

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation Minutes

7 September 2023

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

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>see above</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of Interests</u></p> <p>Cllr Miners – Agenda Item 12</p>
3.	<p><u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2023</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th July 2023 were agreed as a true record.</p>
4.	<p><u>Questions from the Public</u></p> <p><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></p>
5.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></p> <p>The litter pick due to be held on 3 September 2023 was cancelled as there was no volunteer to coordinate. The next litter pick is on Saturday 7 October 2023 at Nevill Park at 2pm, meet at Saltings Road entrance. Cllr Crook to co-ordinate. Litter pickers to be delivered and rubbish collected.</p> <p>A First Aid kit has been purchased and the CEO will look at revised costs for the truck insurance as renewal in November for all Councillors to be able to drive.</p>
6.	<p><u>To receive an update relating to the drainage at Sloughfields allotments following a response from Kent County Council Drainage division</u></p> <p>The committee received the response from KCC drainage, who have advised that we as riperean owners are responsible for the upkeep of the ditch into which the drain should flow. The recent heavy rain fall has meant that the allotment has again flooded. Cllr Hickmott will contact Southern Water to</p>

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	<p>discuss the matter with them and ask permission to connect up to their drainage system that runs along the edge of the allotment boundary.</p>
7.	<p><u>To receive the quarterly play inspection report and consider the best way to move forward with regards to play equipment repairs</u></p> <p>The committee considered the reports. It is taken a considerable amount of time to try and get some of the basic repairs carried out on the play equipment, due to the need to obtain 3 quotations.</p> <p>The existing inspection company do not offer a quote and repair service, this makes it difficult to obtain quotes from their reports.</p> <p>Cllr Miners has spoken to the Maintenance staff at EM&L parish council who use a company that inspects and fixes. It was suggested that we contact the company they use and ask them to come and re-inspect and quote for the repairs, which will come back to council for approval. This needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency as so much play equipment is out of use.</p> <p>Moving forward three quotes should be obtained for inspect and fix to ensure best value.</p> <p>It was suggested to contact the local parish council and ask if they have gone out for extra tenders or just used the one company.</p>
8.	<p><u>To receive suggestions following a visit by Councillors to the Recreation Ground in relation to locations for new play equipment</u></p> <p>Councillors have visited the recreation ground and believe that the existing areas are the most suitable locations for the play equipment.</p> <p>New play equipment should be considered at a later date once the existing equipment has been assessed and fixed where possible, and then design new equipment around our existing.</p>
9.	<p><u>To receive an update on the positions of the goals at the Recreation Ground and Willowside.</u></p> <p>The goals at Willowside have no wear and tear under the goals. The goals at the Recreation Ground are concreted in and it is not feasible to take them out and turn the around. It was suggested putting a wetpour circle around the goals to prevent future dipping in the surface . The goals in Nevill Park are not in a position that they can be used. When the old play equipment is removed in Nevill Park (Electra Unit) the goals can be moved into a new position where the old play equipment was. Again a circle of wetpour can be placed around the goals. It was suggested that the basket swing should be investigated again before the frame is removed to see if there is a vandal proof alternative.</p>
10.	<p><u>To consider the Mower Audit and authorise purchase of new Box Mower for the Grounds Maintenance</u></p>

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<p>1099</p> <p>1100</p>	<p>The Committee considered the mower audit and costs relating to a new box mower at a cost of £999.00 (copy on file). A member of the site staff is carrying out repairs on some of the existing equipment and the CEO will be speaking to the existing Company who service our Tractor and gang mower to carry out servicing for the smaller equipment.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the purchase of a new box mower was essential to help maintain the cemetery. The Ceo will again speak to the existing Company who supplied the Tractor and gang Mower to see if they can supply the new Box Mower at a more competitive price.</p> <p>RESOLVED to purchase a new Box mower. CEO to obtain the most competitive price once she has spoken to the existing supplier of the Tractor and gang Mower.</p> <p>RESOLVED to budget for a new ride on mower approximately £5000 in the next financial year.</p> <p>It was asked if when the bins are emptied, that strimming could be carried out around the bins at the same time. A new maintenance schedule is currently being looked at for the grounds staff and will be implemented within the next few weeks. New strimmers also need to be considered and Cllr Miners advised of new strimmer technology which will make the maintenance staff job easier and more effective.</p>
<p>11.</p> <p>1101</p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>11.1 Email relating to conservation changes at Leybourne Lakes Country Park</p> <p>11.2 Email relating to the new permissive path at Holborough Park showing the position of the new path with access from just past Holborough House, running along the fence line into Holborough Park. The work has started.</p> <p>11.3 Email from TMBC advising that the court hearing relating to the travellers is set for Friday 8 September. The committee was also advised that a request had been put forward to TMBC to see if any preventative measures could be incorporated around the green to prevent re-entry.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding the padlocks and gates in Snodland Public open spaces and recommended that security padlocks and boxes are installed in the gates.</p> <p>RESOLVED that security padlocks and boxes are installed on the gates on all open spaces.</p> <p>11.4 Email response from KCC relating to the landscaping at the entrance to Snodland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • urban grass which is cut 6 times a year between March and October and effectively it's a swathe cut approx. 2m wide at the entrance on both the left and right hand side of Malling Road at Ham Hill end. Soft Landscaping have agreed to extending the cut further along to the area where the bollards are located area so that the footway is kept clear however the weeds that grow up at the foot of fencing would be for TMBC to clear as they are responsible for street cleansing.

