

Snodland Town Council – Full Council Minutes

9 January 2025

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

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>See above.</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of interests</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.	<p><u>Questions from the Public</u></p> <p>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.</p>
4.	<p><u>To consider the Budget for 2025/26</u></p> <p>The CEO presented the draft budget report detailing changes made which are available to view from the copy available on file.</p> <p>Two options were presented for consideration -</p> <p>Option 1) to include the employment of a Community Warden – with employment starting in July with 6 months costs included in the budget and 3 months covered from general reserves. Or employment starting in April with 6 months costs included in the budget and 6 months covered from general reserves. Costs for training and equipment in both instances covered by general reserves. A Request has been sent to Clarion to see if they can offer any funding for the post.</p> <p>Option 2) Does not include the employment of a Community Warden.</p> <p>Option 1 would mean a precept increase on band D of £6.63. Quite an impact on budget.</p> <p>Option 2 would mean a precept increase on band D of £1.64</p> <p>Taking this into account this would increased the precept by 7.2% on a band D property from 87.08 to 93.71.</p> <p>Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council have sent in a last-minute request asking for funding for ASB officers, a copy of the report is available on file. No costs have been included in the budget for this request, although early indications would mean an additional cost on top of the above band D increase of £2.23 (this is based on the number of residents on the electoral role 8808)</p>

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	<p>The CEO has requested further information on how many incidents there were in Snodland and to compare this to other parishes.</p> <p>It was noted that we do have a second Police officer in post for Snodland, which could be of greater benefit.</p> <p>Further reductions which have been confirmed since the budget was produced which include a reduction in the council tax rates for the market. And the increase on the firework costs can be either kept the same as this year or increased by 3% not the 10% initially budgeted. If the firework budget remains the same the level of display will be reflected in this cost.</p> <p>The following proposals were put forward and resolved.</p>
1361	RESOLVED Anti-social behaviour officer - no contribution. Further information required.
1362	RESOLVED Fireworks to increase by 3%
1363	RESOLVED Fitness equipment £15000 commitment in principle with intention to spend from General Reserves, rather than add to the precept. It was noted that there may be grant funding available and the project would need to be ratified by full council once a complete evaluation had been carried out.
1364	<p>RESOLVED Community Warden – Opposed for the budget. We need to assess the need when the community hub is open. To be reviewed and reported back to the Council in 6 months.</p> <p>A point was raised regarding the CCLA investments that were considered at a previous meeting. The CEO advised that the investment policy had been ratified and therefore investment in the CCLA fund could now take place.</p> <p>A point was raised regarding the inclusion of the Speedwatch equipment and why the scheme needs 6 volunteers. The CEO advised that the equipment had been included in the budget and advised that the need for 6 volunteers was the minimum requirement set by Kent Police. She also advised that Cllr Loader had volunteered to be the speed watch coordinator.</p>
1365	RESOLVED to accept the draft budget of £349987 with a further reduction to show the amendments to be made to the Market rate reduction, reduction to 3% increase on fireworks and no community warden.
5.	<p><u>To receive an update relating to staffing matters</u></p> <p>Member of staff has returned to work following Paternity leave.</p>

being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.23.