

## Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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

1.	<u>Apologies for absence</u>  see above
2.	<u>Declaration of Interests</u>  None
3.	<u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025</u>  The minutes of the meeting held on the 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2025 were agreed as a true record.
4.	<u>Questions from the Public</u>  <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>
5.	<u>To receive a report relating to Snodland Allotments</u>  A discussion took place regarding the large amounts of cement fibre board at Sloughfields allotment. Allotment holder intends to use the material for various structures (tool storage, chicken coop, toilet). Concerns raised over its appropriateness and potential to set a precedent. Future disposal would be costly for the council. Previous distribution of the material contradicts tenancy rules. It has been 4 weeks since the councillors meeting with the allotment holder and no correspondence has been received regarding the intended plan for the cement fibre board.  <b>1374</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> A letter to be sent to the allotment holder advising that one structure can be built, using the cement fibre board as a roof only. The walls need to be timber and all of the remaining cement fibre board including any used for soil retaining needs to be removed. Date for removal by June 2025 Inspections.

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1375	<p>Cllr commented on information that he had sent to the CEO from Defra about chickens and the bird flu what has happened with this? CEO advised that a letter has been written and sent to allotment holders with chickens.</p> <p>The report regarding The Mens Mind project no longer requires discussion as the group has now given up their allotment.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding the unfilled pond, that needs be completed.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to send the allotment holder a further letter giving 21 days to fill the pond area, or the tenancy will be terminated.</p> <p><b>Councillor inspections:</b> Cllr Lettington and Cllr Morgan – Sloughfields Cllr Miners and Cllr Wakefield – Birling Lands</p>
6.  1376  1377  1378	<p><u>To receive a report on Snodland Events</u></p> <p>The suggested charity for the events donations was for Snodland Hub</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to accept Snodland Hub as the chosen charity for the Lights for Life donations.</p> <p><b>VE Day</b> – afternoon tea, singers, evening event at STFC for the lighting of the beacon. Memorabilia ordered. VE flag – a proposal was put forward to purchase 2 VE Day specific flags for the Council Office and Cemetery flag poles.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to purchase 2 VE flags at £20 each from RBLI.</p> <p>To invite community 70 years and those above. To reach out to those in the community that are not part of groups. Advertise on notice boards, libraries, GP surgeries.</p> <p><b>Snodland Fete</b> – Staging costs pending. Rock 'n' roll/country singer booked. Traditional fete planned with tombolas, competitions, food stalls, and face painting. Stall fees agreed.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> - to make the following charges for stalls at Snodland Fete - Information only stall – no charge Stall - £20 Charity food – £50 Commercial food - £100</p> <p><b>Fireworks</b> – all booked</p> <p><b>Remembrance</b> – sound system, is being provided free of charge.</p> <p><b>Christmas</b> – CEO held a meeting with Cohesion Plus who confirmed that they have held the date in their diary. They will make enquiries regarding a possible</p>

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	<p>Community workshop to engage with other groups to make lanterns. They also suggested that a suitable donation from the schools would be £150. Council Officers have appointments with school within the next 2 weeks to discuss school involvement with the lantern parade along with other community events.</p> <p>Clear indications to schools that they should use year 6 only children.</p> <p>One security quote has been received which appears competitive, however further discussions need to be held.</p> <p>Cllr Bell – will make enquiries to see if there is any funding that can be applied for.</p>
7.	<p><u>To receive an update on Snodland Hub</u></p> <p>The committee received a progress report (a copy is available on file).</p> <p>Following a site visit on 20 february 2025, unforeseen structural issues have been identified within the floor and wall structure with estimated additional costs of £15,000. Officer discussions with Clarion &amp; United Living are planned to ascertain who is responsible for the costs.</p> <p>Unexpected Expenses to date: Asbestos survey and sharps disposal.</p> <p>Promotion: Logo and leaflets in progress. Councillors reviewed drafts.</p> <p>Officer Site visit to East Grinstead Hub planned for reference.</p>
8.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></p> <p>The next litter pick will take place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 1030am</p> <p><b>Volunteers:</b>  Cllr Loader  Cllr Wakefield  Cllr Crook  Cllr Ayers  Cllr Miners  Cllr Hickmott</p>
9.	<p><u>Evaluate various projects and improvements at Potyns Sportsground</u></p> <p>The committee received a report of the potential project improvements at Potyns sportsground (a copy is available on file).</p> <p>A site meeting was carried out between councillors and users of the site, which proved positive.</p> <p>General agreement on plans. Car park and drainage to be completed in one phase for cost efficiency. Pathway for better access. Hoop fencing to deter bikers. Location of the new picnic benches. Tidying of the hedgegow and trees.</p> <p>Some discussion on sharing the cost with football and bowls was discussed, although the football club advised that they cannot get funding from FA, as STC do not lease the carpark to them</p>

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1379	<p>The CEO is working with a contractor to ascertain costings and will contact Tarmac to see if any contribution can be made as a community project. Drainage – a contact has been provided for Highways and when photos and site location of drains has been determine then enquiries will be made.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> Support for all projects at Potyns Sportsground which includes Car park and drainage to be completed in one phase for cost efficiency. Pathway for better access. Hoop fencing to deter bikers. Location of the new picnic benches. Tidying of the hedgegaw and trees. All subject to costings. To potentially use money from reserves if affordable.</p>
10.	<p><u>Discussion on the long-term vision for Snodland Museum, including current operations, future plans, and opportunities for improvement.</u></p> <p>The committee received a report on the museum, a copy if available on file.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding the museum. It's a valuable building with important historic values, but feel that it is not being used or maintained very well.</p> <p>Needs more focus and purpose of what it is for.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> to set up a meeting between the Museum representative, CEO, Chairman of Amenities and Recreation and one other to discuss Health and Safety concerns and to put a formal agreement in place with regards to responsibilities.</p>
11.  1380	<p><u>To consider and if agreed accept the pitch maintenance agreement for New Potyns</u></p> <p>The committee received a copy of the pitch maintenance agreement and report, a copy is available on file.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> To agree the the pitch maintenance agreement between Snodland Town Football Club and Snodland Council on behalf of the council for implementation with immediate effect. To allow the CEO to sign on behalf of the Council.</p>
12.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>An email has been received from the Scouts confirming their intention to accept the councils offer of the use of Brooklands Lake Pavilion. A further meeting has been arranged for Saturday 1 March 2025 at 2.30pm.</p> <p>A member of the public has commented on the work that is being carried out to clear the vegetaion at Ham Hill. The CEO advised that the work is progressing well and the next stage will be for the area to be cultivated There is an area where some Laurels have been planted by a resident which encroaches on the land and KCC have been advised. We await a decision from KCC on their plan of action regarding the encroachment.</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at **21.14**