

SNAPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Snape Parish Council Meeting, held on Thursday 13 November 2008,
7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

Present: Mr Mike Hill (Chairman), Mrs Marion Walker, Mr Andy Wilmot, Mr Eddie Gillett, Mrs Carol Churcher, Mr David Abbott, Mr David Robertson (Vice-Chairman), Mr Geoff Day, Mr Neil Parsons, Mr Roger Horton.

In Attendance: Sergeant Daye Goddard, 3 members of the public & the Clerk.

OPEN FORUM – MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Mr Francis informed the Parish Council that at present he has not seen the recent planning application submitted by the RSPB to SCDC for the Land to West of Abbey Farm – Conversion of approx. 17ha of agricultural land to wet reed bed with associated drainage and other works to be managed for nature conservation purposes. The RSPB have amended the proposals originally submitted in January 2008. No data has yet been received from the site meeting which took place at Willow Farm in March 2008 and the surveys carried out on the water level prior to any development taking place. It was agreed by all that Mr Francis can have the plans straight away to study and then pass them back asap for circulation to the Parish Councillors. The Chairman informed that should a special meeting be needed to consider the application then this could be called. SCDC have agreed to give until the 10 December for any comments.

A member of the public present reported to the PC that he had been to post a letter in the post box opposite the village shop at 4.10pm one day last week and the postman/woman had already collected the post that day 5 minutes early. He therefore had to drive into Saxmundham to catch the post there. The Parish Council will try to monitor this for the time being.

1 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. None

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mr Cyril Fidler SCDC, SCC Rosie Clarke, PCSO Thora Taylor.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2008. These were approved correct and signed by the Chairman, proposed Mrs Churcher seconded Mr Robertson.

4 MATTERS a. Footpath from Saxonfields to the Primary School. The Chairman reported that the names of the occupants who would be affected have been submitted to SCC, the occupants have not yet heard anything back from SCC and the PC has not received any further progress report. The Chairman will look into this.

b. Village Post Office. Mrs Walker reported that the Post Office is still only open 3 mornings a week and that she hasn't heard if anyone will be covering Thursdays & Fridays. She will keep the PC informed.

c. Speeding B1069. The Chairman informed that this will be discussed under the police report.

d. Coach parking at Church Common. A letter has been received back from Aldeburgh Music apologising for the inconvenience of the coaches parking on the Church Common and informed that the particular coach company will not be invited back.

e. Parking in layby opposite the shop. Since the PC's letter to the garage owner it has been noted that he has been parking his breakdown truck more neatly in the layby. However there is nothing that the Parish Council can do to stop anyone from parking there as it has never been designated as a bus stop. It was agreed that the PC will not take any further action at present.

5 POLICE REPORT. The new Sergeant, Daye Goddard introduced herself, she is to be based at Saxmundham police station and will cover Snape and the surrounding villages. Only one crime had been committed in the village since the last report. Speed checks have been carried out in Snape using the hand held device and 3 verbal warnings had been issued. The Chairman suggested that more vehicles could have been caught if the police had not been positioned so visibly in the Crown car park. Further speed checks had also been carried out by the mobile police station, when 19 out of 56 were speeding at an average speed of 41 mph. She informed that they will endeavor to carry out more speed checks within Snape.

The recent accident which had happened at the Crown was due to the driver being distracted looking for a road sign. 3 accidents have taken place at the Crown crossroads over the last 3 years, 2 slight & 1 fatal. It is the opinion of the Parish Council that the pub corner is not the issue it is the speed that vehicles approach it when travelling down the hill. Perhaps chevrons on the road indicating that the road bears to the right around the building. The Sergeant suggested that the 30 mph flashing signs do slow vehicles up, but there is a cost involved. The Chairman informed that the PC has requested this in the past but has not got anywhere. He had also contacted Martlesham police headquarters requesting a site visit at the Crown and had invited Luke Barber SCC and a representative from Adnams. The Sergeant said that she would also be happy to attend and that the dangers need to be addressed. She ensured that the speeding will continue to be monitored. The Sergeant left the meeting at 8.20pm.

6 SNAPE PRIMARY SCHOOL – Organisation Review.

The Chairman reported that he had attended a recent meeting and it was clear that Snape Primary School will not close, however additional buildings will be needed as the school will be required to take up to 70 pupils. It is very important for the village that the school remains open.

7 REPORT FROM SCDC & SCC COUNCILLORS. The Chairman read out the reports which had been sent from Mr Cyril Fidler and Mrs Rosie Clarke.

8 FINANCE. a. Statement of Accounts. Bank balances as at 13 November 2008, Community Account - £1,065.54
Business Money Manager Account - £7,498.67, Village Amenity Fund - £7900.42.

Mrs Walker queried the receipt of £3,250.00 ½ year precept which appears twice on the receipts list dated 30 April & 1 May 2008. The Clerk informed that this was an input error and will remove one of the £3,250.00.

b. External Audit for the Year ended March 2008. This has now been completed and received back from the Auditors BDO Stoy Hayward. 3 points have been raised by them, Section 1 does not add up by £1, the Clerk will ensure this is correct for the next year end. The PC should carry out the Internal Auditors recommendations. Fidelity Guarantee, the PC now has this in place.

c. External Auditors Invoice. The invoice for the audit of the year end accounts has been received from BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, £193.88.

d. Notice Board – Bottom of Snape Hill. 2 quotes have been received, Mr Jeremy Hammersley £985 and Pinpoint Presentation £1,129. It was agreed by all to ask Mr Jeremy Hammersley to make the new notice board and should be of similar spec to the one at present. Mr Parsons informed that the notice board which Mr Hammersley made for the Woodland Group gets condensation inside, so better ventilation is suggested. The Chairman will speak to the owners of the cottage at the bottom of the hill for permission to have the noticeboard professionally secured to their wall.

The Clerk informed that Mrs Rosie Clarke SCC has Locality Budget still available. It was agreed by all to ask her for funding towards the new notice board.

e. Snape Play Area Inspection Invoice. This has been carried out by Playsafety Ltd, the report was passed onto Mr Gillett. An invoice of £98.70 has been received for payment by the Parish Council.

f. Grass Cutting Invoices. These have been received from Mr Bradley for £261 and £348.

g. Poppy Wreath Invoice. This has been received from Royal British Legion, £20.

All of the above invoices were approved for payment by the Parish Council, proposed Mr Wilmot seconded Mrs Walker.

h. NJB Contractors. Mr Gillett informed the PC that the water supply to the Playing Field is being installed along with the new track as previously approved in the past. The Parish Council can inspect to receive an invoice for £1455.00 + vat for the water supply and £477.00 + vat for the track. Once received it was agreed by all that the payment should be made straight away out of the Village Amenity Fund, proposed Mr Day seconded Mr Wilmot.

i. Thank-You Letters – These have been received from the Disability Advice Service, Age Concern, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Optua and Headway.

f. Allianz Insurance Fidelity Cover. A cheque for £33.81 has been received back from Allianz Insurance as the fee for this year has been pro-rated.

g. Recycling Credits. £31.62 has been received from SCDC for recycling credits for the bottle bank at the Golden Key.

h. Draft Precept Budget April 2009 – March 2010. It was agreed by all that the precept will remain the same at £6500.00 for the forthcoming financial year. Monies in reserves in the Village Amenity Fund are to be used for the playing field and reserves in the Business Money Manager will be used towards road safety if needed.

9 FOOTPATHS & HIGHWAYS. a. The Canser. A response has been received back from SCC who has been dealing with the solicitors acting for the owner of the land adjacent to the Canser footpath. Their conclusion is that water is not being held back for any land management purpose and they are not aware of any specific site issue which would stop the water from escaping from their adjoining land. SCC intends to write to SCDC asking them to take a look at the site. Should they then conclude that there is a problem with lack of maintenance they can take action accordingly. The Parish Council is in agreement to ask SCC to make a board walk along the problem area.

b. Foxes Corner Footpath. The Chairman informed that the footpath which should not have access to vehicles is being used by fast track vehicles and will be mentioned to SCC.

c. Mini Roundabout. SCC have said no to a mini round-about at the junction of the Glebes. It was agreed by all try again and to back this up with the possibility of an additional access onto the B1069 opposite the Glebes should the affordable housing go ahead.

d. White Lines at Church Junction. Mr Robertson informed that the white lines on the road at the Church junction are worn and need repainting. The Clerk will report this to SCC.

10. SNAPE TELEPHONE BOX. Notification has been received from BT that some village telephone boxes are to be removed. Snape's telephone box will not be removed.

11. PLAYING FIELD – Report. Mr Gillett informed the PC that the owner of the house on the corner of the playing field access track is happy for 2ft of concrete to be removed from the wall. This will then enable a wider splay to the entrance of the track giving vehicles more space to turn in.

The Chairman informed of the potential money which may become available for sports facilities through the Snape Maltings development. This could be used for a new pavilion on the playing field, tennis/multi courts etc. The playing field committee should consider the options at their next meeting. Mr Gillett will get prices for an all weather court & pavilion.

Mr Gillett reported that Douglas Turner – Charitable Committee is now drawing up a Trust along the lines of SALC guidance.

12. PARISH PLAN – The Playing Field & Affordable Housing are being addressed.

13 AFFORDABLE HOUSING. The Chairman reported that the housing association has met with a building company to consider the specifications. Mr Gibson & his sister, owners of the field opposite the Glebes are coming down for a site meeting on Friday to meet up with the Chairman and an architect.

14 PLANNING. a. 5 The Terrace, Snape C08/1887 – Erection of porch and replacement of flat roof on existing side extension with pitched roof. No objection from the Parish Council.

b. 21 Stanhope Close, Snape C08/1976 – Erection of rear extension and replacement of garage flat roof with a pitched roof. No objection from the Parish Council.

c. The Crown, Bridge Road, Snape C08/1677 – Installation of extractor terminal located on existing roof for the purpose of providing improved ventilation and filtering of cooking smells. No objection from the Parish Council.

d. 2 Garrett Close, Snape C08/1464 – Installation of one solar panel on south facing roof. No objection from the Parish Council.

e. Planning Permissions etc. This has been granted by SCDC to 2 Garrett Close, Snape.

A letter has been received from SCDC informing of the permitted development regime to householders.

15 CORRESPONDENCE. a. Invitation to LDF Workshop/Discussion Forum – SCDC. This is to take place on 25 November at the Riverside Centre. Mr Cyril Fidler is urging Parish Councils to attend.

b. Old Documents Received. These have been received from Jill Read belonging to her late father in law George Arthur Read, buried in Snape Churchyard. The documents will be passed onto the village recorder, Mr Brian Boulton.

c. Eb n Flow. The Chairman reported that his recent articles have not been posted in the magazine, he will try again with some smaller articles.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. This will take place on Thursday 15 January 2009.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm