

Snape Parish Council

Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 7.00pm.

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

Attendance: 3 members of the public.

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

None

2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members

Cllr Norman – Allotments

Cllr Allfrey – Allotments

T-J Haworth-Culf - Alde Valley Trust

3 Applications for Dispensation

None

4 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 27 October 2020.

Cllr Norman proposed that the minutes of the 27 October be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Richards and agreed by all.

5 Matters arising from the Previous Meeting on 27 October 2020.

Cllr Norman reported that there is to be a National Carol singing event on the 20 December 2020 at 5.30pm. This can be attended by everyone as it happens on your own doorstep. This is compliant as it takes place in your own garden. There is a link that you can download the Carol sheet from.

ACTION: Cllr Norman to circulate this to all Council.

Cllr Beach asked if there was any more information regarding the siting of a Fish & chip cart on the ground opposite the Church.

Cllr Rainger replied that there had been no more information received regarding this from ESC or SCC, the siting of the Fish & Chip cart is for the landowners to approve.

ACTION: Cllr Rainger to contact ESC and SCC for a response regarding ownership of the land.

6 Consideration of Reports from District Councillors and County Councillors.

The County and District Councillors were present at the meeting and a written report had been submitted in advance.

T-J Haworth-Culf commented that there was a Community Partnership meeting to be held on the 1st December. The EDF consultation is ongoing at the moment.

Jocelyn Bond commented that other parishes are now contacting them regarding planning. The compulsory purchase is taking place for the windfarms. Any support that the PC may require with responses to EDF etc. they are able to assist.

Cllr Beach commented that various Councillors are attending briefings, and this is aiding with writing representations on behalf of the PC to EDF, SPR etc.

7 Contributions by Members of the Public

None

8 Planning Applications & Decision Notices.

DC/20/4578/FUL – Street Farm House, The Street, Snape, IP17 1SJ

Ground floor and second storey rear extensions to existing dwelling.

It was agreed by all for Cllr Farrant to meet with the neighbours etc regarding the application.

ACTION: Cllr Farrant to talk to the neighbours etc and give a response to the Clerk for ESC.

9 Finance

- a) Authorisation of payments up to 24 November 2020, approved and agreed.

Vertas - £316.01, Clerk - £449.73, SALC - £54, PKF Littlejohn - £240, G Whiting - £525, John Poll – £200, CAS - £22.50. Total £1,807.24.

Cllr Stuart proposed that the payments be made, this was seconded by Cllr Meffan and agreed by all.

- b) Draft budget – Cllr Hough commented that a virtual meeting had taken place with the finance group, the budget had been discussed, and a proposal put together.

Cllr Beach said that the precept amount was to remain the same. There is a fund in place for the Traffic Calming and other earmarked items. There is an amount of CiL money that requires spending as this was received in 2017.

The draft budget was agreed by all.

- c) Internal & External Reports

Cllr Beach commented that the reports have been received. The Finance Group will look through these reports with the Clerk and give a summary at the next PC meeting.

10 Parish Council Business

- a) Snape School Lease

Cllr Beach said that the School had paid rent annually to the Parish Council since a lease agreement was signed and agreed in 2015. The amount of £5000 has been placed in the proposed budget for the Parish Council income for 2021/22. Academisation of the School is moving forward, but the rent is an issue, this may be considered further but at the moment they wish to pay a peppercorn rent of £1 per year. At the moment, the PC is trying to talk this through with the Trust directly, but it has not happened. There will be a meeting as soon as possible to look at the lease and associated issues to which the Trust had agreed the previous day. A letter from the Headteacher, circulated to all the Councillors, shares her views on the situation which emphasised that if the rent was taken from the school it would come out of their budget for educating the children which was inappropriate.

Mike Hill said that the village as a whole owes a lot to the Garrett family, they built the maltings etc, and placed Snape on the map. The Garretts recognised the need for education and built the school in 1905. In 1912 it was taken over by the then East Suffolk Council, PC records show that the payment of rent dwindled. In 2011 the 99-year lease was up. Lots of negotiation took place, and the rent of £5,000 was discussed and agreed to be paid by the DFE, not out of the School budget. Lots of money has been raised by the village for the School, as it is a big part of the village. The Headteacher has worked hard over the past few months, communicating with the parents etc, and setting up the village larder. Lots of Schools are being taken over by academies. The rent is an issue, if the PC needs to have rent this will be taken out of the School budget. An open village meeting should take place to discuss this if the PC wants to take the rent from the School budget.

Cllr Beach said that the PC has no desire to undermine the School, the importance of a School in the village is recognised by all and was recognised in the Village Plan.

Brian Boulton endorsed what Mike Hill had said, and added that the PC managed without the rent for several years. This should go to the village for a ballot if necessary, there is a lot of support for the school. Negotiations should be sort from the academy and if possible a compromise agreed. Cllr Stuart commented that the PC is the legal owner of the freehold, the school is leased. The lease owners cannot build on the land, without the agreement of the PC. This is an unusual situation where the PC are the owners, in many villages the building would have been put as an asset into a trust for the village.

Cllr Beach said that a meeting with the chief Executive of the Trust, Chair of Trustees and Chief Operating Officer will take place to discuss any issues as soon as possible.

Cllr Lock asked who is responsible for repairs to the School.

Cllr Beach said that the tenant is responsible for the maintenance and repairs, this is stated in the lease.

Andrew Reid commented that this is a PC matter, but if support is required from the SCC he is willing to assist. Please could he be kept in the loop regarding this matter.

Cllr Beach recognised that there is a lot of support for the School in the village and this was recognised by all.

Cllr Norman asked if there is a timeline for this?

Cllr Beach said that there is no critical date but it needed to be addressed as soon as possible.

Cllr Stuart commented that the School governors are keen to resolve this.

Cllr Richards said that the way forward is a meeting with the Trust, it is not the case that the school budget must provide the funding, it could in fact come from multi-academies pot.

Cllr Beach agreed that the meeting should take place, and short notice for the meeting would be fine. Cllr Meffan, Cllr Allfrey and Cllr Richards offered to join the meeting as well.

Cllr Hough said that the issue needs sorting with the academy not the teachers at the school.

Cllr Meffan commented that the school does need to have a voice in the meeting as well.

Agreed that a small group would meet virtually with the Trust as soon as could be arranged.

ACTION: Cllr Beach proposed to have a meeting with the Trust, this was seconded by Cllr Meffan and agreed by all. The outcome from the meeting will then be brought back to a PC for discussion.

b) East Coast power projects

Cllr Beach said that some of the Councillors are attending briefings regarding the projects. Cllr Richards and Cllr Hough had responded but had not received a reply. Cllr Rainger is to join the briefings as an observer. Cllr Richards agreed to follow up re the meetings.

Andrew Reid commented that SCC would be willing to work with Snape PC to put forward their views.

Cllr Beach said that following on from these briefings, the PC would then create their response.

Cllr Richards said that the biggest concern is the Government briefing reports the Sizewell will be getting the funding.

Andrew Reid said that the Chancellor has to share the money over many things, Sizewell would receive a minimal sum.

ACTION: Cllr Beach said that the PC will draft a response to the power projects.

c) Road side verges and bus shelter area.

Cllr Norman commented that Greensnape has offered to do some planting near the bus shelter in March. £300 would be required from the PC to fund this together with the verges, there may be funding available elsewhere for this. In the verges they are hoping to plant, poppies, Ox-eye daisies, etc. One problem is that the parents dropping children at the school are parking on the verges and on top of the bulbs that are coming through.

Cllr Beach said that the PC were not expecting to have to pay £300 but means of funding could be explored with ESC and SCC.

Andrew Reid said that road side verges are getting a big tick, SCC are able to support and develop them, please contact SCC for support. Also contact the Ecological Department to ensure that the grass cutting doesn't happen on those verges.

Cllr Beach replied that the PC has contacted someone, need to check that all locations have been mentioned.

ACTION: Cllr Norman said that she would apply for some funding/grants for the expenditure.

Andrew Reid left the meeting at 8pm

d) Allotments

Cllr Stuart said that the boundaries of the allotments have been clearly marked out using metal wire by the landowner. This does not interfere with the plots or the sheds.

Cllr Beach commented that a willow tree on the allotment needs to be cut back and made safe following a professional assessment. Two quotes had been received for the work both at exactly £1,200.

T-J Haworth-Culf said that they could have a talk about the funding and get back to us, and the cost of some bulbs for the verges.

Cllr Norman said that this is a safety issue as some of the branches has fallen off in the past, and landed near the new water pump.

Cllr Beach said that the agreement of the allotment holders should be sought first.

ACTION: Cllr Meffan proposed that the willow tree is pollard, this was seconded by Cllr Lock and agreed by all.

e) Boundary changes

Cllr Richards said that the consultation for the boundary changes finished today.

T-J Haworth-Culf, Jocelyn Bond and Mike Hill left the meeting at 8.05pm

f) Dates of next year's meetings

The dates of the meetings were circulated and agreed by all.

g) Joint PC Traffic issues

Cllr Beach reported that this was in connection with Tunstall PC and Campsea-Ashe PC requesting a formal meeting with SCC and ESC re heavy traffic routed through the various villages. This started in January and has now been resurrected.

ACTION: Cllr Meffan proposed that Snape PC continue to support the other PC's with traffic issues, this was seconded by Cllr Stuart and agreed by all.

h) Village Green

Cllr Beach reported that funding from AONB, Adnams and Waitrose has been received to fund this project. A plan has been agreed which costs within the allocated funds. This includes tree planting etc.

i) Parking at entrance to Glebes

Cllr Norman reported that when cars are parked in the entrance to the Glebes, it makes it impossible for people to see out onto the Church Road. There is a car parked on the road with slashed tyres. The parking is unsafe.

Cllr Beach said that the parking in the Glebes does come and go regularly and had been the subject of discussion with SCC already.

Cllr Hough left the meeting at 8.10pm.

Cllr Richards said that this is a traffic safety problem that should be included in the traffic management plan.

Cllr Beach said that the area of the Glebes should be included in the plan to make the area safer.

Cllr Rainger said that the parking should be reported to the Civil Parking Enforcement officer.

Cllr Lock suggested that School parking could be behind the village hall, or on an area of the common opposite the Church. This would relieve the issue.

Cllr Meffan said that the village hall car park area has been offered for parking in the past and this was only taken up by a couple of cars.

ACTION: Cllr Beach said that the Glebes should be included in the Traffic Management Plan, it may also be useful to talk to the Headteacher of the School to see if they could write to the parents again.

ACTION: Cllr Norman asked if a link to the Parking Enforcement Officer could be placed on the website.

Steve Stocks said that a link is already available.

Cllr Meffan and Cllr Allfrey left the meeting at 8.15pm.

j) Traffic calming

Cllr Beach reported that the request for traffic calming work in Church Road is now subject to formal costing and feasibility study by SCC Highways who will report back. A site visit has also been requested to Priory Road following on from correspondence by two residents. Andrew Reid is aware of the traffic calming suggestions.

- k) Quiet Lanes
Cllr Beach commented that the SCC legal notices have been delivered to all residents of the lanes nominated, and it was in the paper on the 20 November.
- l) Campers Wadd Lane
Cllr Beach said that this remains unsolved but there is no activity on the site at the moment. This will continue to be monitored. He suggested given the number of concerns it may be appropriate to ask ESC to consider Anti-Social behaviour legislation.
- m) Snape Good Neighbour Scheme
Cllr Norman said that the welcome packs are in the planning stage, could apply for funding for this project. This is hoped to be launched from the end of January.
Cllr Beach commented that the Speedwatch has been stood down by the Police until the 2nd December due to lockdown restrictions.
- n) Bid for playing field equipment
Cllr Beach commented that a bid had been sent to ESC but it needs to be a particular type of equipment, this is ongoing.
- o) Industrial development off A1094 Benhall
Cllr Rainger said that lots of people have commented about this development, it is to be a crop store, weighbridge and offices. It is a large development, and create a lot of traffic. On the application it states 4 tractors and 4 HGV's per hour, this will cause a lot of pressure on the Friday Street junction. It is important that the ESC and SCC are made aware of this. EDF should include these traffic movements in their plans.
Cllr Richards commented that this is a large development that no one was aware of.
Cllr Rainger said that this appears to be a distribution centre for local farms.
ACTION: Cllr Norman proposed that the PC should write to ESC & SCC stating the views of the PC, this was seconded by Cllr Richards and agreed by all.
- p) Website domain renewal
ACTION: Cllr Rainger proposed that the PC approves the website domain renewal at a cost of £22.50, this was seconded by Cllr Norman and agreed by all.

11 Correspondence

CAB donation

ACTION: Cllr Farrant proposed that the PC gives a donation of a £100 to the CAB, this was seconded by Cllr Lock and agreed by all.

Aldeburgh Resident – footpath signage

Cllr Beach said that an email had been received regarding the signage on the footpath that states no cycling.

ACTION: It was agreed by all that Cllr Beach should send the letter previously draft to another member of the public who had commented about the signs.

Snape Common

Cllr Beach said that a letter had been received regarding the encroachment onto the common land. An email had been sent to SCC to see what can be done. This will be continued to be pursued, as there was some confusion over the exact area.

Priory Road

Cllr Beach reported that the letters have been circulated to SCC Highways

Cllr Norman suggested that there should be some form of ladder drawn, with steps for working to regarding the School lease. This would be a visual aid.

Cllr Beach said that we do need a plan and a script to work from.

Cllr Richards said that the Trust needs to know that the School is fully supported by the village.

ACTION: Cllr Beach said that he will give feedback to the School following on from the discussion this evening.

12 Matters for consideration at the meeting on the 26th January 2021.

Audit report

13 Dates of the Next Meeting

26 January 2021 7pm
23 February 2021 7pm (Urgent items only)
23 March 2021 7pm

Meeting Closed – 8.38pm.

Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk

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24 November 2020

DRAFT