

Snodland Town Council – Full Council Minutes

13th August 2024

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

1.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> See above.
2.	<u>Declaration of interests</u> None
3.	<u>Report from the Neighbourhood Police Team</u> The Council members had received an E-Watch report prior to the meeting.
4.	<u>County Councillor's Report</u> Councillor Mrs Hohler reported on the following - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding the building of more houses which means more traffic. Concerns over infrastructure i.e. not enough schools. • Due to rate of births has gone down. There is enough cover for special needs children. • Attended a meeting at Birling regarding the golf course, which was interesting. • Concerns regarding the road from Snodland to Birling from residents of Sandy Lane. A lot of research has been conducted, the speed is well within 30mph the whole way, KCC can make the road as safe as possible with signs and vegetation cut back properly. This needs to be added to STC Highway Improvement Plan, and there may be some Member funding available for the works. • Delighted to give STC some money from member grant for Christmas. • 8 country parks – green flags • Hubs – young children and parents needing help, learning more is good • Film officers – making money for Kent. • Speeding fines by Kent police gone up by 40% • Mobile fixed cameras 73, 000 speeding fines received. • Train Station parking – automatic checking of vehicle registration, you will need to sign in online – 23 car parks will be getting these. App will be from 28th August.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural task force – recovered property worth 2 million this year and returned them to owners, arresting 20 suspects. • Within the last 2 months of June and July A & E saw 4.6 million in 2 departments with NHS complete treatments. • Secas response time for Cat 1 was 8 minutes and 43 minutes for Cat 2 patients. <p>Questions put to County Councillor: Cllr – Labour devolution Response - I haven't been involved in these discussions.</p> <p>Cllr - Parking on app – we get a lot of elderly that cannot work an app. We know the council likely find this simpler but older generation cannot handle this and are excluded. Response - It is the railway that decides regarding the car parking. This app is to do with the car parking. It is not KCC.</p> <p>Cllr - If we are having houses build on green belt land, why aren't we asked where the houses can go. Response - I am on rural partnership, interesting scheme if you live in a rural village and have places that you could put some houses, you will have to consult with the community and would say who you would like to live there. We think that it is very important for communities to decide this.</p> <p>Cllr – Thank you for the repaving of the roads in Pout Road. Cllr - KCC adopting highways on new estates Holborough Lakes is half owned by Berkeley Homes. There are even places in Snodland that haven't been adopted. Response – I have been hearing that KCC are not adopting roads, understood that they needed to be up to standard and developer had to pay for the privilege. There are some areas that have not been adopted.</p> <p>Cllr – not in favour of concreting over green fields, in Medway Valley there are more than enough developments. If we are having houses, we should be looking after those that can't afford to buy a house.</p> <p>Cllr - Is there any service/advisory service to help older people come into modern life. Adapting to modern technology. Recognition of services. Response - KCC do help, and you can go to the library and gain help.</p> <p>Cllr - M20, operation Brock and how this is affecting local residents. Why is this in place. Response - Partly as things take longer at the border, they put Brock in place for holiday time.</p>
5.	<p><u>Questions from the Public</u></p> <p>None.</p>

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6. 1278	<p><u>To resolve the Minutes of the Full Council held on 11 July 2024 (pp100-103) are a correct record.</u></p> <p>RESOLVED to accept that the minutes are a true record of the Full Council held on 11th July 2024</p> <p>Signed</p>	
7.	<p><u>To receive reports and recommendations of Council Committees</u></p>	
7.1	Planning and Environment	25 th July 2024 (pp104-105)
7.2	Amenities and Recreation	1 st August 2024 (pp105-110)
	<p>Item 5 - recommendation to discuss litter picking at full council as not many people offering to do them.</p> <p>Councillors raised the following during discussions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 15 members on council, and only see 2 or 3 to help with the litter pick. They are valuable and do a good job. Local residents come to help and we need to support them. • They are a good thing, and people comment on them. • Consider further promotion of the litter picks to the events committee. • Many Councillors litter pick in their own time and on their own, could be why other people are not taking it up. • Another way to promote litter picking is when going out on your own. • The dates always fall on weekends when some Councillors are working. • A lot of Councillors assist with other council activities at other times. • Is it worth offering afternoons, or weekdays, offering a variety. • Potentially offer to work with scouts, beavers and youth groups. • Proposal for amending the schedule. Happy to work on how we can grow and encourage more people as a council body for litter picks. • To promote on Facebook. We need to highlight how litter is damaging the environment and wildlife. • No one should feel under pressure, all is voluntary. • Schedule, we have in place – to stick to. <p>ACTIONS: Cllr Ayres and Cllr Hickmott to amend the schedule for next year, for 2025 for better times, and approaching other organisations i.e. scouts etc.</p> <p>Item 9 – request council volunteers for allotments inspections. There will be 4 inspections a year, staff will cover 2 and Councillors to cover the other 2 inspections.</p> <p>Sloughfields is 2 hours</p>	

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1279	<p>Birling lands – 1 hours</p> <p>Volunteers: Cllr Lettington Cllr Crook Cllr Mordecai-Woolf Cllr Hickmott Cllr Bennison Cllr Loader</p> <p>Cllr Miners offered to assist with the first inspections to show Councillors what is required.</p> <p>Item 10.2 Correspondence relating to Byelaws for Woodlands Lake. The CEO has received a response from KALC regarding the legalities for byelaws for Woodlands Lake. They responded saying as it is a private lake it does not fall under the Councils responsibility.</p> <p>RESOLVED to contact the resident advising him that as Woodlands Lake is privately owned it does not fall under the remit of the council.</p>	
7.3	Policy and Finance	8 th August 2024 (pp111-113)
1280	<p>Item 7 – recommendation for Cemetery works – to re-ask contractors on specific quotes. The CEO advised that no response has been received yet. The Committee discussed the option to allow the CEO and Cllr Miners to agree the revised quotes under delegated authority and notify Chairman of Policy and Finance of the decision.</p> <p>RESOLVED to allow CEO and Cllr Miners to agree the revised quotes for the Cemetery works under delegated authority and notify Chairman of Policy and Finance of the decision.</p>	
1281	<p>Item 10 - Recommendation for Museum roof works asking for comparison quotes, which have not been received. The Committee discussed the option to allow the CEO and Cllr Miners to agree the revised quotes under delegated authority and notify Chairman of Policy and Finance of the decision</p> <p>RESOLVED to allow CEO and Cllr Miners to agree the revised quotes for the Museum roof works under delegated authority and notify Chairman of Policy and Finance of the decision.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Reports from Borough Councillors</u></p> <p>Cllr Hickmott – new Local Plan due to be submitted to the inspector has been pulled due to election. They are looking at details of what will be going into a new policy planning framework. Waiting for a reply. Biodiversity course completed.</p> <p>Cllr Bennison – Biodiversity course completed.</p>	

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	Cllr Mrs Bell – short course on biodiversity, online course.
9.	<p><u>Town Councillors items to be brought to the attention of the Council</u></p> <p>Cllr Loader – Have contacted Birling Council regarding Oast Park, they are proposing a meeting, does anyone else want to attend 20th August. Networking and to discuss Oast Park.</p> <p>It was suggested that September would be better.</p> <p>Action: CEO to re-arrange new date with interested Councillors and Birling Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Miners – Brooklands Café project – there was a good turn out with councilors and looking forward to doing other little projects that councilors like to do.</p> <p>Cllr Crook – did Brooklands Café project and litter pick.</p>
10.	<p><u>To receive details of Payments and transfers from 4 July 2024 to 6 August 2024 from Unity Bank totaling £2549.84 and Nat West Bank totaling £58986.26 which includes BACS Payment lists pages 1829-1832,1838-1839, 1843-1844.</u></p>
1282	<p>RESOLVED to accept details of Payments and transfers from 4 July 2024 to 6 August 2024 from Unity Bank totaling £2549.84 and Nat West Bank totaling £58986.26 which includes BACS Payment lists pages 1829-1832,1838-1839, 1843-1844.</p>
11.	<p><u>To receive an update regarding Health and Safety for the Christmas Lantern Festival together with updates on funding requirements.</u></p> <p>As Cllr Mrs Hohler advised, she has donated £3000 to the Christmas lantern festival, thank you to Cllr Bell for completing application. The Christmas in Snodland committee has agreed £2000 of their finances.</p> <p>The CEO sent an email to Cohesion Plus, regarding half day workshops to go in the schools, asking if we can condense the workshops back and is awaiting confirmation. The cost could be £4350 if they agree to the reduced workshops, which would mean we would have enough money from the grants but need to confirm figures.</p> <p>The CEO, Cllr Bell and Cllr Miners considered the crowd risk in the High Street, and it would be ideal to close both sides of the High Street to Constitution Hill. Past the COOP and down across where Santa is normally placed outside the library. The parade and crowds can then spread out. Santa can come along the Malling Road and stop at crossroads, making it a much larger area.</p> <p>We will need more Marshalls.</p>

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1283	RESOLVED to go ahead with the Christmas Lantern Parade and work with Cohesion plus and the schools. Confirmation of the cost will be submitted at a later meeting with the Town Council making a contribution from general reserves if required.
12.	<p><u>Report from the Chief Executive Officer</u></p> <p>Photos of the Recreation ground was shown to Cllr regarding recent Groundman work. Residents asked for the overgrowth and ivy to be cut. This work was completed in half a day.</p> <p>Cllrs – Please formerly send thanks to groundmen to show our appreciation.</p> <p>Currently in talks with access sports and Snodland Community Cycleworks for funding to tarmac the learn to ride area and start bank at the pump track. There may be a possibility of £10,000 funding.</p> <p>Funding received from 106 funding – £20,366,22 from community centre and £13577.47 for New Potyns.</p> <p>Meeting with Snodland football club, opening event for the new stand on Tuesday 24th September and to invite all councilors. Awaiting further details.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Lawrence-Rose, myself and Trudi, are working on our new website, we need 2 photos of Cllr's left before we can add them.</p> <p>What do we want to put around the new container at the Pump Track? Screening around the new container or shrubbery to soften it. Suggestion of graffiti wall on the container?</p> <p>ACTION to consider screening with shrubbery to soften.</p> <p>Probation Service – we are going to start working with them. We have a long list of things to help.</p> <p>Karen M and I went to Open Door last week, had a long chat about Community Hub and ideas about how this can evolve. We have a meeting on Thursday at East Malling, we are Networking with a number of different groups.</p> <p>The CEO advised that the solicitor is working on the deed of easement for the laying of the gas main up to the Cemetery Lodge.</p>
13.	<p><u>Setting up of Councillor Email Addresses</u></p> <p>All Cllr's have a deadline to complete the setting up of their new email addresses which will be next Full Council 3rd October. Councillors were advised that they can come to the office if they require assistance with this.</p>
14.	<u>Correspondence</u>

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	None
<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>	
15.	<u>To consider recommendations from the staffing committee.</u>
1284	RESOLVED to accept the recommendations put forward by the Staffing committee in relation to completion of staff probation period, increased hours and increment increase.

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