

Snodland Town Council – Special Full Council

7 April 2020

Committee Members present:	Cllrs P Hickmott (C), Mrs S Bell (VC), Ms J Ayers, Mrs A Barden, J Butterfield, Mrs D Crook, Mrs D King, W Mallard, Mrs N Misy, Mrs S Shaw, and Miss L West
Council Staff present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Other Councillors Present:	None
Members of the public:	None

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf, A Keeley (unable to link to Skype), J Minter (unable to link to Skype)</p>
2.	<p>The chairman welcomed all members to the first ever online remote council meeting held during these unprecedented times. He acknowledged that there may be occasions when members lost connection, however we would monitor this during the meeting.</p>
3.	<p><u>Due to the current Coronavirus Pandemic to consider options relating to the Cancellation or postponement of the VE Day celebrations</u></p> <p>The CEO had received notification from the official organisers of VE day75 that due the terrible Coronavirus emergency and subsequent Government guidance celebrations due to take place on the bank holiday weekend of 8th – 10th May Should be postponed or cancelled</p> <p>The Singing act booked can be cancelled or moved to alternative date, availability permitting.</p> <p>0586 RESOLVED to postpone VE Day Celebrations</p>
4.	<p><u>Due to the current Coronavirus Pandemic to consider options relating to the Cancellation or postponement of Snodland Carnival</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised that due to the Coronavirus and subsequent Government Guidance that the Carnival due to be held on Saturday 4 July should be postponed or cancelled. The preparation time needed to organise the carnival which include 12 weeks' notice for any intended road closure, which at the current time cannot be applied for due to the uncertainty of when the current lockdown will be lifted.</p> <p>The Music group that has been booked can be moved to an alternative date availability permitting.</p> <p>0587 RESOLVED to postpone Carnival</p>
5.	<p><u>To consider a joint celebration of VE/VJ Day and Snodland Fun Day</u></p> <p>Due to the postponement of VE Day and Carnival, it was proposed to hold a joint celebration once the Lockdown had been lifted. Official organisers of VE Day75 are suggesting the weekend of 15 – 16 August to coincide with VJ Day as a new date for celebrations. It was suggested that a celebration with a street party theme could be held at Potyns, to include music and a BBQ.</p> <p>0588 RESOLVED to hold a celebration to incorporate VE Day, VJ Day and the Carnival during the weekend of 15-16 August 2020 subject to the availability of the of the Community Centre and the situation relating to the corona virus</p>

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6.	<p><u>To consider options of assistance for the tenants of Snodland Town Council</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised members that the Council have four tenants. Three of these have already had to close due to the Corona Virus Government measures that have been placed upon them. The fourth is still currently operating.</p> <p>A discussion followed and the following points were raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a 3 month rent holiday – to be repaid • Tenants may be entitled to Business Support Grant funding available from TMBC. The CEO has emailed TMBC to ask for clarification on the entitled to these grants. • The Council should consider the future, if these businesses fail, the council could end up with void properties with no income and a long delay in finding new tenants. • Tenants would be considered on an individual basis and the tenant would need to put a case forward if they consider they are need of financial help.
7.	<p><u>Snodland Covid 19 Group</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised the members that a Volunteer group had been set up in Snodland that the Council are working with to assist elderly and vulnerable residents in the Town. The CEO advised that following the introduction of TMBC's community hub all enquires via the Snodland Covid-19 group were being fielded straight to the Hub to enable TMBC to ascertain those who are medically shielded or in a vulnerable category that needed professional assistance.</p> <p>A point was raised that the Community food banks had been closed down due to the Corona virus and that those in need of this service were finding it increasingly difficult if not impossible to obtain food.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded members that the Council manage the Henry Peters Trust Charity which was available for the relief of poverty for the residents of Snodland.</p> <p>Following discussions it was agreed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate what provisions had been put in place for replacement food banks whilst the current ones are closed • To contact the Emergency Planner at TMBC to discuss what options they have in place • To contact the Community Food project to try and offer assistance to those they were aware of that need assistance • To contact Co-op and A & D to see how they can assist with the provisions

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.