

Snodland Town Council – Amenities and Recreation

3 September 2020

Committee Members present:	Cllrs Mrs D Crook (C), Mrs S Bell, P Hickmott, Mrs D King, Mrs J Ayers and Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf
Council Members present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Members of the public:	None present

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs A Barden (VC), W Mallard and Mrs N Misy (unable to connect)</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 7th July 2020</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 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>There were no members of the public present.</p>
5.	<p><u>To discuss the vandalism, litter and anti-social behaviour at Nevill Park Lake</u></p> <p>A report had been circulated prior to the meeting (copy on file) concerning the amount of litter and anti-social behaviour that has been occurring at Nevill Park. Despite constant litter picking on a twice weekly basis by the Council Site Operative, the amount of litter left is becoming quite uncontrollable. Fishing paraphernalia is also being discarded by some fisherman. Both Volunteers from Medway Valley Fisheries (MVF) and Snodland Council Operatives receive abuse from fisherman and members of the public whilst carrying out their duties. The oxygenation levels and water levels at the lake are low, both resulting in many fish losses. Medway Valley Fisheries have been approached for advice, and have suggested that the lake should be turned into an Eco Pond and wildlife reserve. This would involve removing the surviving fish from the lake and installing reed beds and lily pads. Removing the swims and planting willows, bushes and shrubs would encourage the wildlife to thrive. A Councillor suggested that the schools may be able to use it for pond dipping. It was also suggested that a big litter pick would need to be done before the planting is carried out. A Councillor also commented that as Nevill Park was originally a nursery pond for Brooklands Lake, could MVF be approached to run a club at Brooklands to encourage safe and sensible fishing for youngsters.</p>

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0628	RESOLVED to remove the remaining fish from the lake and create an Eco Pond and as part of MVF licence renewal, consult on a fishing club for young fishermen.
6.	<p><u>To discuss options relating to footpaths and rights of way that back onto Nevill Park</u></p> <p>A report had been circulated prior to the meeting (Copy on file) concerning the maintenance at the rear of Nevill Park where it backs onto the houses in Nevill Road and Simpson Road. Over the years, fencing that was running along the back of some areas has deteriorated and rotted away, leaving the areas untidy and difficult to pass to access the rear of their properties.</p> <p>The CEO has checked on land registry documents and can see no mention with regards to the rights of way.</p> <p>RECOMMEND Cllr Hickmott and CEO to investigate the area and look into this further.</p>
7.	<p><u>To receive a report and consider any recommendations from the Cemetery Advisory Committee</u></p> <p>A Member of the Cemetery Committee presented the minutes of the Cemetery Advosiry Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2 September and the following recommendations were put forward:</p> <p>0629 RESOLVED to move the bins to the left side and remove a section of chain link fencing and create a wooden storage unit.</p> <p>The CEO advised that she had spoken to the Cemetery staff who were concerned that the installation of a chain would be difficult for lone mobility scooter users to unhook and suggested drop-down or removable posts, which would still prevent vehicle access but allow for mobility scooters to get through without difficulty.</p> <p>0630 RESOLVED to replace the rope and cones with drop down or removable posts.</p> <p>0631 RESOLVED to attempt to straighten the flag pole situated at the Cenotaph or replace it if it cannot be fixed.</p> <p>0632 RESOLVED to build a wooden storage unit to house the trolleys and wheel barrows.</p> <p>0633 RESOLVED to install a second notice board.</p> <p>0634 RESOLVED to purchase new doormats.</p> <p>0635 RESOLVED to allow for the alterations to the second chapel and install mortuary fridges, ensuring that all works including any electrical upgrades are carried out by a suitably qualified company.</p> <p>0636 RESOLVED to write to owners of the North and South Kerbs advising that no additional accessories or ornaments are permitted. Additional vases would be allowed for a period of two weeks, following a</p>

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	<p>commemorative anniversary, (but should not be glass or china). After this time they should be removed by the owner and if they were not, they would be removed by cemetery staff.</p> <p>The CEO advised that she had recently visited Aylesford Cemetery and advised that they also seem to have similar problems with wooden/plastic surrounds. She also presented to the Committee a photograph of a wooden board which was covered in artificial grass which could be placed over the newly dug grave to prevent any wooden structures being placed, until the full kerb and headstone were installed by the family. It was also agreed that the removal of existing wooden structures would not be removed unless they were in a state of decay as it would cause a great deal of controversy.</p> <p>0637 RESOLVED to write to owners advising them that any wooden, metal or plastic structures along with any glass or china or deteriorating accessories would be removed if they became unsafe or badly decayed. Owners would be given 2 weeks notice to remove the items.</p> <p>0638 RESOLVED that with immediate effect all new grave spaces would not be allowed any temporary structures (other than a marker cross) but would be covered with the newly created grassed boards.</p>
8.	<p><u>To consider options for the scaled down Remembrance Day Service</u></p> <p>The committee discussed the guest list for the Remembrance Day service to be held at the Cemetery on Sunday 8 November 2020. The number of attendees would be kept to the current Government regulations of 30 guests. Cllr Hickmott would make enquiries regarding veterans in the Town. The guest list would include the Scout leader along with a representative from the Scout and Guide groups as a standard bearer. The Office will send out invites to the usual attendees. It was also agreed that the Clockfaces on the Clocktower should be changed to red for the weekend and until after the 11 November.</p>
9.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>No Correspondence</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:36pm.