

## Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

11 April 2024

Committee Members in attendance:	Cllrs Mrs D Crook (C), D Morgan , Mrs J Ayers, Mrs S Bell, A Bennison, P Hickmott and G Miners, Mr S Loader
Non Committee Members in attendance:	Cllrs Mrs V Barker, D Lettington
Committee Members Absent with apologies:	W Mallard
Committee Members Absent without apologies:	Mrs D King, Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf
Council Staff Present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Members of the public:	5 members of the public present

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>see above</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of Interests</u></p> <p>Cllr Barker – Agenda Item 6.</p>
3.	<p><u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were agreed as a true record.</p>
4.	<p><u>Questions from the Public</u></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> <p>Two Members of the Public spoke in relation to Agenda Item 7. As an Allotment holder requesting to build a pond on the allotment, measuring 3m x 3m, to enhance biodiversity and wildlife and to introduce fish if permitted. The idea has widespread support from fellow allotment holders. The allotment holder has already begun digging it out. The area has poor soil and elder tree roots, but it's in a semi-shaded spot at the far end of the allotment, away from foot traffic and will be fence it off for safety.</p> <p>Three members of the public spoke in relation to Agenda Item 6 –</p> <p>The allotment has had a positive impact on the mental health of participants from Men's Mind, a group aiming to engage men in activities beyond traditional meetings. Being outdoors, working on the allotment, has been particularly beneficial, fostering improvements in mental health and providing opportunities for social interaction and support. They have found it very helpful just to be able to take time out of the hustle and bustle of normal life and meet with the rest of the group that is non judgmental, friendly and nice. Having lived in the town for several years and not really getting out and about doing anything and now to be going out and doing the allotment makes a bit difference and really helped us and we really want to be able to help the community.</p>

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5.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that a new schedule of litter picks had been distributed. The next litter pick is scheduled for Sunday 5 May at 2pm at Nevill Park meeting at Saltings Road entrance and will be co-ordinated by Cllr Mrs Crook. Cllrs Hickmott and Miners will co-ordinate the truck and have requested that the litter pickers and hoops are kept in a box on the truck.</p>
6.	<p><u>To seek permission to advertising and run free sessions at Snodland Allotments for Men and women adults under All Rise Up CIC and Men’s Mind CIC.</u></p> <p>Standing orders were suspended</p> <p>Updates were shared about an allotment project, transitioning from informal to official status, with plans to merge it with All Rise Up community interest company focused on wellness. Discussion ensued regarding legal, logistical, and ethical concerns, particularly about the CIC's involvement, potential impacts on other allotment users, and maintaining the project's original focus on mental health support for men. The council proposed to continue with the Men's Mind project for the time being, pending further review and clarification of legalities, which will be reported at full council.</p>
7.	<p><u>To consider a request for the installation of a pond at Sloughfield</u></p> <p>The Council received notification regarding a significant excavation on an allotment at Sloughfields, prompting concerns regarding its nature and purpose. Upon contacting the allotment holder for clarification, it was revealed that the excavation was intended for the installation of a fenced-off nature pond.</p> <p>Councillors raised concerns about a pond being created on an allotment, focusing on its design and potential impacts. Allotment Holders explained the purpose, design, and benefits of the pond, including its potential for wildlife and plant growth. There were debates about the legality, precedent-setting, and liability of having a pond on the allotment.</p> <p>To motions were put forward –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To suspend work on the pond and seek legal advice.</li> <li>2) To instruct the allotment holder to fill in the hole that had already been dug for the pond.</li> </ol> <p><b>1206 RESOLVED</b> to instruct the allotment holder to fill in the hole at the allotment that had already been dug for the pond.</p> <p>The CEO advised the allotment holder that in accordance with the tenancy agreement, the Allotment holder had 21 days to reinstate the plot back to its original state.</p> <p>Standing orders were re-instated</p>
8.	<p><u>To consider quotations for entrance renovations at the Recreation Ground.</u></p> <p>The Committee considered the quotations for the Recreation Ground vehicle entrance on Recreation Avenue, which requires renovation to improve security</p>

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1207	<p>and functionality. The proposed plan includes installing new gates, pedestrian access points, railings, and removing existing fencing.</p> <p>Each of the three companies has a history of reliability and customer satisfaction, having previously carried out work for the council.</p> <p>Quoted proposals from three companies for the renovation are as follows:</p> <p>Quote A: £3,543.60 plus VAT  Quote B: £2,570.64 plus VAT  Quote C: £1,950.00 plus VAT</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to accept Quote C which offers the most economical option at £1,950.00. Costs to come from General Reserves, if insufficient in repairs and renewals.</p>
1208	<p>9. <u>To consider a request for the use of Potyns Sportsground for a community event by Tonbridge and Malling Youth Hub.</u></p> <p>The Tonbridge and Malling Youth Hub requested the use of Potyns sports ground for a community event. The CEO suggested integrating it with the carnival day, but the youth hub wanted to host their own event. The Committee raised concerns about the event's organisation and safety. The committee expressed reservations about scheduling conflicts and the already high usage of the pump track</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to decline the request for the Tonbridge and Malling Youth Hub the use of Potyns Sportsground and suggest they again consider collaborating with the town council at carnival day which is a successful day in July where the young people can still do something on a small scale on their own pitch.</p>
10.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None</p>

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