

Snape Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 27 July 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Paul Richards, Cllr Russ Rainger,
Cllr Maria Norman, Cllr Graham Farrant, Cllr Margaret McKenna
Cllr Tim Beach, Cllr Bill Hough, and Cllr Georgina Lock.

Attendance: 8 members of the public.

Cllr Richards welcomed the members of the public and the new District Cllr Tom Daly to the meeting.

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

County Councillor Andrew Reid, District Cllr Tony Cooper, Cllr Meffan & Cllr Allfrey
A letter of resignation has been received from Cllr Meffan.
Cllr Richards thanked her for her support whilst on the Parish Council.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members

None

3 Applications for Dispensation

None

Cllr Richards explained that as there were quite a few members of the public, if everyone agreed, the "Contributions from members of the public" would be moved forward.
It was agreed by all to move the items around.

There was a group of members of the public who wished to talk about the boundary on the Common near Sand Pit Cottage.

A member of the public commented that there is a case of encroachment on the common land. On a scale of 1-10 how important is this encroachment on the common land to the Parish Council? How difficult is it to research the boundaries on the common land? There has been a meeting with the land owner, what was the outcome of that meeting? On the 20th April, there was a stake placed on the North East corner of the common, Cllr Beach assisted with this.

A second member of the public commented that the area of common needs to be sorted, it is not possible to roam on the common as it is too overgrown, and it would be nice to reinstate the footpath. Maybe the group could be a sub-committee of the PC.

Cllr Beach replied that the issue of the boundary on the common has appeared on the PC agenda every month for some time. Suffolk County Council (SCC) are most reluctant to resolve the boundary issue, even though the land belongs to them. County Councillor Andrew Reid could be asked for assistance with this issue. The PC are unable to resolve this. The item was raised three years ago, but the process is so slow. This issue should take a joint approach from the PC and the group. Cllr Allfrey is not present, but she is taking this forward, and has asked SCC staff to meet on site to look at the issue and to prove where the boundaries are. There is a map from 1927 that shows the track across the common land. The PC are governed by the Local Government Act which states some restrictions, also the PC does not have the General Power of Competence.

The first member of the public commented that the public should be able to enter and walk on the common land. There has been a deliberate act to fence off the common land and there is no edge to walk on. Also, a car park has been constructed on the land. Apparently, the SCC has given permission for the PC to place a boundary stake on the common land.

Cllr beach said the PC has not been given that permission. Nobody from SCC has visited the site. Cllr Rainger and Cllr Beach attended a virtually meeting some time ago.

The third member of the group said that SCC should mark the boundaries if they are the owners.

Cllr Beach commented that he met with Andrew Reid and T-J Haworth Culf about three years ago, and asked for the definition of what the PC actually owns and is responsible for. SCC is responsible for several areas of the village.

The second member of the public asked if the group could become a sub-committee and push the issue with SCC forward.

Cllr Beach said that Cllr Allfrey has made an application for funding to assist with the cost of clearing the area. The way forward is to engage with Andrew Reid to complain about the staffing issues.

The first member of the public stated that he has the land registry map of the area, it should be possible to measure the area and place a boundary stake. People should be able to roam the common without being abused.

Cllr Richards said the PC care very much about the issue. It is important we know the boundaries on the common land. The PC has a plan to sort the footpaths without damaging the wildlife. This is a long-term project, but the PC needs the SCC to state the boundaries, until this happens the PC cannot move forward.

Cllr Hough suggested that both the group and the PC contact Andrew Reid about the situation.

The first member of the public said that when he informed SCC about the abuse he had received, he was informed to contact the Police.

Another member of the public said that Greensnape contacted SCC about 4 years ago requesting a map of the common boundaries, but they were unable to. The Common that is being discussed has encroachment from the North as well, with cars parked and rubbish dumped.

Cllr Richards said that both the PC and the group should contact Andrew Reid about this and submit a fresh approach from both sides.

District Councillor Tom Daly said the PROW's can be enforced.

Cllr Richards thanked the group for their comments, and it was agreed that both parties would email Andrew Reid and copy each other in for reference.

Cllr Rainger said that Andrew Reid is aware of this issue.

ACTION: PC to write to Andrew Reid regarding the boundaries on the Common Land.

Five members of the public left at 7.41pm.

4 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 25 May 2021.

It was agreed by all the Councillors that the minutes of the meeting of the 25 May 2021, be accepted as a true record.

5 Matters arising from the Previous Meeting on 25 May 2021.

5.1 Power Projects

Cllr Beach reported that this is ongoing. There have been several hearings, Snape has submitted concerns about the traffic and transport. Comments from other Cllrs have been added to the submission. The next meeting is to be with EDF on the 4th August.

Cllr McKenna suggested that a list of questions should be compiled so that nothing is forgotten.

Cllr Richards said it was a good idea to have a list of questions, and the PC should focus on Snape issues such as the HGV movements and the Park & Ride routes.

5.2 Traffic Calming

Cllr Beach said that there was no update, a request for more information about the traffic movements has been made. Cllr Farrant has lots of data from the SID's positioned around the village.

5.3 Housing Needs

Cllr Beach commented that pre-application advice had been given. A housing survey was completed 2 years ago with the assistance of Community Action Suffolk. Some possible sites for house have been suggested around the village. Hastoe building company are to assist with this. This is ongoing and will take time to complete.

5.4 Allotment boundary.

Cllr Richards said that the owners of Hazeldene house have agreed a boundary with the allotments.

All Cllrs agreed the boundary.

5.5 Snape Common and Sand Pit boundary.

Cllr Richards said that this has been covered under item 7.

6 Consideration of Reports from the District Councillors and the County Councillors.

County Councillor Andrew Reid sent his apologies but had submitted a written report.

District Councillor Tom Daly said that he represented the Green Party, he is interested in the Power Projects, and would be encouraging green power, he would also like to move ESC away from the neutral stance relating to Sizewell C.

District Cllr Russ Rainger said that he would be as helpful as he can, this is early days with the first full Council meeting being held this week. He is on the Licensing Committee and the AOCIP as well.

Cllr Richards said that the PC values its connection with the District Councillors.

District Councillor Tom Daly left at 7.54pm.

7 Contribution by Members of the Public.

Steve commented that he has recently taken over as the village recorder. This is now run by the Suffolk Local History Group. He is now in possession of 20 old maps of Snape. A statement is to be written in the Local Family History Groups constitution that the maps belong to Snape and should remain here.

A member of the public wished to comment about the yellow paint on Priory Road, which has been there for some time as the road was to be resurfaced and the drainage issues sorted. Nothing has been done and the yellow paint is wearing off. Could the PC chase the Highways department and ask when this work will be completed.

ACTION: PC to chase the work on Priory Road with the Highways department.

8 Planning Applications & Decision Notices.

DC/21/3085/VOC – Holly Lodge, Wadd Lane, Snape, IP17 1QY

Variation of condition 2 on planning permission DC/20/0956/FUL – demolition of existing dwelling.

Construction of two storey dwelling with detached annex building. Widened access. Sewage treatment plant. Associated landscaping.

Cllr Farrant commented that the 'public access' website is down, but this plan seems no different to the application a year ago.

DC/21/2698/FUL – New England Farm, The Warren, Snape

Jetty and boat shed.

Cllr Farrant commented that this application changed status three times, normally he would seek the opinions of the local residents then pass that to the PC.

Cllr Rainger said that the application has various documents, the environmental impact is being raised.

Cllr Beach said that the PC objected to the Iken canoes.

Cllr Farrant said that several years ago there was a wharf there, but now the area is more precious with the wildlife etc.

It was agreed to share the concerns about the wildlife and object.

DC/21/3475/FUL – 62 Sailors Path Cottages, The Warren, Snape,

Addition of a new kitchen, entry, utility, bedrooms and garage/barn to the rear and two new dormer windows.

Cllr Farrant to look at this application and draft a response to all to agree before submitting to ESC.

DC/21/3254/FUL – Land and buildings at Croft Farm, Hulver Lane, Snape,

Change of use for agricultural land and part of an existing agricultural building to a touring caravan site for up to 30 caravans and associated facilities including toilets, showers and a guest reception.

Cllr Farrant to look at the application and draft a response for all to agree before submitting to ESC.

9 Finance

- a) Review and authorisation of payments and signing of cheques by signatories,

All the Councillors agreed the authorisation for payment sheet. There were no questions for the Clerk.

The payments were: Gary Whiting - £550, Playsafety Limited - £474, Clerk – £399.88, HMRC - £123.40, Vertas - £331.78, SALC - £292.80, Community Action Suffolk - £42.00. Total £2,213.86.

- b) Online Banking

The Clerk reported that she had been able to set up online banking with HSBC, but it did not appear to give the facility of setting up and payment and having two of the three signatories approve this, as required by our regulations.

A meeting is to be held between the three signatories and the Clerk to try and resolve the situation.

c) Quarterly accounts

All the Councillors noted and agreed the Quarterly Accounts.

10 Parish Council Business

a) Policies – readoption of the GDPR Privacy Notice, Data Retention and Data Breach.

All the Councillors agreed to the readoption of the above policies.

b) AOCIP update

Cllr Beach said that there was no update as there is still an ongoing investigation by the Environment Agency regarding clay at Iken.

c) Snape Welcome Pack

Cllr Norman said that the packs are completed, there are 30 of them, these will be distributed to new residents in the village. These have been funded by money from Waitrose.

d) RSPB – Snape warren

Cllr Richards reported that an email had been received regarding the management of Snape Warren. The RSPB are terminating their use of the site.

Cllr Beach said that a lot of people visit that site. Some information has tried to be gained from the RSPB but with no success. The PC should find out how the land is managed, and what the landowners intention is for the site.

Cllr McKenna asked if there are maps showing the ownership of the common land.

Cllr Beach said that there are maps showing the common land. The Land Registry does not show the ownership of the land.

ACTION: Cllr Beach to write to the owners of the land.

e) The Old Village Website

Steve informed the PC that the old website is still in circulation although it has not been used since 2009. There are many errors on the site, including addresses and phone numbers. He has raised the issue with the service providers, but if there is no success, he will notify the ICO.

ACTION: It was agreed by all to support a letter to the ICO if no response is received from the service provider.

f) Maintenance of footpaths in the parish.

A member of the public asked if the PC could reconsider the maintenance of the footpaths. SCC should do this, but it does not always happen. When a footpath was reported for being overgrown to the SCC the response given was that it was not on the cutting list. The PC used to be responsible, but gave up and handed it to SCC. Many footpaths depend on the landowners to cut them.

Cllr Beach said that all the footpaths and public rights of way should be cut.

Cllr Farrant said the PC should tread carefully if they are considering taking it over.

It was agreed to pass this onto Andrew Reid of the number of the footpath is available.

Cllr Beach said that the online reporting tool can be used to report footpaths etc. SCC keep a definitive map of the footpaths.

ACTION: Pass information onto Andrew Reid regarding the cutting of the footpaths.

11 Correspondence

SARS & Theatre Aldeburgh

Both these letters were regarding donations.

It was agreed to carry these over until October.

12 Matters for consideration at the meeting on the 24th August 2021

Online banking, common boundaries, planning, Snape Warren.

13 Dates of the Next Meeting

24 August 2021(Urgent items only)

28 September 2021

26 October 2021 (Urgent items only)

Meeting Closed – 8.58pm.

Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk

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27 July 2021

DRAFT