

## Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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

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| 1. | <p><b><u>Apologies for absence</u></b></p> <p>see above</p>   |
| 2. | <p><b><u>Declaration of Interests</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Miners Agenda Item 7 – Chess Club</p>   |
| 3. | <p><b><u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were agreed as a true record.</p>  |
| 4. | <p><b><u>Questions from the Public</u></b></p> <p><i>Pursuant to Standing Order 3 e &amp; 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>   |
| 5. | <p><b><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></b></p> <p>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at Willowside, Cllrs Hickmott and Miners can attend.<br/>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December – new fencing to be erected. Please can the rubbish be concentrated in these areas for the litter pick.</p>  |
| 6. | <p><b><u>To receive a report on information obtained relating to Ponds on the allotments.</u></b></p> <p>The Committee considered the report relating to the ponds on the allotments (full copy of the report is on file). with the following comments made -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little ponds are sensible with mesh over the top.</li> <li>• Don't think a float will stop it freezing, it is purely down to depth.</li> <li>• Netting over pond is a big mistake, it will not stop anything. Some of the grills are a more sensible idea.</li> <li>• Think ponds should be kept to a certain size.</li> <li>• Are we going to go with recommendations from the report of having them fenced.</li> </ul> |

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28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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| 1348 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do allotment holders need own insurance through National Allotment Society.</li> </ul> <p>A Councillor showed the member of the public the report that the council were referring to.</p> <p>Member of public explained that they could put something in the bottom to reduce the depth and rocks at the sides to reduce overall size and put a mesh over the top.</p> <p>Following discussion the following recommendations were put forward and resolutions made, which will be added to the Allotment Policy</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual warning signs on each plot where ponds are situation, at Allotment holders expense.</li> <li>Signs on the main gates into the allotment warning that ponds are on site, at council expense.</li> <li>Allotment holders with ponds must provide their own liability insurance through the Allotment Society. They need to follow the criteria laid down by the insurance company with regards to fencing requirements around the pond.</li> <li>The Allotment holder must provide a copy of the valid insurance policy and specific guidelines relating to fencing to the council.</li> <li>Failure to provide a copy of the insurance policy will result in a request to fill in the pond and failure to adhere to this request will result in the termination of the tenancy agreement.</li> <li>Wire mesh/metal grill - on top or 15cm under under the water line of the pond.</li> <li>New pond size of 1.5 metre round/square with a depth of no greater than 30cm.</li> </ul> |
| 7.   | <p><b><u>To agree new charges relating to Council Amenities 2025/26</u></b></p> <p>The Committee received a report on the new charges for the Council amenities which have been increased in line with RPI (copy on file). A discussion took place regarding the revision of charges for the Cricket Club and Chess club use of the Pavilion as requested in last years budget.</p> <p><b>1349 RESOLVED</b> to increase the Cricket Club rent to £1000 per year and to include a clause in there licence relating to the cleaning of the showers after each match and a deep clean at the end of the season with additional charges for non compliance.</p> <p><b>1350 RESOLVED</b> to increase the Chess Club rent to £368 per year and advise the Chess Club of a further increase to £460 per year for the following year. A £10 fine will also be incurred should security system not be activated.</p> <p><b>1351 RESOLVED</b> to accept the remainder of the Amenity charges for 2025/26 in line with RPI with effect from April 2025.</p>   |

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28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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| 8.  | <p><b><u>To agree new Cemetery Charges for 2025/26</u></b></p> <p>The committee considered the report for the Cemetery charges for 2025/26 (copy on file). In line with the Policy decision set in 2023/24 to increase the cemetery prices either inline with RPI or by 10% whichever is greater.</p> <p><b>1352</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to increase the cemetery fees by 10% for 2025/26 with effect from April 2025.</p>   |
|     | <p><b>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</b></p>  |
| 9.  | <p><b><u>To consider a proposal relating to maintenance of the football pitches</u></b></p> <p>The committee considered the report relating to the proposal relating to the maintenance of the football pitches on New Potyns (a full copy of the report is available of file).</p> <p>The following comments were made -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agreement will only be entered into if the Football club are able to obtain FA funding for the pitch maintenance.</li> <li>• 106 agreement needs to be checked to clarify the use of New Potyns.</li> <li>• New Potyns has been locked for many years to protect the playing fields for sports use.</li> <li>• Pitches are in a very poor condition and the Council are unable to apply for the FA funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b> To agree to the proposal for the Football club to take over the maintenance of the pitches for a three year period subject to them obtaining FA funding for the pitch maintenance, on the proviso that the 106 agreement is checked to clarify the use of New Potyns.</p> |
| 10. | <p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <p>NONE</p>  |

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:43