

SNODLAND TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES & RECREATION COMMITTEE

6 SEPTEMBER 2018

Committee Members present:	Cllrs D Keeley (C), Mrs D Crook (VC), Mrs S Bell, Mrs B Brown, Mrs D King, Mrs L Downes, P Hickmott, A Keeley and Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf
Council Members present:	Mrs K Sowten (Chief Executive), Miss E Jones and Cllr J Minter
Members of the public:	There were 3 members of the public present – a representative from You Can Youth Cancer Support, a representative from Kent Wildlife Trust and a representative from Town Talk.

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs B Keeley and Mrs N Misy.</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of Interests</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
3.	<p><u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2018</u></p> <p>There was one amendment to Item 12 of the last minutes whereby Wyvern Road should have read Wyvern Close. Apart from this one amendment the minutes were approved as a correct record.</p>
4.	<p><u>Questions from the public</u> (<i>Members of the public are advised that they may speak for up to three minutes</i>)</p> <p>The Chairman and the CEO presented a cheque totalling £355.99 to the representative of You Can Youth Cancer Support which were funds raised at the Snodland Carnival on 7th July 2018. The representative accepted this with great thanks.</p> <p>There were no questions to the Committee from members of the public.</p>
5.	<p><u>Kent Wildlife Trust Talk by Stephen Weeks on the Management of Holborough Marshes</u></p> <p>The Chairman introduced Mr Weeks to the Committee to give a brief talk on the Holborough Marshes. He gave a brief background to the marshes and advised of its great importance to the variety of habitat that thrive there. This includes rare plants and flora, insect life, water voles and other water species, a variety of bird species and grazing animals.</p> <p>Several questions were asked regarding the marshes and the CEO asked whether leaflets could be given to distribute to members of the public. Mr Weeks advised that guided tours and talks can also be arranged in the Spring.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Weeks for the informative talk and he left the meeting.</p>

6.	<p><u>Public Conveniences Review – TMBC would welcome Town Council views on –</u></p> <p>a) The Value/need for this facility b) The perceived level of use and whether this is local or wider use c) The condition of the current facilities</p> <p>The CEO reported that she had received comments from Cllr D Purll who, although not a member of the Amenities and Recreation Committee, felt it is imperative that the existing facilities remain and are not chargeable.</p> <p>Cllr M Sawkins also gave feedback and said that as there were 24hr facilities at M&S BP, he suggested a reduction of hours or closure of the conveniences in the car park.</p> <p>Upon discussions it was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conveniences located at M&S BP was considered too far for local residents to walk from Snodland; • It was suggested that the conveniences could be closed during the evenings to prevent members of the public disrespecting the facilities but this would involve further costs to open and close the facilities each day; • taking ownership of the conveniences would also not be an option and this would incur additional costs to the Council and again no staffing resources to maintain them; • Local businesses would expect members of the public to purchase goods before using their conveniences. <p><i>Standing Orders were lifted</i></p> <p>A member of the public suggested that if the public conveniences were closed during the evening this would stop members of the public disrespecting the building in the evenings and therefore saving money on cleaning costs in the long run?</p> <p>Another member of the public agreed that it would be a good idea to close the public conveniences during the evening.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders were reinstated</i></p> <p>Upon further discussions it was suggested that the conveniences were also very convenient for parents with children and also for the elderly and disabled people.</p> <p>0425 RESOLVED – To keep the public conveniences located at Rocfort Road car park open for 24 hours a day and free of charge.</p>
7.	<p><u>Queens Commonwealth Canopy Trees – to receive an update on the number and type of trees and nominations for their suggested locations</u></p> <p>The CEO advised the Committee that a local resident had now received the 5 Commonwealth trees which she wanted to plant in memory of a close relative in designated locations in Snodland. The trees were a mixture of Rowan, Hazel and Silver Birch.</p> <p>Upon discussion it was recommended that a Rowan tree be planted along the High Street edge of the Cricket Meadow to replace the rotten horse chestnut.</p>

<p>0426</p>	<p><i>Standing Orders were lifted</i></p> <p>A member of the public advised that South East Water had removed 2 trees from their fence line which lies adjacent to the cricket meadow and had left a large gap - perhaps 2 could be planted there? This was agreed although if they were to go on South East Water land it would need their approval.</p> <p><i>Re-instate Standing Orders</i></p> <p>It was suggested that the remaining silver birch trees (plus one extra donated by Cllr P Hickmott) be planted in the Recreation ground but comments were made that children are prone to climb them and cause complaints from residents so this option was declined.</p> <p>It was finally agreed that the remaining trees be planted at Nevill Park.</p> <p>It was suggested that Cllr A Keeley look at the saplings once they arrive to decide on how best to plant them.</p> <p>RESOLVED – to plant the Queens Commonwealth Canopy sapling trees in the Cricket Meadow and Nevill Park.</p>
<p>8.</p> <p>0427</p>	<p><u>To consider issues relating to unauthorised entry from properties adjacent to Sloughfields Allotments with a view to installing an internal fence line</u></p> <p>The CEO advised the Committee that some properties surrounding the Sloughfields Allotments are accessing the allotment site via their rear entrance as a 'short cut' even though they were not allotment tenants. She also advised the Committee that she suspected that the 4 digit entrance code had been given to friends and family members and asked for suggestions to deter these problems.</p> <p>It was suggested that, firstly the entrance gate padlock be changed to a key system and a fence could be installed along the fence line. It was agreed that a chain link fence would be very expensive and it was proposed that a 'prickly' plant fence line could be planted?</p> <p>The CEO also suggested that all surrounding properties should receive a letter advising residents of the unauthorised access across the Sloughfields site. It was agreed that the CEO obtain quotes for the chain link fence and plants for the border fence line.</p> <p>RESOLVED – to change the current padlock to a heavy weight security key system (which each allotment holder would be responsible for) and issue letters to surrounding residents advising of the unauthorised access across the site.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>To consider a request for the purchase of a "Tommy" silhouette as part of the "there but not there" campaign for World War I</u></p> <p>The CEO advised the Committee that an idea had been given to her by a local resident to purchase a "Tommy" silhouette for the "there but not there" campaign for World War I.</p> <p>The CEO showed the Committee a picture of the "there but not there" Tommy Silhouette and asked if the Committee would consider purchasing one to be placed at the Cenotaph in the Cemetery. She would also approach the Snodland</p>

0428	<p>Partnership to purchase a second one in order for the pair to be erected at each side of the Cenotaph. The Cost of the Tommy figure is £625.00 plus carriage and VAT</p> <p>RESOLVED – to purchase a “Tommy” silhouette to be placed at the side of Cenotaph in the Cemetery.</p>
10. 0429	<p><u>To consider an opening ceremony for the 3G Pitch</u></p> <p>The CEO advised the Committee that the 3G pitch had now been completed and was being used for the first time that evening. She advised that she had increased the hours of one member of the caretaking staff to manage the facility/groups but this was currently on an ad-hoc basis.</p> <p>She recommended that as the Council had spent a great deal of money on the facility that an opening ceremony would be a very good idea. She suggested that she could invite Tracey Crouch MP and ask if she would referee a few children’s matches and provide refreshments afterwards.</p> <p>RESOLVED – the CEO to liaise with Tracy Crouch MP to arrange a convenient day and time during October for the opening ceremony for the 3G pitch.</p>
11. 0430	<p><u>To consider an opening ceremony for the refurbished MG Suite & Lift</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that the MG Suite has been finished and just needs a final coat of varnish on the wooden dance floor and she was awaiting the planning decision for the air conditioning to be installed (which hopefully will be completed by the end of October). A preferable timeframe for the ceremony would be around Christmastime, maybe after the Christmas in Snodland event? She advised that it would be a great marketing opportunity for organisations to consider it for future seminars and meetings.</p> <p>RESOLVED – to agree and arrange a suitable date for the opening ceremony for the refurbished MG Suite and Lift.</p>
12.	<p><u>To receive a report and discuss development options required relating to the Cemetery Extension</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that she had contacted a project management company who Cllr Miss A Moloney had contacted previously a few years ago. The Company had been recommended by Tonbridge Cemetery as they had carried out their recent cemetery works. She advised that she met their representatives on Tuesday to look around the Cemetery and to get background information. She advised that the original planning application for the cemetery had to be changed from ‘agricultural ground’ to ‘a cemetery extension’ and reported that the application was still valid as the access road had been carried out.</p> <p>The CEO reported, however, that the Environment agency element is subject to condition as regulations had changed (2016) and risk elements have increased. An assessment (T2) would need to be carried out on the old and new cemetery and this would include the testing of ground water to ensure it is safe for the environment and whether the site is acceptable for a burial ground.</p> <p>The CEO advised that a road would no longer be needed for the new extension as cars are not permitted on the cemetery grounds.</p>

	<p>A number of actions would need to be carried out before work could begin on the cemetery extension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground Water Risk Assessment - £4800 • Detailed design for contractor tender - £1800 • Tender Document and specification - £1400 • Possible drainage plan - £500 • Planting Plan and Schedule - £800 • Burial Plan - £450 <p>The CEO advised that funds are available in the Cemetery budget to carry out the work.</p> <p>The CEO advised that although there are still plenty of plots available on the lawn section she advised that an implementation plan be put in place for the new cemetery.</p> <p>RECOMMEND – To initially carry out the T2 assessment on the Cemetery but to obtain further costings from other Companies before progressing.</p>
13.	<p><u>To discuss implications relating to TMBC's Road Closure Review</u></p> <p>The CEO advised the Committee that at a recent meeting of the TMBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a report was presented by the Chief Executive of TMBC which set out the legal, financial and operational issues involved when considering future road closures for events in the Borough. Details were given of the two sets of powers available to allow temporary road closures. It was noted that the purpose of the review was to explore whether the use of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (TPCA) remained the most appropriate legislation to use for all local events and, if not, the implications for the Borough Council and event organisers should the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA) be used as an alternative?</p> <p>At the next TMBC Overview and Scrutiny meeting, a senior police officer and a representative of KCC will be invited to explain why they are in favour of RTRA and Councillor Representation would be recommended at that meeting.</p> <p>0431 RESOLVED – for Snodland Town Council representation at the next TMBC Overview and Scrutiny Meeting on 18th October 2018 at 7.30pm.</p>
14.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>There was no correspondence.</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.