

Snodland Town Council – Full Council Minutes

3rd October 2024

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

1.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> See above.
2.	<u>Declaration of interests</u> It was noted that biscuits and doughnuts had been left at the meeting by a play equipment supplier.
3.	<u>Report from the Neighbourhood Police Team</u> The Council members had received an E-Watch report prior to the meeting.
4.	<u>County Councillor's Report</u> The County Council's report was distributed prior to the meeting and reported on the following – New Housing Impact: KCC is concerned that housing requirements will heavily affect four Kent districts: Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Malling, and Dover. VAT on Public Schools: Grammar schools are likely to feel the impact of VAT on public schools. Kent has 95 independent schools, mostly small prep schools, and it is estimated that up to 50% could close, increasing pressure on state primary schools. School Transport Costs: School transport costs are now under control following new processes. Community Wardens Consultation: KCC has held a long consultation on community wardens. While expenditure needs to be reduced, wardens are recognised for their value, especially in deprived areas. Town and Parish Councils can fund a warden for their area by contacting communitywardenreview@kent.gov.uk . Pension Credit: Up to 18,000 eligible Kent households are not claiming Pension Credit. The KCC Leader is urging residents to apply, as Pension Credit averages £186 per month and can unlock additional benefits. KCC has worked with local councils to identify eligible households, and Kent's Money Advice Hubs offer assistance with applications. Digital Access: Digital Kent has launched "Get Digital," offering free workshops and support to help people get online, particularly those without access to technology or digital confidence. More information can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/getdigital .

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	Cllr Morgan asked who we should direct people to if approached regarding pension credit. Information is available from TMBC website, Kent money advice hub, and CAB.	
5.	<u>Questions from the Public</u> None Present	
6.	<u>To resolve the Minutes of the Full Council held on 13th August 2024 (pp43-49) and the Special Full Council on 23rd September 2024 (pp63) are a correct record.</u>	
1318	RESOLVED to accept that the minutes are a true record of the Full Council held on 13 th August 2024 Signed	
1319	RESOLVED to accept that the minutes are a true record of the Special Full Council held on 23 rd September 2024 Signed	
7.	<u>To receive reports and recommendations of Council Committees</u>	
7.1	Planning and Environment	10 th September 2024 (pp50-53)
	Cllr Loader will contact neighbouring Parish Councils to arrange networking with regards to local plan for Medway. Office to forward email contact details.	
7.2	Amenities and Recreation	18 th September 2024 (pp54-58)
	recommendations were put forward relating to the following –	
1320	RESOLVED – to give permission for the cricket club to position a container in the area between the side of the pavilion and adjacent to the fence.	
1321	RESOLVED - to carry out required works to the trees at the side of the Cricket Pavilion.	
1322	RESOLVED – to carry out work required to the foilage at the side of the Cricket Pavilion.	
1323	RESOLVED – to update the cricket club agreement with guidelines relating to the container regarding painting and maintaining the foliage behind the container.	
1324	RESOLVED - to authorise the increased cost for the installation of a accessible roundabout at Nevill Park at a cost of 7643.00 plus VAT. It was felt that the Council should recognise accessiblility issues where possible.	
7.3	Policy and Finance	23 rd September 2024 (pp59-62)
	The Deed of Easement for the Cemetery gas main has now been received and should be minuted and a resolution number given that it has been signed and sealed.	
1325	RESOLVED to sign and seal the Deed of Easement for the gas main at the Cemetery.	
8.	<u>Reports from Borough Councillors</u> Cllr Bennison and Cllr Bell attended a meeting regarding the local plan.	

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9.	<p><u>Town Councillors items to be brought to the attention of the Council</u></p> <p>Cllrs reported on the following – Cllr Bell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC have been out spraying the weeds in the kerbs, KCC also advised that if they don't spray the weeds, they grow up under the tarmac which has an added expense. They have also been grass cutting. • Carried out the litter pick in Nevill Park. • Traffic surrounding Snodland has been horrendous in the last few weeks, is especially bad when there are issues on the M2 or the A228. <p>Action: To discuss traffic issues surrounding Snodland at a future planning meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Loader – The road sweeper has been strimming the weeds on the pavement, which is welcomed due to several complaints.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan – start of new school year, concerns raised regarding the roads at Roberts Road and St Katherines. Driving on pavements, kerb parking, and that these concerns should be raised with the schools.</p> <p>Teachers do not have any power, traffic wardens have been to St Katherines and have been abused. Believe that Police have been present too.</p> <p>Action: To add concerns regarding traffic outside schools to highway improvement plan. Cllr Bell to email TMBC and schools.</p> <p>Cllr King – Concerns regarding Knotweed half the pathway between Brooklands Lake and Leybourne Lakes.</p> <p>Action: What2words have been requested for location to see whom it belongs to. Cllr King will gather the location and send to CEO.</p>
10. 1326	<p>To receive details of Payments and transfers from 7 August 2024 to 26 September 2024 from Unity Bank totaling £105607.63 and Nat West Bank totaling £168447.31 which includes BACS Payment lists pages 1849, 1858-1860, 1865-1866 and 1868.</p> <p>RESOLVED to accept details of Payments and transfers from 7 August 2024 to 26 September 2024 from Unity Bank totaling £105607.63 and Nat West Bank totaling £168447.31 which includes BACS Payment lists pages 1849, 1858-1860, 1865-1866 and 1868.</p>
11. 1327	<p><u>To authorise additional bank signatories for Nat West and Unity Bank</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that the Council require additional signatories for Nat West and Unity Bank. Cllrs D Lettington, G Miners, Mrs Bell, S Loader have all offered to become signatories.</p> <p>The CEO also advised the bank requires any updates regarding changes in personal addresses for signatories.</p> <p>RESOLVED to add the following signatories to Nat West Bank – Cllr D Lettington, Cllr G Miners, Cllr Mrs S Bell and Cllr S Loader</p>

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<p>1328</p> <p>1329</p> <p>1330</p>	<p>RESOLVED to add the following signatories to Unity Bank - Cllr D Lettington, Cllr G Miners, Cllr Mrs S Bell and Cllr S Loader</p> <p>RESOLVED to change the personal address for named signatories, where necessary on Nat West Bank</p> <p>RESOLVED to change the personal address for named signatories, where necessary on Unity Bank</p>
<p>12.</p> <p>1331</p>	<p><u>To Sign and Seal Deed of Easement Agreement between Snodland Town Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council regarding the accessway to Leybourne Lakes Country Park from Brook Lane.</u></p> <p>A report was presented summarising the key provisions for the Deed of Easement.</p> <p>RESOLVED to Sign and Seal Deed of Easement Agreement between Snodland Town Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council regarding the accessway to Leybourne Lakes Country Park from Brook Lane.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p><u>To receive an update relating to the Community Hub</u></p> <p>Planning & Permissions: Planning permission and building control applications have been approved. Cost reviews are underway.</p> <p>Community Engagement: Meetings with local organisations (East Malling Centre, Open Door, and Kent Community Helpers) have identified key services like food support and gaps in bereavement and mental health services.</p> <p>Challenges & Collaborations: Snodland Food Assist has expressed concerns about direct instruction from Lead Partners.</p> <p>Hub Features: The Hub will offer emergency food services and support with housing, health, and debt advice. The strategy is to start small and collaborate with local businesses and organisations for sustained support.</p> <p>Goal: Strengthen the community by providing accessible essential services.</p> <p>A Networking meeting has been set up with key organisations for Wednesday 13 November 2024 at 1pm. Councillors encouraged to attend. Cllr Mrs Lawrence-Rose would like to attend as part of council and KCC.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan- reported on an interesting project carried out by a masonic charity at Bromley, who were asked for donations of lawn mowers, paint strippers, sewing machines etc, these are items that you can borrow, and ask skilled people to offer advice. Thought that it was a really good idea.</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p><u>Report from the Chief Executive Officer</u></p> <p>The CEO reported on the following –</p> <p>Due to the recent changes relating to Site Staff work loads are being prioritised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Staff Work Schedule: Do not directly approach site staff for tasks. All requests should go through office staff, who will prioritize and add them to the list. • Alleyway Maintenance: Strimming of alleyways under KCC's responsibility can no longer be carried out by the site staff. Report any overgrowth to office staff, who will notify KCC.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bin Responsibilities: TMBC is responsible for emptying the bin at 183 Saltings Road. Report to the office if it's not emptied. Bins at Ham Hill, Constitution Hill, and Lee Road are the council's responsibility and will continue to be emptied along with all bins in the open spaces and recreation areas. <p>Cllr Loader advised that he has contacted TMBC have been really good in replying if you go through waste management.</p> <p>Chair – alleyway maintenance, when we have the staff to do this. Will TMBC pay us to do them? We shouldn't take things on that aren't ours, but public have an expectation.</p> <p>Cllr Bell – TMBC have been good when reporting things on their website.</p> <p>Allotment AGM: An AGM has been scheduled for the allotments on Tuesday 29 October at the MG Suite at 7pm. Councillors who are involved in the allotments are expected to attend.</p>
15.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p><u>THE COMMITTEE HAS AGREED That in view of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be Temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.</u></p>	
16.	<p><u>To receive an update on staffing</u></p> <p>A member of Staff thanked the Council for their understanding regarding a recent situation.</p> <p>Council to thank Cllr Miners as he spent 10 hours cutting the grass.</p>

being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:15