

Snape Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2022 at 7.00pm In Snape Village Hall.

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

Attendance: 0 members of the public and the Clerk (Marie Backhouse).

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

Cllr Jackie Allfrey and County Councillor Andrew Reid

2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Member

Cllr D Norman, Cllr M Norman and Cllr Beach – members of the Playing Field Committee
Cllr Rainger - ESC District Councillor.

3 Applications for Dispensation

None

4 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 27 September 2022.

Cllr McKenna proposed that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on the 27 September 2022, this was seconded by Cllr M Norman and agreed by all who attended.

5 Matters arising from the Previous Meeting on 27 September 2022.

5.1 Power Projects/National Grid consultation on Sea Link – Cllr Beach reported that there is a meeting on Friday with Therese Coffey, this is to discuss the cumulative impact of SZC. 3 Cllrs will be attending. The East Anglian 1 and 2 wind farms have been put back for 2 years. Sealink and Eurolink both require a response to the consultation. The issues concerning the village are the same as the ones submitted for SZC.

Cllr Rainger commented that the National Grid title is being used for Sealink and Eurolink, although it is said that they are separate entities.

Cllr Beach recommends that the PC should work with other PC's. The meeting on Friday is open to other members of the public if they have applied to attend.

Cllr McKenna commented that there seems to be many consultations going on at the moment, all require a response by a set date.

Cllr Beach added that there is a map which shows the area covered by all these power projects, it is a vast area.

Cllr Rainger said that Nautilus may have moved away. The National Grid has raised their profile on social media, showing what they can do.

Tom Daly commented that Nautilus had been moved to a brown field site, why don't the other power projects follow.

Cllr Rainger commented that there is a map that shows how the electricity generated is to be moved around the country. It is about renewable energy, Net Zero etc, but does not mention bio-diversity.

Cllr Richards said that the PC had requested a consultation briefing for Snape, this was refused as it was thought that there were enough presentations in the area.

Cllr Richards suggested that a meeting to discuss the Deed of Obligation in relation to the Village Plan should take place in January.

Cllr Rainer advised the PC to take as much evidence as possible to show how the village is at the moment, and how SZC will change this.

Cllr McKenna suggested that a meeting to look at the Village Plan should take place ahead of Christmas, and people can start to collate evidence now.

ACTION: Cllr Beach said that the notes used for SZC should be adapted and used for Sealink and Eurolink. Cllr Richards to try to get a consultation session in the village hall.

5.2 Traffic Calming – Cllr Richards said that he and Cllr Beach would be involved in the PC meetings regarding the proposed lorry route.

Cllr Beach said that Campsea Ashe Parish Council is pushing hard to get the lorry route re-assessed and they are making a formal complaint about the use of data and information for the last Local Plan. The amount of traffic using the routes should be monitored now, there has already been data collected by the Highways team on the routes mentioned. It was agreed to continue support the initiative of the joint parish group.

ACTION: Information needs to be collected on the vehicle movements and continued working with Campsea Ashe and the joint parishes.

5.3 Housing needs – Cllr Beach commented that a meeting had taken place with a housing developer in Middleton, this related to a new development there.

ACTION: Continue to place this on the agenda.

5.4 Bio-diversity and climate change – Cllr Richards commented that this was ongoing.

5.5 Allotments – Cllr Richards said that this item is ongoing.

ACTION: Cllr Richards to undertake an initial enquiry with the Land Registry.

5.7 Church Common – Cllr Richards commented that he had written to Highways regarding the eroding banks, but no response had been received.

ACTION: Carry over to the next meeting.

5.8 Welcome Packs – Cllr M Norman said this was ongoing.

ACTION: Carry over to the next meeting.

5.9 Policies – Cllr McKenna said that the review of the policies was ongoing.

5.10 Play area – Cllr Beach commented that a meeting of the Playing Field Committee had taken place. It was agreed to apply for grants, CIL money and funding to assist with some of the needed repairs. Some of the action points in the report recommended the repair of the matting. It was also suggested that some of the wooden items are replaced. Could or would the PC consider the use of some of the CIL money to assist with the required repairs?

Cllr M Norman said it was agreed not to hold a village fete next year.

ACTION: The PC was supportive of funding from CIL but would require a formal quote or quotes to consider.

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

Cllr Richards commented that a report had been received from Andrew Reid.

The plan that the Highways engineer is working on needs a TRO, this has now been agreed with the northern entry point moving to Saxonfield. The relocating of the 20 is plenty sign has made the area bigger. Some comments mention the need for an extended footpath, and to ensure the 20 is plenty area is enforceable.

An email should be sent to SCC Highways stating what the PC endorses.

Cllr D Norman said that the comment made by the garage stating that it owns the layby the opposite side of the road, cannot be correct as many others use that area, the school bus etc.

Cllr Beach said that the garage had been offered alternative parking areas, either on the playing field car park or the chapel car park.

Cllr Richards asked if there was a need to respond to the report sent through by the Highways Engineer?

Cllr Beach said it would be an idea to mention the comments about an extended footpath, the garage parking and the enforcement of the 20mph.

Cllr Richards said that there had been a discussion relating to the possible double yellow lines in Pryor Close, this is not going to happen as not everyone is in agreement with this.

Cllr Rainger commented that SCC Highways should be advised of the possible alternative parking arrangements for the garage.

Tom Daly commented that there is an ESC fund of £250,000 to assist with cultural connections. The new Chief Executive is Chris Bally, he has the full support of the Council. The new Cycling and Walking Strategy has been adopted.

Cllr Rainger added that the 'Ease the Squeeze' initiative is continuing, some libraries now have an ESC have a representative in to assist the members of the public.

Cllr Lock asked if the libraries are remaining open.

Cllr Rainger replied that the libraries are seen as an area for a warm room. There is funding to assist with the warm rooms. Information about the 'Ease the Squeeze' would be circulated to the GNS and coffee mornings. There are currently 17 projects funded through the budget. The Community Partnership is assisting with getting information out to those who need it.

Cllr M Norman said that it is finding the people in the community who genuinely need the help from these initiatives.

Tom Daly left at 7.50pm.

7 Contribution by Members of the Public.

None

8 Planning Applications & Decision Notices.

Cllr Farrant commented that there were a few applications to mention:

Pryor Close – there had been a conversation about a double garage, this is not controversial.

Heathlands – this a refurbishment, and will make a great improvement.

Sycamore Cottage – this is an application that has just arrived today, and involves the building of a house in the garden. As the stables were objected to, this should be also. Where there was one property there could potentially be three now. This property would face onto the common.

Cllr Beach said the site may be where the shed was that became an office.

Cllr Farrant commented that the garage has a structure at the back which they may choose to put in retrospective planning application for. The property called Priory Wood have a large structure in the grounds, this has been reported to the planning enforcement.

ACTION: Clerk to chase the planning enforcement about the Priory Wood site.

Cllr Farrant to put together a response for Sycamore Cottage and circulate to all for approval ahead of submission.

9. Finance

(a) Review and Authorisation of payment

Cllr Beach proposed that the authorisation of payment sheet be approved, this was seconded by Cllr M Norman and agreed by all the Councillors.

The payments were: SALC (6 monthly payroll fees) - £54.00, Vertas (Quarterly maintenance charge) - £353.69, Clerk (Salary and expenses) - £397.80, Ladybird Nurseries (plants for tubs) - £43.04, Gary Whiting (grass cutting) - £110, Total £958.53

(b) Quarterly Accounts to the end of September 2022.

The Council noted and approved the quarterly accounts.

(c) Draft Budget for the financial year 2023/24.

Cllr Richards said that the Clerk, Cllr McKenna and himself had met to look at the budget. There has been some tweaking to make the budget balance, this included increasing the contingency fund should additional funding be required for the election. The budget included an increase in the Clerks wages but the remaining Clerks expenses would remain the same. There is £30,000 in the budget for traffic calming; of that £5,000 needs to be spent soon. All the work completed in the village so far has been funded by the SCC. There are a few items remaining, the bus shelter, the roundels for speed markers.

Cllr Farrant commented that the bus shelter requires some clearing, painting and tidying.

Cllr Richards said that there are a few items within the village that require some work and the CIL money could be assigned to that. It was agreed that Cllr Richards would draft a costing sheet ahead of the next meeting.

Cllr Beach commented that the Playing Field work on the car park could be linked to a CIL expenditure and traffic calming; this would relieve some of the parking issues on the road near the school.

Cllr D Norman said that there was mention of some posts on the village greens to prevent people parking on them.

Cllr Beach said that some posts would be donated and then a group of volunteers would put them in. If the bus stop was cleared it could be used as a drop off and pick up point for the schools. The PC could consider renovation of the adjacent bus shelter.

Cllr Richards said that there is a lot of water near the bus shelter. The drainage needs to be investigated first.

The budget was proposed by Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr D Norman and agreed by all the Council

(d) Precept

Cllr Richards proposed that the increase in precept is 3%, this amounts to £11,642.

This was agreed to all the Councillors.

(e) Clerks wage increase as recommended by NALC

Cllr Richards said that the increase in the Clerks wages was an additional £1 per hour, taking the Clerk to £11.47 per hour, this would be backdated to April 2022.

All the Council agreed to the increase in the Clerks salary.

(f) Internal and External Audit.

The Clerk reported that the internal audit had no issues, there appeared to be an additional £4 in the bank than in the paperwork submitted. The external audit commented that the Clerk had placed the incorrect figure in one of the boxes.

All the Councillors noted the comments.

10. Parish Council Business

a) Adoption of the GDPR Policies and Financial Regulation Policy

It was agreed by all the Councillors to adopt the policies without any amendments.

b) Resignation of a Councillor

Cllr Richards informed the Council of Cllr Hough's resignation. All the Council wished to thank him for his contributions to the Parish Council.

c) Dates of next year's meetings.

The dates for the next year were agreed by all the Council and may be found on the website.

11. Correspondence

Cllr Richards commented that there are in the budget some agreed donations to the Church, Village Hall and Priory Wood. It was agreed to support SARS and CAB with a donation of £200. A letter had been received from St Elizabeth Hospice but it was felt that as the 'open gardens' had supported that, the PC couldn't at this time.

Cllr Rainger commented that the Emergency Plan creates links within the community.

Cllr Beach said that Emergency Group could purchase some torches to give to vulnerable people, also link with the GNS. There is an external link on the Village Hall to enable a connection for a generator.

Cllr Rainger suggested that ESC could be asked to support and purchase some thermal blankets.

Cllr M Norman said it was agreed that the Councillors should be aware of the code for the defib if required.

Cllr Beach said that the speed of access to the defib if needed is crucial.

12. Matters for consideration at the meeting on the 24 January 2023

13 Date of the Next Meeting

24 January 2022

Meeting Closed – 8.36pm.

Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk

snapepc.clerk@gmail.com 22 November 2022