

Snodland Town Council – Amenities & Recreation Committee

28 November 2019

Committee Members present:	Cllrs Mrs D Crook (C), Mrs J Ayers, Mrs S Bell, Mr A Bennison, P Hickmott, W Mallard and Mrs N Misy
Council Members present:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO) and Miss E Jones
Members of the public:	There were 3 members of the public present

1.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs A Barden (VC), Mrs D King, Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf and Miss L West.
2.	<u>Declaration of Interests</u> There were no declarations of interest made.
3.	<u>Minutes - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2019</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 17 th October 2019 were agreed as a correct record. The CEO advised Councillors that they had copies of the minutes and other documentation as the CEO reported that the lap top was not working properly to display the documents as previously agreed at the Full Council meeting. The Chairman advised that there were 2 recommendations in the minutes and the CEO advised that these had been resolved at the full council meeting.
4.	<u>Questions from the public</u> <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> There were no questions from the members of the public.
5.	<u>Presentation by Stewart Vanns of Community Cycle Works regarding the pump track and cycle track</u> The Chairman introduced PC Rebecca Ballard (Kent Police) (PC RB), Stewart Vanns (Community Cycleworks) (SV) and Beverley Emerson (Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council) (BE) to carry out a presentation for the proposed pump track and cycle park to be situated at the site of the previous ball park at Potyns Sportsground. SV, who is the founder and director of Community Cycle Works, gave a brief background of the type of work he carries out. This entailed teaching bike maintenance and changing mind sets of bike use by young people.

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He advised that he had a base in London and had been working on this project with Kent Police, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Clarion Housing to tackle the anti-social behaviour which had been occurring in Snodland over recent months.

SV asked PC RB to give some background to the anti-social behaviour which had been occurring in Snodland and she explained that back in June the police had received over 70 complaints regarding large groups of riders cycling between Maidstone and Aylesford. The police attempted to alleviate the problem by issuing conditions to the riders but without much success. BE advised that the project was working very well as a multi-agency project, with the partners working together and engaging well with the youths and offering them alternative ideas to channel their bike skills.

SV advised that permission was also granted for the cyclists to use the car park at Holmesdale School every Thursday night – this also gave the riders the opportunity to engage with the youth workers at the club. It was reported that 65 children have used the project since the summer which was very encouraging. He advised that ride outs and competitions are arranged which the youths have really enjoyed and that the plan for the future is to continue to engage with the youth riders, continue with the weekly youth club sessions, to arrange outdoor bike rides once/twice a month, arrange summer competitions and also to enrol and train the young people to teach the younger generation to cycle.

He advised that funding had been secured from Clarion Housing up to July 2020 and this money would be used to train 11– 19 year olds to gain qualifications and learn extra skills for the future.

SV explained that the pump track would be a smaller version of BMX track and could be used for skateboards, scooters and bikes. He reported that British Cycling have a legacy fund and were very positive about the project and how it would impact to the sport of cycling and the project would be put forward to enter. He advised that the installation of the pump track would be carried out by a company who specialise in pump tracks and a site visit would be arranged next year for plans and the costings to be drawn up.

Questions were opened to the Committee which SV was able to answer.

Cllr Mrs S Bell praised the project and the individuals involved and how well it was working and advised that it was very appreciated by the youths.

RECOMMENDED – to fully support the project and to agree in principle to the installation of a pump track at Potyns Sportsground in addition to awaiting further updates on future progress and funding.

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6.	<p><u>Snodland Goes Cleaner</u></p> <p>Cllr Mrs S Bell stated that she and the rest of the Councillors had received a litter pick schedule from Cllr Mrs D King which gave a selection of weekend dates which would better enable Councillors to participate. Cllr Mrs N Misy advised that she had given a copy to the Brownie leader so that they could attend one or two of the dates as a sponsor.</p> <p>The CEO also advised that St Katherines had also shown an interest to get involved with the litter picks and had asked for litter pickers which the CEO advised that the Snodland Partnership had been approached to donate.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs J Ayers commented that there seemed to be more litter strewn along the roads since the new recycling system had been put in place in September. The CEO advised that all feedback and complaints were being regularly reported back to TMBC for these problems to be resolved.</p>
7.	<p><u>To receive a report and any recommendations from the following events and committees –</u></p>
7.1	<p><u>To receive a verbal report and discuss any improvements relating to Fireworks night – 6th November 2019</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that Cllr Mrs A Barden, whos apologies had been received, had asked if the Committee would consider silent fireworks? The CEO made enquiries with the Fireworks contractor and he advised that from experience of previous years, loud fireworks generate more enthusiasm from the spectators; and silent fireworks are more expensive. It was agreed that firework displays are the safest option for the residents of Snodland. The Councils philosophy has always been that they prefer a controlled display that saves lives or injury.</p> <p>Cllr Mallard made the comment that many pedestrians did not use the crossing on arrival to the display and were crossing directly across the road and in the path of oncoming vehicles, to the entrance to Potyns. Consideration had been given to additional barriers along the complete length of the path towards St Benedicts Road, however, it was agreed that this would lead to a bottleneck at the crossing and the entrance into Potyns as the pathway is very narrow for pedestrians and pushchairs to walk. Cllr Ayers advised that the Council have a responsibility for the public both on entry and when they leave the event. Cllr Mallard advised that he was having to direct the traffic and the CEO advised that she would need to seek advice on this to ensure that members of the Council are able to do this.</p> <p>The CEO reported that approximately 3500 people attended the event and £2,500 was raised from donations from the members of the public.</p> <p>RECOMMEND – that the CEO seek advice on whether Councillors and staff are allowed to direct traffic at Council events.</p>

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7.2	<p><u>To receive a verbal report and discuss any improvements relating to Remembrance Parade – 10th November 2019</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that the only comment received was regarding the maroon which signalled the beginning and the end of the 2 minute silence. The comment was received from a former veteran said that the bang distressed him as it reminded him of the war.</p> <p>RESOLVED – in light of the complaint from the former veteran, the maroon will not be used in future Remembrance services.</p> <p>Cllr Mallard made the comment that the seating and standing arrangements for the service be improved for next year so that officials and dignatories have a clear view of the proceedings. The CEO advised that a meeting has been requested by the Scout Chairman to discuss ways of improving the entrance and exit paths to and from the Cenotphah for the Scouts and the bands.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs D Crook thanked Cllr Mrs D King and Mrs H Comber for assisting with the washing and wiping of the crockery after the afternoon tea.</p>
7.3	<p><u>To receive a report on Christmas in Snodland – 30th November 2019</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that it was a very short 'mop-up' meeting to finalise arrangements for the event. All Councillors received an information sheet detailing the itinerary for the day and what needed to be done during the event. The CEO asked that Councillors to assist with the distribution of carol sheets and the donation buckets. Also, to ensure that members of the public were on the pavements when the Christmas Sleigh arrived in the High Street. She advised that Councillors should meet at Santas Grotto for briefing and any equipment they needed. Cllr Mrs J Ayers was recruited as an extra Grotto elf and said that she could help from 3-4pm to relieve an elf.</p> <p>The CEO advised that she had given relevant information to the Mayor and advised Cllr P Hickmott when and where to meet him.</p> <p>Finally, the CEO advised the Committee that it was not obligatory that Councillors "like or share events" on Facebook as this would be down to their personal preference.</p>
7.4	<p><u>To receive a report on Carnival 2020 – 4th July 2020</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that there was nothing to report on the meeting. She advised that the theme was America and a Country and Western band would be booked for the event.</p>

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8.	<p><u>To discuss the results of the petition from the residents of Rectory Close for a new bus stop</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that the bus stop has been approved subject to KCC Safety Advisor finding the safest location to install the bus stop. Cllr Hickmott advised that the residents are very happy about this. The CEO will give an update on this at a later date.</p>
9.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p>
9.1	<p><u>Electric charging points</u></p> <p>The CEO has received a response from the BP garage (M & S) in Snodland and they have advised this is still under review and a decision is yet to be made.</p> <p>She has yet to receive a reply from the Shell garage.</p> <p>The CEO explained that it would be very difficult to install an electric charging point in the car park as it belongs to TMBC. She advised that this would be something which could be undertaken in a few years time but was not practicable to carry out at this point in time.</p>
9.2	<p><u>Woodland Trust</u></p> <p>The CEO advised that the application for hedgerows to be planted along the perimeter of the cricket ground has been received and is being processed and will be delivered in March 2020.</p>
	<p>Cllr P Hickmott advised that the CCTV cameras have been installed at the Pavilion Café and the CEO advised that she would contact the CCTV contractor to request that the CCTV links be synced to an office computer and mobile phone.</p>
	<p>Cllr Mrs N Misy asked a question with regard to item 7.3 on how the chosen charities are decided for Carnival and Christmas and asked if local charities could be chosen rather than the bigger, national charities? The CEO explained that local charities had been given donations in recent years. It was agreed that the Council would prefer money raised to be put back into the Christmas or Carnival events and it is always the Council's preference to donate to a charity that Snodland residents have used and to give to a charity that has not received a great deal of funding.</p> <p>RECOMMEND – it was recommended that from 2021 the final choices of charities should be discussed and agreed by Full Council.</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.