

SNAPE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 23 April 2019, 7.30 pm, in the village hall.

Present: Cllr Tim Beach – Chairman, Cllr Russ Rainger – Vice Chairman, Cllr Graham Woodcock, Cllr Mike Hill, Cllr Mary James, Cllr Helen Stuart & Cllr Graham Farrant.

In Attendance: 7 members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr Hough and Cllr Thurston.

2. **WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending the Annual Parish Meeting. There is a display in the hall of part of Snape's history. All the reports are on display at the back of the hall.

3. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A copy of the report from T J Haworth-Culf was available to read.

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 23 MAY 2017.**

The minutes were approved correct and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr Hill seconded Cllr James.

4. **MATTERS ARISING.** None.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr Tim Beach**

I would like to thank all those on the PC for their respective contributions over the last year and specifically the Clerk Marie Backhouse for her work this year in ensuring that our financial and governance reporting will be properly and efficiently completed for the end of year returns and for the smooth take over from our previous clerk.

We are losing three members of the PC who did not stand for re-election and I would like to formally record my thanks to Graham Woodcock, Mary James and Mel Thurston who have contributed to village life and the PC over many years now. They will all be greatly missed.

I would also like to record my appreciation as last year for the help and support provided by various members of the community outside of the PC, in supporting the work relating to the village plan, the many individuals who are active in managing the village hall, the village school, Green Snape, the playing field and the allotments group and from this year Snape Good Neighbour Scheme and Speed Watch. That work is reflected in the individual reports that have been received from those groups and it reflects an active and engaged village and we can hopefully continue to build on that with many of the new initiatives.

Last but not least I also record my thanks to both our County and District Councilors for their support for the various projects undertaken over that last year.

Update on the Parish Plan

Since the village opinion survey and the well-attended public meetings, the Parish Council (PC) has been working to develop a formal Parish Plan, for completion in the first half of 2019. We are in touch with other similar rural communities, to share experiences and discuss solutions. Meanwhile, here are some key points that arose from the survey and meetings, and the action we are taking as a result.

TRAFFIC

This was the biggest issue for most people - including speed, noise, dangerous junctions, road and hedge maintenance, and lack of safe crossings.

Action: The PC has created a Community Speedwatch Group which has already begun working successfully. 9 volunteers have been trained and the necessary equipment bought through the support of people in the village in particular Janine Bush. We are probably now the most active Speed watch in the County with sessions on average twice a week which do appear to be effective. More volunteers are welcome.

Continuing discussions are being held with Suffolk County Council about traffic calming and traffic management, as well as pothole repair and other road and roadside maintenance. We have ensured that our County Councillor Andrew Reid is aware of the high importance of these issues to Snape residents.

In the summer the parish was the first in the County, as far as we know, to clean and clear our road signage. This had two effects in making the village look more cared for but also clearly marking speeds in the village and the fact that we do operate speed watch. Thanks Green Snape and all the volunteers who helped.

TRANSPORT

Many people complained about the lack of buses and public transport generally to Saxmundham, Ipswich and other towns for travel to work, shopping and leisure.

Action: The PC is joining with other local villages to campaign for better bus services. We still hope to persuade the County Council to bring back a subsidy for Snape bus services, for at least a trial period to assess passenger volume. We also expect the new Good Neighbour scheme to provide additional transport. Chairmans initials.....

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We will also seek improved awareness and links with the existing community schemes such as CATS and Suffolk on Board. Last month the PC attended rural transport meeting with staff from SCC and CATS and although SCC could offer little help CATS were willing to explore some form of scheduled service to Saxmundham on a regular basis.

HOUSING

Residents feel strongly that the village needs more houses that people on ordinary incomes can afford to buy or rent. They do not want property developers to decide what should be built and where.

***Action:** The PC will commission an independent Housing Needs Survey in early 2019, and will work with Community Action Suffolk to create appropriate new housing for the village. Two initial meetings have been held and formal arrangements have been put in place to create a working group with CAS from early May.*

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

There was strong support for a scheme, and a volunteer team has already come forward and started work to get the scheme operative.

***Action:** In the early part of 2019 meetings took place for volunteers and a committee was formed. Maria Norman agreed to Chair the scheme. In April a number of the volunteers completed police checks and insurance was put in place. The scheme will go live in the next week or so and all households will receive an information flyer with their April copy of Ebb and Flow. A Meet up Monday scheme has been started at the Golden Key with free coffee and biscuits again with the help of CAS.*

POLICE

Although people generally feel safe, many would like to see more visible policing,

***Action:** The PC intends to meet with the local police commander to discuss the views and concerns of residents.*

SNAPE SCHOOL

Most people feel the school is important to the village, and would like to see it develop further following its recent good Ofsted report.

***Action:** The PC will work with governors and staff to continue supporting the school, and will assist in the creation of a new pre-school. Application was recently made for planning permission for the development of the pre-school.*

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The views and needs of children and young people were difficult to obtain in the survey.

***Action:** The PC will consult Snape School and residents to establish more clearly the needs and views of our younger people. In March 2019 Sarah Gallagher our local Head Teacher arranged for a small number of young people to meet with the PC Chair to discuss their needs and views. One of their suggestions was the re-creation of a regular youth club with films, access to the snooker club and sporting facilities. They also suggested wider range of facilities for older children on the playing field. This will be followed up.*

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Many people feel that they do not know enough about the PC's work and responsibilities.

***Action:** The PC will try to improve communications, via the independent village website www.snapevillage.info and information in Ebb and Flow. We will keep residents informed about progress on the Parish Plan.*

The PC has created an outreach document with the help of Gordon McSweeney. He created a document that we could circulate to 30 villages who share many of the characteristics of our village in terms of size, issues and culture to start a conversation about ideas for improving and sharing good practice and ideas. That document will be circulated in May 2019 to the other villages (including Snape in North Yorkshire).

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

This is an important time for the village. The new Parish Plan will determine our future for many years to come. So we need our Parish Council to represent the full range of village residents: women and men, young and older, single people, and parents with young children.

Parish Council elections take place in May 2019, when possibly not all councilors will be standing again, and there are vacancies on the council already.

***Action:** If you would like to make a valuable contribution to the life of our village, please do put your name forward to be a parish councillor. Contact me any time for more information.*

Environment

The importance of the environment and maintaining rural spaces was reflected by many residents.

***Action:** Snape PC will create a plan to manage the local amenity and public space in conjunction with SCC and SCDC to the benefit of the community in conjunction with local residents and groups.*

Snape PC responded to Sizewell C Stage 3 and SPR Stage 4 consultations during early 2019 after public consultation and an extraordinary meeting to record their deep concerns over the impact both proposals could have on the village and particular that the consultation documents did not reflect any serious analysis of the potential impacts. That work will continue.

Thanks to Mike Hill for organising our usual litter pick which again managed to pick too many bags of roadside rubbish which included plenty of wing mirrors from the A1094, drink cans and bottles. Chairmans initials.....

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6. UPDATE FROM KAREN THOMAS OF THE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD ON THE ALDE & ORE ESTUARY PLAN

Absent and no report sent.

7. REPORTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

Cllr Beach summarized some of the reports from Local Groups.

Eddie Gillett reported for the Playing Field Committee

Caroline Beach reported for the Village Hall

Cllr James reported for the Allotments

Reports from all the groups were available to read and displayed from 7pm onwards.

8. PUBLIC FORUM.

Members of the public commented about the increase in rates from the Internal Drainage Board. A letter had estimated the cost to be £15/acre. It was actually £500/2 acres.

Cllr Beach commented that the District Councillor's who are members of the board should be able to assist with this.

The meeting ended at approx. 8.15pm.

Chairmans signature.....Date.....