

Snape Parish Council

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

Present: Cllr Paul Richards, Cllr Bill Hough
Cllr Maria Norman, Cllr Graham Farrant,
And Cllr Georgina Lock

Attendance: 0 members of the public.

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

District Cllr Tony Cooper, District Cllr Tom Daly, Cllr Russ Rainger, Cllr Tim Beach, Cllr Margaret McKenna and Cllr Jackie Allfrey.

2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Member

Cllr Farrant – Item 8 planning application

3 Applications for Dispensation

None

4 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 25 January 2022.

Cllr Norman proposed that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on the 25 January 2022, this was seconded by Cllr Lock and agreed by all who attended.

Cllr Richard brought forward item 6.

County Councillor Andrew Reid had submitted a written report and he summarised his report. Suffolk County Council has agreed the budget which is a 4.5% increase on last financial year. The budget increase affects many of the services the Council offers. There is money for the planting of trees and hedgerows linked to diversity. The money linked to the power projects will mitigate some of the impact the project will have on the local area, assistance will be sought from the government. Covid still remains an issue with an increase in hospital admissions; we need to be respectful of others. A timetable has been sent through from the Highways department stating when the traffic management improvements around the school will start. This will take some time, possibly up to a year before work starts.

Cllr Richards stated that a good meeting had taken place with Jason Crane, and he took onboard the comments from the Parish Council.

Cllr Hough thanked Andrew Reid for all his assistance with the traffic management for the village.

Cllr Norman asked Andrew Reid if there were any grants available to assist with fuel poverty.

Andrew Reid said that there is a welfare fund, please email him for the details.

Cllr Richards thanked Andrew Reid for the donation towards the VAS radar.

ACTION: Clerk to forward Andrew Reid's email address to Cllr Norman. Andrew Reid to forward the timetable for the traffic management to the Clerk.

Andrew Reid left the meeting at 7.15pm.

5 Matters arising from the Previous Meeting on 25 January 2022.

5.1 Power Projects/National Grid consultation on Sea Link – Cllr Richards commented that a meeting had taken place last week. There is a lack of communication between the different power projects. All the projects mentioned depend on the go ahead of the connector in Friston. There is a need for transformer capacity in this area. If the latest plans for Sea Link are agreed this means that construction will run through to 2030.

Cllr Farrant said that he can not understand why the cables are being brought ashore here in Suffolk, why could they not be taken up the Thames to where it is required.

Cllr Richards stated that the cable could be taken from Sizewell to Ramsgate, but apparently that area is already full with cables.

5.2 Traffic Calming – Cllr Richards commented that the focus is on the school safety. More cars are using the car park at the village hall, and then walking the children to school.

5.3 Housing needs – Cllr Richards said there was no update at the moment. Carry this over to the next meeting.

5.4 Priory Road – No news

5.5 Footpaths & rights of way maintenance – Cllr Farrant said that this item is complete; a response was sent to the resident to inform them that the right of way was not blocked, there is an opening gate in the fence. The public rights of way team have looked at this and can see it is open to the public.

5.6 Dog waste bin – Cllr Farrant circulated a letter to all the residents in the area of Gromford Lane where the complaint was made relating to, to inform them of the need to clear up after their dog. A receipt for £7.50 was given to the Clerk for photocopying.

5.7 Bio-diversity and climate change – Cllr Richards commented that this is ongoing.

5.8 Village green projects – Cllr Richards said that the Parish Council have been awarded a talking bench. When the details are given, these will be checked that there is no cost to the Council. It is to be placed on the green area opposite the Glebes, and the Platinum Jubilee tree should be planted there as well.

5.9 Horses on footpath and foam signs – Cllr Richards has written to the resident who raised these issues.

5.10 Speed sign – the Clerk reported that Andrew Reid has donated £600 for the new radar on the Speed sign. The speed sign is fixed and back in place.

Cllr Lock reported that there was a camera on the car park by the footpath, she was asked why the Council had approved this by a resident. The Parish Council were not asked about the cameras, in the emails, they were told.

Cllr Richards said that Sizewell are monitoring the recreational use of the footpath. EDF could use different techniques to count the footfall on the paths, but have been in contact with the landowners who have agreed the use of the cameras. Assurance has been given that no images will be kept this is purely an exercise to see the use of the footpath. The cameras are required to differentiate between an animal and human. In Nov 2021, an email was circulated. The monitoring is to see if there will be a displacement of walkers from the Sizewell area to Snape. Again, Sizewell reassured that to comply with GDPR no images would be kept.

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

County Councillor Andrew Reid had submitted a written report and summarised his report after item 4. District Councillor submitted a written report from ESC.

7 Contribution by Members of the Public.

None

8 Planning Applications & Decision Notices.

DC/22/0615/LBC – Runton Croft, Gromford Lane, Snape, IP17 1RD

Listed building consent – removal of wooden framework and glass windows and roof of conservatory attached to the south side of the house to be replaced with identical wooden frame and glass. 20” brick walls to remain. Current structure has some wood that is rotting and some glass panels have blown.

It was agreed by the Councillors that there was no comment to make.

9 Finance

a) Review and authorisation of payments and signing of invoices by signatories,

The payments were agreed by all and authorised by Cllr Norman and Cllr Hough. There were no questions for the Clerk.

It was agreed by all to authorise the payment for the First Aid Course which was to be taking place at the weekend; also any outstanding village green project payments, ahead of the end of the financial year.

The Clerk suggested that when a Councillor applies for funding, that the rest of the Council are informed as to what the fund will cover. E.g. a bench, bulbs, new play equipment etc. This will enable everyone to know what invoices to expect against the fund.

The payments were: Westcotec (replacement radar for the VAS) - £965.40, SALC (6 months payroll) - £54.00, DE Keeble (hedge cutting) – £270, Clerk (salary etc) - £408.36, D Walduck (wild bulbs) - £717.95, J Stimpson (bird boxes) – £200, HMRC - £331.78, D McKenna (reimbursement for Speedwatch Gun and batteries) - £186.75, HMRC (Income Tax) - £123.40, The Garden Trellis Company (planters) - £500, Cllr Farrant (photocopying) - £7.50, Featherstone Training (First Aid course)- £150 Total £3,396.61.

- b) Internal Audit Approval – The Clerk proposed that SALC is used for the internal audit this year. All the Councillors agreed with this proposal.
- c) Asset Register – All the Councillors agreed the updated asset register.
Cllr Lock said that the Parish Council does have a supply of litter pickers, and these should be added to the asset register.
- d) Vertas grass cutting quote – It was agreed by all the Councillors to approve the grass cutting quote from Vertas. This is an increase of £18.25 per quarter.
- e) Clerk Pay Increase – The Clerk commented that notification has been received from SALC stating that there has been a recommended increase in the Clerks wages of 1.75%. All the Councillors agreed the Clerks increase in wages.

10 Parish Council Business

- a) Cup/trophy for the open gardens – After some discussion it was agreed to keep the cup/trophy until next year, but to display it at the APM.
ACTION: To display the cup/trophy at the APM.
- b) Queens Platinum Jubilee – Cllr Norman reported that two residents had been chosen to do the Torch Relay.
- c) Katch – Cllr Richards said that the bus continues to visit the village, and the CATS bus does also.
- d) APM – Cllr Richards reported that the invites for the APM had been sent out. This is an open event. The reports will be displayed. EDF are to give a talk afterwards.
- e) Common Management Plan – Carry over to next time.
- f) Re-adopt internal control statement – Cllr Norman proposed that the Council readopts the Internal Control Statement, this was seconded by Cllr Hough and agreed by all.

11 Correspondence

Community Governance Review – Cllr Richards said that this means some of the local Parish Councils could be merged. This review is looking how Councils may be changed, grouped, etc. This is a project led by ESC, and there are terms of reference on the government website. We will await a proposal from ESC as to how the Councils could be changed.

It was agreed to send in a response that Snape Parish Council should remain the same.

12 Matters for consideration at the meeting on the 22nd March 2022.

Common Management Plan, Traffic Calming, Queens Platinum Jubilee preparations, Power projects. End of year accounts, AGAR,

13 Dates of the Next Meeting

26 April 2022 (Annual Parish Meeting)
24 May 2022 (Annual General Meeting)
28 June 2022 (Urgent items only)
26 July 2022

Meeting Closed – 8.21pm.
Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk
snapepc.clerk@gmail.com
22 March 2022