victor Insurance	Unoccupied Property	N/A	£713.28
CFC Underwriting	Cyber	£1,874.80	£1,886.00
	TOTAL	£17,142.39	£17,667.36

In relation to the unoccupied premises, there is a stipulation that electrics and water need to be switched off during winter months, however this is not feasible due to the Fishery needing water and electric and the intruder alarm needing electric. Therefore, the policy will exclude flood damage, however the property can be inspected on a regular basis to check for any burst pipes. The unoccupied insurance would be prorated if the premises were to become occupied. Queries were raised on whether there would be an additional charge on the combined insurance once the premises were re-occupied. The CEO advised that it was likely that there would be an additional charge upon re-occupation.

**1347 RESOLVED** to accept the insurance renewal based on the separate policy for unoccupied premises, Commercial Combined, Computer and Cyber Insurance at a total cost of £17667.36. It was noted that there may be an additional charge, and the unoccupied charge would be prorated upon re-occupation.

15. Report from the Chief Executive Officer

The CEO reported on the following –

Mr Streatfields 70<sup>th</sup> and Mrs Streatfield retirement celebrations.  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November between 5-10pm in the MG Suite. Good if councillors could attend.

Network meeting of Community Hub – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 1pm Councillors welcome.

Attended Tarmac plant quarterly meeting – no concerns raised, they have no night work scheduled.

Fireworks – tomorrow night (6<sup>th</sup> November) attend at 6pm for 7.30pm start. Army cadets will be present with collection buckets. Hopefully Councillors can patrol the field being vigilant.  
Cllrs Hickmott and Bennison are on road closures.

Remembrance Parace, 2.30pm (10<sup>th</sup> November) from Holmesdale if walking in parade. Thank you to Councillors doing road closures, all should have received letters and are welcome to join the parade afterwards.

There has been a post on social media regarding parking on the pavement outside of the barbers at the crossroads. The owner has commented and apologised and will

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	<p>not park there in future.</p> <p>Caretaker of 3g is retiring and a short-term solution needs to be found, whilst we investigate the long term solution with a key pad and lighting.</p> <p>Cllrs Miners and Loader offered to help with the locking up.</p> <p>Delays with the Gas supply at Cemetery due to legal issues, however these have now been resolved so hope to move forward.</p>
16.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None</p>

being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:50.