

# SNAPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 28 May 2024, 6.00 pm,  
In Snape Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Paul Richards, Cllr Maria Norman, Cllr David Norman, Cllr Georgina Lock,  
Cllr Graham Farrant, Cllr Andrew McDonald, Cllr Russell Rainger & Cllr Tim Beach.

In Attendance: 18 members of the public.

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr Margaret McKenna, PC Andrew Phillips, Caroline Meffan, and David McKenna.

## WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman thanked the members of the public and those who submitted reports, for attending the Annual Parish Meeting. There are copies of the reports submitted at the back of the room and they are also available on the website.

County Councillor Andrew Reid thanked the PC for asking him to attend. The written report covers the previous year. Any questions, please email Andrew Reid.

Andrew Reid left the meeting at 6.04pm.

## 2. Presentation by Giles Bloomfield – Water Management Alliance.

Giles gave a talk to the attendees about the Alde & Ore Estuary River defences around Snape, and a time line of the work to be undertaken. Some questions were asked around the proposed project, and obtaining the funding. The presentation was enjoyed by all.

Cllr Richards thanked Giles for attending.

Giles Bloomfield left the meeting at 6.39pm

## 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 23 May 2023.

The minutes were approved correct and signed by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Beach seconded by Cllr D Norman, and agreed by all who attended.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING.

Cllr Farrant reported that at the APM in 2023, a query was asked about the solar panels that may be placed on the SID's, unfortunately the SID's that the village own are too old to be adapted. The smaller solar panel SID's are not continuous. The bigger solar panels may work but they are not attractive.

## 5. CHAIRMANS REPORT – Cllr Paul Richards

It has been a very busy year in Snape and so for the Parish Council. Our work has ranged from organising litter picks to meeting Government Ministers. We have taken up the concerns of local people and have coordinated the activity of our neighbouring Parishes. Our focus has been to continue to seek to deliver the Village Plan. As we have done over recent years we have worked with many local organisations to meet the priorities of the community. I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Parish Council for their support and hard work. I particularly welcome Andrew McDonald, who was coopted to the Parish Council a few months ago. The Parish Council's financial resources are, as you know, limited and our approach has always been to work in partnership with public, business and voluntary bodies to meet our priorities and also to support the many volunteers in the village by using our influence and authority to enable things to happen. The Parish Council has a good working relationship with our County and District Councillors and they have supported us. County Councillor Andrew Reid and East Suffolk Councillor Tom Daly (and latterly Councillor Katie Graham) regularly attend Parish Council meetings and take up concerns raised by Parish Councillors and members of the public. You will have seen the minutes of our meetings on the website and many of the Snape organisations which the Parish Council supports have tabled reports for this evening. All will be happy to answer questions now or in future. I would just highlight a few projects in particular. The village allotments are an important asset and we now have plans to ensure that the site is properly maintained and protected. The management plan for the Priory Road common has been adopted and some initial environmental work is being undertaken in conjunction with GreenSnape. Traffic, road safety and accessibility of services for everyone remain a major concern. Many local people have expressed

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serious worries about the state of the pavements in and around the village. The encroachment of undergrowth both at ground level and at eye level narrow the footway and are making it difficult for people to make their way around the Village safely. Particular areas of risk are heavily used stretches between the Crown and Snape Bridge, the bend opposite the exit from the Maltings and the areas opposite the Church where children have to cross the A1094 to catch school buses. It is one of the Parish Council's priorities to improve the permeability of the Village from the Maltings to the Church and from the Sailors path to Gromford with a particular focus on 'safe routes to school' and the safety and welfare of local people with reduced mobility. Regrettably, Suffolk Highways have said that the narrowing of pavements does not yet reach their safety threshold. Councillor Reid offered some funding from his locality budget to enable additional 'skirting' work to be undertaken. The Parish Council has decided, with Cllr Reid's consent, to earmark that funding for other projects in the Village and instead to take part in the County Council's 'Community Self-Help scheme'. This will enable us to undertake the work ourselves with the support of volunteers. The Parish Council has continued to support the Community Speed Watch team which conducts regular sessions on the B1069 and the A1094. With the support of Suffolk Constabulary and our Speed Indicators in 4 locations across Snape we are having an impact on the speed of traffic through the Village. The recent spate of serious accidents on the A1094 is a cause of grave concern which we have taken up with Suffolk County Council. On a wider scale the Parish Council is in active discussions with neighbouring Parish Councils, East Suffolk Council and the County Council about the increasing volume and weight of Heavy Goods traffic through the Village particularly to and from Bentwaters and avoiding delays on the A12 between Wickham Market and Saxmundham. These discussions are particularly urgent as we face the prospect of increasing volumes of industrial and private traffic generated by Sizewell C and the other proposed 'energy projects'. In all of these the Parish Council seeks actively to ensure that developers understand, mitigate and compensate for the serious impact that these projects might have on Snape and surrounding communities. The Parish Council participates in all the forums and 'enquiries' around these projects and makes representations to Government and developers as actively as it can. The Parish Council has, in pursuing another priority in the Village Plan, continued to work with Hastoe Housing on a small development of affordable housing for local people. Two well attended consultation sessions have been held and we now await revised proposal on which there will be further consultation. We also continue to scrutinise all planning applications which are referred to the Parish Council as a statutory consultee. Where we believe the project is detrimental to the community we express objections or matters of concern to the Planning Authority. That is a short review of some of key activities this year. Many others are covered by reports in front of you from groups and teams including the Village Hall, the Playing Field, Snape Good Neighbours and Meet up Monday, GreenSnape and the Friends of Snape Church. This is a very sociable and vibrant community and one which takes great pride in its environment, its uniqueness and neighbourliness. The Parish Council will always do its best to promote and protect those qualities. I would like to end by thanking Marie, our Clerk, who keeps us focused and in line. We would be lost without her!! I would also like to express my gratitude, as one of your neighbours, to you and everyone in Snape for your support and for everything that you do for the Village and the community. Paul Richards Chair - Snape Parish Council May 2024

## **RFO's report**

Snape Parish Council's end of year accounts will be presented to the full Council at the Annual General meetings that follows. The closing bank balances for the end of year totalled £54,343.34.

The income for the year totalled £16,783 and the expenditure was £18,814, this means that as the PC has an income and expenditure of less than £25,000 each there is only the need for an internal audit and the PC will apply for a Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor.

The final balance at the year-end includes some earmarked funds for traffic management, and general reserves. The start of the year showed a Community Infrastructure Levy balance of £4561. During the year a further £1230.30 was received. Some of the CIL money that the Parish Council had received paid for the playing field car park area. This left a balance of £436 at the end of the year. Day to day running includes the Clerk's wages, grass cutting at the village hall and the playing field.

The expenditure on a bi-monthly basis is listed on the minutes of the meetings, these along with the quarterly accounts and bank reconciliations can be found on the website.

The internal audit will take place shortly, the results from this will be placed on the website. If clarification of any part of the accounts is required, please contact the Clerk.

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## 6. REPORTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

Cllr Beach report for the Alde & Ore Community Partnership.  
Graham Woodcock report for the Church.  
Eddie Gillett report for the Playing Field Committee report.  
Derek Walduck report for the Green Snape.  
Caroline Salisbury report for the Village Hall report.  
Cllr Beach reported for the Community Speedwatch.  
David McKenna report for Snape Good Neighbour Scheme.  
Steve Stoxs report for the Village Recorder.  
Maria Norman report for the Allotments.  
Georgina Lock report for the Friends of Snape Church.  
PC Andrew Phillips report for the Suffolk Constabulary.  
County Councillor Andrew Reid report for Suffolk County Council.  
District Councillor Katie Graham report for East Suffolk Council.  
Jo Rogers report for the Girls About Snape.

Cllr Richards thanked everyone for the written reports which are available for viewing on the website.

## 8. PUBLIC FORUM.

Cllr Richards thanked everyone for attending and for their support to the Village, and asked for questions from members of the public.

The first member of the public commented about the footpath on the river wall, he had been informed that the Suffolk Coastal Path is to be accessible for cycles as well as pedestrians.

Cllr Beach said that he had not heard about this, some people do wish to have cycling access on the river wall but the majority of the landowners do not wish to have the cyclists on the footpath.

The second member of the public asked how the clearing of the footpaths and walkways is coming along.

Cllr M Norman said that it is moving, there is to be a working party who will undertake this clearing work. Cllr D Norman is about to receive Community Self Help training.

Cllr D Norman added that the training only permits a volunteer group to work on roads that are 30mph.

A third member of the public commented that a bowling green on the playing field may be a good idea.

Cllr Beach said that there is enough space for a bowling green but there would be a need to find some funding. Maintenance would also be an issue. The playing field committee are looking for additional trustees, there should be 9 but there are only 5 at the moment. There is to be a zip wire added to the playing field, but it is difficult to obtain the necessary funding. The boardwalk from the Crown to the Maltings is a good idea, but one quote has been received and it would cost around £200,000. Could the money be raised for this?

A fourth member of the public said that the boardwalk would need regular maintenance.

Cllr McDonald suggested that a group in the village was to take this project on, this may assist with the fundraising. He is happy to project manage the idea, and he has drawn a plan, but the PC is not able to do it all.

A fifth member of the public has a portrait of the King that has been supplied by the government free of charge. Would the residents like this to be hung in the village hall.

All the residents agreed that this portrait should be hung in the village hall.

A sixth member of the public asked how the traffic calming on the main road was progressing.

Cllr Beach said that a joint parishes group is to be organized. This will look at more monitoring on the 1069 through the village. This may mean more signs and a village gateway. Funding for this is being looked at through the CiL funding at SCC and ESC. Cllr McKenna is monitoring the 20's plenty initiative. Some areas at 20mph is a good idea. This is a good idea if we bear in mind the potential Sizewell C traffic. The Community Speedwatch does make a difference. Volunteers are being sought to assist with the Speedwatch. The Police are occasionally present in the village.

A seventh member of the public reported the sand on Gromford Lane. There is no definite answer to this

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problem.

Cllr Farrant commented that this has been reported many times.

Katie Graham suggested that if she was copied in to the email, she may be able to chase this issue.

Cllr Richards said that the speeding on the 1094 has been highlighted due to the number of accidents on that stretch of road.

Cllr Richards thanked everyone for attending and encouraged residents who have the time to volunteers with some of the village groups.

The meeting ended at 7.13pm.

Chairman's signature.....Date.....

DRAFT