

Snape Parish Council

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Tim Beach (Chair) Cllr Russ Rainger (Vice-Chair),
Cllr Caroline Meffan, Cllr Maria Norman, Cllr Graham Farrant,
Cllr Helen Stuart, Cllr Paul Richards, Cllr Bill Hough and Cllr Georgina Lock.

Attendance: 1 member of the public.

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

Cllr Allfrey and DCllr TJ Haworth-Culf sent their apologies. Cllr Farrant proposed that we accept the apologies, this was seconded by Cllr Norman and agreed by all.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members

Cllr Norman – allotments

Cllr Lock - insurance

3 Applications for Dispensation

None

4 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 11 August 2020.

Cllr Norman proposed that the minutes of the 11 August be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Richards and agreed by all.

5 Matters arising from the Previous Meeting on 11 August 2020.

Cllr Stuart commented that an email had been sent to Andrew Reid regarding the Priory Road resurfacing, Andrew Reid had confirmed that he would forward that email to the Highways Department.

Andrew Reid said that he would follow up the email as no response had been received.

Cllr Beach said that Priory Road is to be a Quiet Lane, this would tidy the road up.

Andrew Reid said that designating a road as a Quiet Lane was a few hundred pounds to resurface a road cost considerably more.

Cllr Meffan confirmed that she had written to Andrew Reid regarding the re-direction of traffic when the Snape Bridge is closed. The small back roads are used which causes issues for local people. Clarity needs to be given of exactly when and why the bridge is to be shut.

Andrew Reid said that structural work needs to be undertaken soon, there are cracks in the bridge.

Communication is ongoing with the Snape Maltings to ensure minimum disruption for them. Reinforcing the bridge is needed but this may be in the form of staggered works.

Cllr Meffan commented that the diversion is a concern for the older residents.

Cllr Richards said that better traffic management is needed, signage is not clear enough. People did not understand that the bridge was shut, they drove into the village expecting to be able to go through Gromford Lane etc as an alternative route.

Cllr Beach said it is important to relieve the traffic on the back roads.

6 Consideration of Reports from District Councillors and County Councillors.

District Cllr Jocelyn Bond said that a report had been circulated some time ago, there are a few updates regarding the green bin collection which is resuming to its original day along with the recycling bin; the housing development at Rendlesham is to go to a full council vote tomorrow; and East Suffolk Council cabinet has voted to approve a response to Sizewell C, the local District Councillors recommended that the response should be similar to the overall response from SCC, but it will not be changed.

Andrew Reid commented that a report had been sent ahead of the meeting; a third crossing has been agreed for Lowestoft, this will give some greatly needed investment into the town, and should be completed in 2023/24; much work has been undertaken on the return to school after the holidays, currently they are not offering any spare seats on the school transport but this may change after October half term; the SCC Highways team have completed 25% of the road network being resurfaced, they have been able to complete 30% extra work since the Covid lockdown; travelling round the county has been safer as they have created safer spaces around the high streets; there is to be a push by the Government to encourage people to move away from cars and encourage walking and cycling, there is also a training initiative to help you to learn to ride your bike again; the Energy Projects – it has been recommended to be unable to support the planning in its current form, the response from ESC and SCC will concern the developers involved with the projects. Cllr Rainger commented that Snape Parish Council (SPC) had a lot of concerns regarding the transport, housing etc, which was all discussed at the ESC cabinet meeting. Andrew Reid said that he will keep SPC informed of any response from the Energy Project. Cllr Beach said that SPC was grateful that SCC was taking Parish Council views in their responses.

Cllr Beach reported that a meeting had taken place with Mark Nicholls regarding the speeding on Church Road.

Andrew Reid asked if he could be included in the emails regarding Church Road.

Cllr Beach said that he would forward some responses from Mark Ash that had been received last October and the latest to Highways.

Cllr Rainger said that a concerned resident of Church Road had contacted SPC regarding an overgrown hedge. SCC Highways will sort this problem.

Andrew Reid left at 7.25pm.

7 Contributions by Members of the Public

A member of the public commented about the cycling on the footpaths between Foxes Corner and Snape Bridge. The signs that have been erected are only partially effective. A number of cyclists do not see the signs. Should there be another sign on the car park, or a re-think of the placement of the existing signs. Cllr Beach commented that there are 3 spare signs which could be placed elsewhere, a site visit will take place to reassess the situation.

8 Planning Applications & Decision Notices.

None

9 Finance

a) Authorisation of payments up to 22 September 2020, approved and agreed.

G Whiting - £210, M Backhouse - £404.30, Village Hall Committee - £200, Snape Church £250, Community Action Suffolk Insurance Premium £276.64 & HMRC - £123.40. Total £1,464.34.

The authorisation of payments was proposed by Cllr Meffan and seconded by Cllr Rainger and agreed by all.

b) Cllr Norman proposed that SPC note the quarterly accounts to Sept 2020, this was seconded by Cllr Stuart and agreed by all.

c) Cllr Beach explained that the Clerk had received a pay increase in April of 1.8%, the new NALC recommendations have been received and this states a recommended increase of 2.5%. Cllr Farrant proposed that SPC agree the difference in the pay increase for the Clerk, this was seconded by Cllr Meffan and agreed by all.

10 Parish council Business

a) Village Plan

Cllr Beach reported that the Village Plan leaflet has been delivered to all of the households, and no comments have been received. There will be another leaflet some time ahead.

Cllr Norman reported that there is to be a Good Neighbour Scheme meeting to see if the service needs to increase because of the current Covid situation.

Cllr Beach commented that the traffic management plan had been presented to the Highways department, and are awaiting a response. Could extending the 20mph zone be considered?

Cllr Farrant reported that some other villages have larger 20mph zones, why could Snape not be extended.

Cllr Beach said that he had been informed by the Highways department that a 20mph zone could not be placed on a 'B' road but that was being challenged.

Cllr Farrant suggested that Gromford Lane etc could be a 20mph zone as part of quiet lanes.

Cllr Richards commented that SCC Highways need to ensure they understand that this plan is for people's safety, it is not about a few lines, it is a more significant scheme.

Cllr Beach said that SCC Highways had tried to say not to this proposal, but SPC will push again for the work to be consulted on and completed.

Action: continue to follow up and another site visit to take place, Cllr Meffan and Cllr Hough to attend in addition to Cllr Beach and Cllr Richards.

b) Village Green Enhancement

Cllr Beach reported that Cllr Allfrey has completed a lot of work with this project. There are plans in the noticeboard, this plan will make it difficult for cars to park on the village green. There has already been a donation of around £400, with a request going to Adnams and AONB for a further £2,500 each. The quote for the project is around £5,000.

c) East Coast Power Projects

Cllr Beach reported that SPR has held a preliminary hearing. SPC has registered as an interested party. 500 words are required for the Sizewell C project, to register as an interested party.

Cllr Lock proposed that SPC register as an interested party, this was seconded by Cllr Hough and agreed by all.

Action: Cllr Beach to draft and circulate a response on behalf of SPC.

d) Community Speedwatch

Cllr Beach commented that the A1094 had initially been reported as too dangerous for a community Speedwatch group. Cllr Rainger and Cllr Beach met with the Police to look again at two proposed sites on the A1094. It has been agreed that the garage entrance should be used and Cllr Rainger's drive, both of which are on the A1094. The Speedwatch group will be trying these sites over the next few weeks.

e) Re-adoption of Policies

Cllr Norman proposed that SPC re-adopt the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment, Internal Control and the GDPR Policies, this was seconded by Cllr Farrant and agreed by all.

f) Village Hall

Cllr Meffan reported that there had some correspondence received concerning the car park at the rear of the Village Hall. The Village Hall committee are willing to discuss the parking area, but it is not just for people to park in whilst visiting some friends down the road.

Cllr Lock said that there is a concern that cars parking in front of the village hall make it difficult for people coming out of the drive onto the main road. Who would be responsible if there is an accident as a result of this parking?

Cllr Meffan replied that we can't ask Van's not to deliver goods by parking at the end of the drive, however we are aware of the parking restrictions. Cllr Beach and Cllr Meffan are to meet with the Garrett Close Committee to discuss the situation.

Cllr Beach commented that this is a Village Hall Committee situation not PC. The meeting will only be open for 6 people.

g) ESC road side verges

Cllr Beach reported that the photographs of the verges had been sent to ESC Norse, who have agreed not to mow the verges so much, allowing space for wildlife.

Cllr Norman reported that a form of Ox eye daisy seeds are already being grown to be given as plugs to members of the village, to place in the verges, as well as poppy seeds to be sown into the verges.

Cllr Beach reported that the area around the bus shelter had been cleared, some native plants could be placed in this area, but it does belong to SCC so would need approval.

Cllr Rainger commented that ESC is encouraging the PC's to take more responsibility of their areas.

Cllr Beach said that a project around the bus shelter was a good idea.

Cllr Norman said that she would approach Greensnape for some suggestions and possible help with the bus shelter area.

It was agreed by all to arrange a site visit to discuss the way forward with this project.

h) Allotments

Cllr Stuart reported that she had circulated a report prior to this meeting. It is proposing that Cllr Stuart and Cllr Beach meet to look at the boundary on the allotments. It is important to meet with the homeowner first and then to meet with the allotment holders. The issue is concerning a piece of land about a metre wide.

It was agreed by all that Cllr Beach and Cllr Stuart should be delegated to deal with this issue.

Cllr Farrant asked if SPC should look at the paperwork concerning the PC land.

Cllr Stuart reported that the School and the Playing Field are registered with the Land Registry but the Village Hall and the allotments are not. It would be a good idea to look through some of the documents at the Village Hall to sort the PC assets. Cllr Stuart offered to look at the documentation and process after Christmas when she would be less busy. All agreed it would be a good idea to follow through.

Cllr Norman said that the fee the allotment holders pay is very minimal.

Cllr Stuart said that the PC has to give 12 months' notice of an increase in rent. This may be looked at later in the year.

i) Snape School

Cllr Stuart reported that she had been approached by the School to ask what the PC's view was on academisation. The agreed lease does provide for handing to an academy. The academy will not want to pay rent. An email has been sent to the academy solicitor, which included a copy of the lease. The PC needs to know what the academy are objecting too within the lease.

Cllr Beach commented that the PC would not be keen to forgo the rent.

j) Covid-19

Cllr Beach reported that the GNS will be continued as the Covid situation continues demand may increase again. Thanks, must go to the Snape Malting and the Garage for their generous contributions to the village larder.

k) Emergency Plan Leaflet

Cllr Rainger, Cllr Beach and Cllr Farrant have written an Emergency Plan leaflet, this gives advice for emergencies such as flooding and power failures. It will also include information regarding the GNS. The cost for this leaflet will be around £200.

Cllr Rainger said that the Covid situation has shown the need for an Emergency Plan within the village.

Cllr Norman proposed the Emergency Plan leaflet, this was seconded by Cllr Rainger and agreed by all.

l) Litter Pick

Cllr Lock commented that Norse are no longer loaning out equipment for litter picking.

Cllr Beach reported that he had lots of bags and gloves that can be used.

DCllr Bond suggested that she contact James Mallinder and ask for his assistance with the litter picking equipment.

Cllr Beach said that a set of litter pickers are about £10, we could have 10 sets. We will wait for a response from James Mallinder before we purchase the litter pickers.

Cllr Lock suggested that the litter pick takes place on the 17th October at 10am.

Cllr Beach suggested that an email with the date and time should be sent to the Webmaster for the website. Numbers will be restricted due to the current regulations.

Cllr Meffan and Cllr Hough left at 8.30pm.

m) Grant application

Cllr Lock proposed that the PC apply to ESC for funding of £8,000 on behalf of the playing field, for new play equipment, this was seconded by Cllr Richards and agreed by all.

11 Correspondence

East Coast Path – Cllr Richards reported that the footpaths are designed for all users, including cyclists.

Cllr Beach said that most of the landowners are not keen for cyclists to use the footpaths.

Cllr Norman asked if there was a footpath that went along the river and how far does it go?
Cllr Beach said that a 1972 map shows the Sailors Path, but parts of that are now not there.
It was agreed by all that Cllr Richards should look into the proposed Coastal Path.
Cllr Rainger said that SCC may have a map of Public Rights of Way, that team may be useful to talk to.
Wadd Lane camping – Cllr Beach said that some correspondence had been received regarding some campers on a small area of land, which is owned by the people camping on it. The site is becoming as eye sore with litter and reports of noise late at night. This land is being used as amenity land.
It was agreed by all that Cllr Farrant should check with the Planning department to see if any planning regulations are being breached.

Burning of potentially toxic materials – Cllr Beach commented that the burning of potentially toxic materials has been mentioned to him by some of the residents.
It was agreed by all to place an item on the next flier about the burning of rubbish.

Village Hall Parking – This item was discussed under item 10f.

12 For consideration at the Virtual Meeting on 27 October 2020 (Urgent items only) or 24 November 2020 at 7pm.

Traffic calming, Power projects.

Cllr Beach commented that it is the intention to use virtual meetings for some time following advice from SALC/NALC to use remote meetings, this was agreed by all.

13 Dates of the Next Meeting

27 October 2020 7pm (Urgent items only)

24 November 2020 7pm

Meeting Closed – 8.45pm.

Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk

snapepc.clerk@gmail.com

22 September 2020