

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation

10 December 2020

Committee Members present:	Cllrs Mrs D Crook (C), Mrs A Barden (VC), P Hickmott, W Mallard, Mrs N Misy, Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf, A Keeley and Mrs S Bell
Council Members present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Members of the public:	One member of the public present

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs Ms D Alford-Smith and Mrs J Ayres.</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of Interests</u></p> <p>Cllr P Hickmott advised that he had a declaration of interest with regard to item 7 as he is currently the licence holder of Potyns.</p> <p>Cllr W Mallard declared an interest in item 6 as he lives there.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs A Barden declared in interest in item 6 as she is currently looking to purchase a property there.</p>
3.	<p><u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2020</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2020 were agreed as a correct 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 take representation, answer are advised that 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>A representative from the Fishing Association came to the meeting with regard to the e-mail he had previously sent (item 9.1). He requested that the decision to remove the fish from Neville Park lake be postponed in order that an opportunity be given to the avid anglers who fish there, to attempt to curtail the anti-social behaviour, which he considered, was being caused by younger, inexperienced fishermen.</p> <p>The CEO advised that as this item was resolved at the last Full Council meeting, the item could not be discussed again for a further 6 months. It was agreed that due to her current heavy workload, the matter would not be actioned for a few months and by this time the item could then be added back onto an Agenda in 2021, whereby the situation could be re-assessed.</p> <p>Cllr Hickmott thanked the member of the public for his interest and would contact him in the new year regarding the future Council meeting, where the item could be discussed again.</p>

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5.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that a list of future litter picking dates was distributed prior to the meeting. She advised that Cllrs Ms D Alford-Smith and J Minter had requested that a sponsor be allocated for each litter pick eg a Councillor. The item would be discussed again at the Full Council meeting on 15th December 2020 with new appointed sponsors for each litter pick.</p> <p>The CEO confirmed that she had received an e-mail from TMBC to advise that the usage of recycling sites had fallen and that the recycling site at the Community Centre would eventually be removed but the one in Rocfort Road car park would remain.</p> <p>Cllrs Mrs N Misy asked what happens to the fly tipping that is collected by the Council's site operative. The CEO explained that general waste is disposed of using the Council's large green bins and any bulkier items are taken to the Cemetery for TMBC to collect.</p> <p>Cllr W Mallard advised that TMBC will collect up to 6 bulky items from households at a cost of £55.00 and the CEO advised that she would put this information on FB and the Council's website for residents information. The service is subsidised for residents who receive benefits. The free bulky waste service, which collects at specified roads, is not currently available due to the pandemic.</p>
6.	<p><u>To consider a request from a resident to adopt a parcel of amenity land at Willowside</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that a request had been made to adopt a piece of land at the end of a residents garden. The resident advised that litter is regularly left there. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the land should not be given to the resident as it would open the floodgates for other residents to make the same requests and the fly-tipping situation would continue at the next property.</p> <p>0668 RESOLVED – to decline the residents request to adopt the parcel of land at Willowside as it would set a precedent for other residents to request parcels of land at Willowside.</p>
7.	<p><u>To consider a request to amend our existing Licence at Potyns Sportsground to allow Snodland Football Club to apply for their own licence</u></p> <p>The CEO advised the Committee that currently Cllr Hickmott holds the licence for Potyns Sportsground but it would be a sensible decision for Snodland Town Football Club to apply for their own, now that their clubhouse is nearing completion, as they would be responsible for that particular piece of land and their actions. They agreed that they would cover any additional costs for the licence to be altered. The new licence would cover their Clubhouse and their football pitch. The CEO advised that the Council would remain licence holders for the remaining pitches and suggested that the licence be further extended to cover new Potyns.</p>

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0669	RESOLVED – to agree to the request to amend the existing Licence at Potyns Sportsground to allow Snodland Football Club to apply for their own and for STFC to cover any additional charges incurred.
8.	<p><u>To discuss budget proposals relating to Amenities and Recreation</u></p> <p>The CEO reported the budget proposals which were discussed at the Policy and Resources meeting on 1st December 2020 and what cuts have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal lettings – function rooms are currently not being used due to COVID so this was difficult to predict; • Mowing – in-house contract. She advised that she had made some tentative enquiries for contract hire which were providing to be more cost effective; • Open space budget – these have been reduced; • Public conveniences – the Committee could not justify an extra £4.00 per household so the public conveniences will be removed; • Firework display – this major expenditure has been taken out of the budget due to the increase of manpower hours needed and and the impacts of health and safety and the growing amount of people attending outside of Snodland. It would also increase the budget by £1.29. <p>The Committee made the following comments and suggestions with regard to retaining the firework display:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could tickets be issued prior to the event and volunteers asked to help? • Explore the possibilities to keep the firework display as it ensures the residents safety; • Residents would be very disappointed if a display did not go ahead; • Need to be mindful of volunteers helping due to health and safety restrictions; • Tickets can be fraudulently copied; • Fund raising for financial assistance? • Health and safety training? • There are residents who are willing to help with events; • One display minimises lots of smaller firework events; • Entry tickets may cause confrontation at the entry gate; • If the firework display didn't go ahead, monies raised from the bucket collections would be missed for the Christmas in Snodland event.
0670	RESOLVED – The CEO advised that the item would be discussed at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 15 th December 2020 for a final decision. She advised the Committee that if the fireworks went ahead it would increase the budget by £1.29 per household to the budget. The CEO advised that the total cost of the fireworks is £5,000.

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9.	<u>Correspondence</u>
9.1	<u>Email regarding the changes to Nevill Park lake</u> This item was discussed earlier on in the agenda.
9.2	<u>Photographs of new signage at Potyns Sportsground for the Bowls club and Football club</u> <u>This was for the Committee's information.</u>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.