

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

26 October 2023

Committee Members in attendance:	Mrs D Crook (C), Mrs S Bell, A Bennison, P Hickmott, Ms D King and G Miners,
Non Committee Members in attendance:	
Committee Members Absent with apologies:	D Morgan, Mrs J Ayers, W Mallard
Committee Members Absent without apologies:	Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf
Council Staff Present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Members of the public:	12 Members of the Public Present

1.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> see above
2.	<u>Declaration of Interests</u> Cllr Miners Agenda Item 14 Cllr Hickmott - Agenda Item 13
3.	<u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2023</u> The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 th September 2023 were agreed as a true record.
4.	<u>Questions from the Public</u> <i>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</i> A member of the public made a complaint relating to damage to a baby grave at Snodland Cemetery. The complaint was regarding damage to the solar lights that had been put around a baby grave, they advised that they were not told of the rules and regulations relating to the cemetery when they buried their child. They felt that the number of lights that were damaged was beyond an accident and was vandalism. A member of the public spoke regarding the antisocial behaviour in and around the cricket meadow which has been ongoing for the last 2 years. The youths are throwing stones, conkers etc directly at the windows of residents that live in the High Street, from behind the hedge that runs along the Cricket Meadow adjacent to the High Street, they then duck out of sight and run off. This is causing the residents and their families a great deal of anxiety. The residents have requested that the hedge is cut back to the height of the fence that is within the hedge.
12.	<u>To receive updates relating to the Cemetery</u> The Chairman moved part of agenda item 12 forward to respond to the member of the publics complaint. Cllrs again apologised for what had happened at the cemetery, and was very sorry for the grieving relatives loss. Snodland Council do treat the Cemetery with great respect. Snodland Council do care about our residents, and are very

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<p>1113</p> <p>1114</p>	<p>upset about the situation and our heart goes out to the family. The light tribute was very touching and the fund raising was a great achievement. It was moved that the council replace the lights.</p> <p>Any other concerns and complaints that the member of the public has should be discussed with the CEO in a separate meeting, which another councillor offered to attend.</p> <p>The rules of the Cemetery are governed by Cemetery Guidance. The Policy Guidance is not given out straight away, as it would appear to be insensitive to give these out when a family is grieving. Some of the information relating to what is permitted on a grave is on the form which is signed. However this is not the case for a baby funeral as the procedures are different.</p> <p>RESOLVED to replace the broken lights on the baby grave at Snodland Cemetery.</p> <p>RESOLVED to send the resident relating to the Cemetery complaint a bouquet of flowers.</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>1115</p>	<p><u>To consider a request from a resident to reduce the height of the hedge in the Cricket Meadow to the same height as the fence, to deter anti-social behaviour.</u></p> <p>A Councillor moved that the hedge is cut down to the height of the fence and is trimmed back, so that it is not encroaching onto the path in the High Street. It was also moved that due to staff shortages at the moment due to sickness, the services of a contractor are taken out to carry out the work as soon as possible.</p> <p>A Councillor explained that the police are aware of the situation and have a special task force in place. A Councillor also re-iterated the need to report every incident to the police via 101 or 999 depending upon the severity of the incident. This will enable the Police to collate all of the information to assist with the problem solving profile that has been created.</p> <p>The CEO advised that enhanced CCTV is being looked at for the Cricket Meadow.</p> <p>A Councillor suggested liaising with South East Water to see if they would be interested in putting some lighting along their fence line.</p> <p>RESOLVED to cut the hedge in the Cricket Meadow and adjacent to the High Street to the height of the fence, to also trim back so that it does not encroach on the path. This work to be carried out by a contractor as soon as possible.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>To Receive a report and recommendations relating to Snodland Events</u></p> <p>The CEO reported on the events meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carnival 2024 a councillor has been looking at mobile staging units for the entertainment. • Snodland Fireworks on 8th November as many councillors as possible were requested to attend and assist. • Christmas in Snodland – Cllr Miners is liaising with the Wheel of Cuxton to see if the larger Sleigh is available as well as the smaller sleigh that is already booked. He will liaise with the CEO regarding the logistics if he is able to obtain the second sleigh. Cllr Miners is also liaising with

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	<p>the Lighting Engineer to set up a countdown to turn on the Christmas Lights manually. He has a number of volunteers who will man each lamppost in the High Street to enable this to take place.</p>
7.	<p><u>To receive a report and recommendations from the Allotment Committee</u></p> <p>Cllr Miners reported on the allotment Committee meeting and advised that the whole structure of the Committee needs to be reformed.</p> <p>There are currently no committee members on the allotment committee representing Birling Lands.</p> <p>It was felt that the inspections need to be taken back into the hands of the Council with 4 inspections carried out a year (quarterly). Allotment holders whose plots were not up to standard would receive a letter following the inspection and then if they haven't improved before the next inspection then their tenancy will be terminated. Currently inspections are carried out on an ad hoc basis and all the additional letter writing is very time consuming for the office staff and is causing bad feeling amongst the allotment holders.</p> <p>It was suggested that a member of the site staff carry out the inspection, they would need to have training to carry this out, Cllr Miners is happy to train the member of staff. It was suggested that Councillors could become more involved to show new perspective tenants around the allotment twice a month. However following discussion it was felt that this should remain part of the Allotment Committees roll.</p> <p>1116 RESOLVED to set up a meeting with a small number of Councillors to come up with a plan on how the changes relating to the allotment inspections will be implemented and then bring these back to council for approval.</p> <p>1117 RESOLVED to agree a charge of £10 if an allotment plot is not numbered. All numbers to be of a height of 6" and displayed on the shed door if they have one, if not on a greenhouse or water butt. This charge will be advised to all allotment holders and come into effect in one year.</p> <p>1118 RESOLVED Trees on the allotment need to be pruned to a height of 3 metres to meet the winter inspections and all future trees should be of a dwarf stock variety. This change will be advised to all allotment holders and come into effect in one year.</p> <p>1119 RESOLVED to monitor the the allotment plots along the edge of the Recreation Ground boundary. If allotment holders are happy in this area and take each plot on its own merit.</p>
8.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></p> <p>The committee received details of the next litter pick in the Recreation Ground on Sunday 5 November 2023 at 2pm to be co-ordinated by Cllr Hickmott, meet at Recreation Avenue entrance.</p>
9.	<p><u>To consider the security of the boundary at Potyns Sportsground.</u></p> <p>Councillors were concerned regarding the boundary at Potyns Sportsground, where children are cutting through the hedges and trees and running straight out into Paddlesworth Road.</p>

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1120	RESOLVED to obtain quotes for Pallatrade fencing along the edge of Potyns Sportsground.
10.	<u>To receive an update from TMBC regarding the installation of a natural physical barrier on the Green at St Benedicts Road.</u> The barrier has already been installed around the green with a gate on the corner of St Benedicts Road.
11.	<u>To consider quotes relating to play equipment and play inspections for Play areas.</u> The CEO advised that despite attempts, she has not received quotes for the repairs to the play equipment. Two companies have been approached, one has been out and looked at the repairs required but no quote has been received. The second Company would come out and carry out an inspection, and then quote for the repairs. The Committee discussed the need to try and resolve issues with play equipment repairs in a more timely manner.
1121	RESOLVED to accept the quote for Company two to carry out a play equipment inspection on a quarterly basis and to provide a quote to carry out the repairs.
1122	RESOLVED to allow the existing play equipment inspector to carry out the annual inspection. The annual inspection should be carried out in December.
12.	<u>To receive updates relating to the Cemetery continued</u> The Committee considered the new Cemetery policy document which incorporates rules and regulations.
1123	RESOLVED to adopt the new Cemetery Policy document incorporating rules and regulations. Following a recent spate of vandalism to the Cemetery Chapel where 3 of the leaded glass windows have been smashed. The whole window has to be removed, all of the lead taken out, and the small panes of glass have to be replaced. The costs involved will be very expensive.. Due to the level of vandalism in the area it was moved to cover all the windows in Perspex.
1124	RESOLVED to obtain quotes to cover the Cemetery Chapel windows in Perspex. CEO to speak to the architect who deals with the local churches, to get recommendations on what to use and where to source it.
13.	<u>To sign and seal the amended lease and Deed of Surrender relating to Snodland Town Football Club</u> The Committee considered the amended lease and Deed of Surrender relating to Snodland Town Football Club
1125	RESOLVED to sign and seal the lease and Deed of Surrender for Snodland Football Club
14.	<u>To receive a request for the Chess club to store a giant chess set at the Pavilion Café.</u> The Committee considered a request to store a giant chess set at the Pavilion Café. The CEO has met with the Chess Club and the Café tenant, who has

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1126	<p>agreed to clear an area for them to use.</p> <p>RESOLVED to allow the chess club to store a giant chess set at the Cricket Pavilion</p>
15.	<p>To consider taking part in the beacon lighting ceremony to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of DDay on 6 June 2024.</p> <p>There is a Beacon Brazier at Holly Hill, however not visible from Potyns Sportsground where most beacon lighting events take place. Consideration was given to build a new Beacon Brazier at Potyns however there were concerns regarding the permanent location.</p> <p>The existing portable Beacon would be put in Potyns Sportsground.</p> <p>The D-DAY 80 Anniversary on June 6, 2024. National fish and chip day has been moved to the same day as the DDay Anniversary to support this historic event. It was suggested that we have an informal event, where residents can enjoy a fish and chip supper at Potyns. It was suggested that this could be carried out in conjunction with Snodland Football Club and Snodland Community Centre. Both Bars could be open.</p> <p>1127 RESOLVED to light the beacon for the 80th Anniversary of DDay on 6 June 2024 and hold an informal Fish and Chip supper at Potyns.</p>
16.	Correspondence - None

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:10