

Snape Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 7.00pm In Snape Village Hall.

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

Attendance: 3 members of the public and the Clerk (Marie Backhouse).

Consideration of Reports by the District Councillors and County Councillor

County Councillor Andrew Reid submitted a written report which was circulated by the Clerk.

District Councillor Tom Daly reported that ESC is giving a funding boost to the Greenlight Trust, this is for young children and is based in Martlesham. A response has been sent from ESC to the Sea Link saying that they oppose the proposal. Ease the Squeeze is continuing to help people in need.

Cllr Richards said that the copy of the letter to Sea Link was sent.

Cllr Beach said that he was part of a group of 4 other parish councillors who met with Minister Bowie on the 15th January. One important point which was made was for the need of an additional meeting.

Tom Daly said that a letter from Minister Bowie has been received at ESC, he will look at the letter in more detail.

A Member of the Public (MoP) stated that he had attended an ESO meeting. There are further energy projects to be developed in this area. There is a plan to upgrade the pylons through to Bramford, but there is the need to develop an alternative through to Colchester. 10% of the UK's electricity is to flood through Suffolk in the near future. The Norwich to Tilbury section has already got 13 Members of Parliament against the proposal.

Tom Daly said that the impact on the community is an issue. Everything is to be linked to Friston. Offshore grid is being investigated.

Cllr Rainger commented that the report from Andrew Reid shows correspondence from the SCC Leader Richard Rout.

Cllr McKenna asked if the PC could write to the SCC.

Cllr Beach suggested that the PC could try to get together with other local PC's and send a joint response.

A second MoP said that Norfolk has the support of 13 Members of Parliament, why does Suffolk not have the same support.

Tom Daly said that the opposition is creating an impact on the power projects, an offshore grid is being discussed. We must wait for the next step.

Cllr Richards said that the PC will try to get a meeting with the various Network representatives.

Tom Daly said that the NSIP's initiative should mean that all the parishes are being involved.

The second MoP stated that it has been mentioned that there is some government funding available from Sizewell C, around £250m for the affected areas.

Cllr Richards said that the money will be available in the future, Suffolk community foundation is holding the fund, and will accept the applications for it.

Cllr Rainger said that the Deed of Obligation has already taken some of the funding.

Cllr Beach commented that £2m per year is placed in the Community fund, with the focus being on Leiston, Ipswich and Lowestoft.

Cllr Richards explained that it is important for the PC to consider the needs of the village and to apply for some of the funding.

Tom Daly commented that there is a Environmental Mitigation pot of around £12m. The PC needs to consider village projects and applying for some of this funding, which is not specific to the Sizewell C area.

Cllr Richards thanked Tom Daly for attending.

7.28pm Tom Daly left.

Contributions by Members of the Public

None

Meeting opened 7.28pm

MINUTES

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

None

2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Member

Cllr Beach, Cllr D Norman and Cllr M Norman – members of the Playing Field Committee

Cllr M Norman – allotments.

3 Applications for Dispensation

As above declarations

4 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 28 November 2023.

Cllr M Norman proposed that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on the 28 November 2023, this was seconded by Cllr Beach and agreed by all who attended.

5 Matters arising from the Previous Meeting on 28 November 2023.

5.1 Power Projects/National Grid consultation on Sea Link – Cllr Beach reported that the submission to the consultations have been completed, all commenting on similar objections due to the traffic and environmental impact, etc.

Cllr Richards commented that a meeting had taken place with A Bowie as a result of the letter that was sent. Cllr Rainger said that the DCO public forum meeting had taken place in Leiston. There were 11 representatives from EDF. The session was more like a briefing. There was no time for interaction. Snape may have a seat around the table, but it would need to be requested in writing. Many people who attended wanted to ask questions. A letter needs to be written to the Chair stating the case for Snape to have a seat on the board.

Cllr Beach said it would also be an advantage to join the Southern Transport Forum.

Cllr McDonald asked if the meeting at Leiston was recorded or filmed.

Cllr Rainger was not sure how the minutes of the meeting would be circulated. The flooding problem at Yoxford was mentioned.

Cllr Richards said that ways of finding funding for the issues are being sourced from Sizewell C.

ACTION: Cllr Richards to write a letter to the Chair of the Board requesting a seat for Snape.

5.2 Traffic Calming – Cllr Richards reported that there is a meeting to take place on Friday.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

5.3 Website Accessibility – Cllr D Norman commented that this item was ongoing.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

5.4 20's plenty – Cllr McKenna reported that there is no further updates.

ACTION: To monitor the 20mph campaign and place on future agendas.

5.5 Safety of fencing near playing field – Cllr Richards commented that this item is ongoing, as he is trying to find someone from Flagship to speak with as he has not had any response.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

5.6 Pryor Close 'Queens Oak Green' – Cllr Beach commented that there has not been a definite response from ESC, but they did seem positive about the change of name.

ACTION: Place on the next agenda.

5.7 Posts on the Village Green – Cllr Beach stated that the cost of the signs on metal stakes had increased and would now cost £153.

It was agreed by all to move forward with the signs at a cost of £153.

5.8 Allotments – Cllr M Norman commented that a new map of the allocated allotments had been produced, and this included the proposed community plots. These are small areas for residents to come and plant one item, it is designed to promote health and wellbeing. There are probably 4-6 small plots. All the Councillors agreed to the small community plots. The fees are due for the allotments in April, it was proposed to increase this fee in April 2025. The allotment holders must have a year's notice of the increase.

Cllr Lock asked how much it would be to have a smaller community plot.

Cllr M Norman said that not everyone can afford to pay much. The allotment fees are to be used next financial year to provide maintenance on the site.

Cllr Rainger said that as the current allotment holders sign an agreement, the plot holders of the community plots should sign the same document.

Cllr M Normans said that the allotment plots are for resident of the village only.

Cllr Beach proposed the increase in allotments fees to £35 per year, this was seconded by Cllr D Norman and agreed by all.

Cllr M Norman commented that the new dog waste bin near the allotments had not been emptied.

Cllr Beach said that he had reported this issue today.

Cllr Farrant said that he had an email stating that the bin would be emptied on a regular basis. He will raise the problem again.

5.9 Housing Needs – Cllr Beach said that the date of the second consultation is to be the 10th April. It will be the same time as last, 2pm through to 7pm.

Cllr McKenna asked how this will be advertised.

Cllr Beach said there would be a leaflet drop, posters and an advert on the website.

Cllr McDonald asked if the PC had a formal view on the application for the houses?

Cllr Lock replied that this is the second consultation, this has been worked on since pre-covid. Most of the Councillors are in favour of the development.

Cllr McDonald said that in his personal view, there is not the need for 17 houses.

Cllr Beach reported that this was part of the long-term village plan, Hastoe has taken this on and in order for this to move forward, it needs to show a specific housing need and this would be part of any formal planning application. The overall look of the site is open for discussion both at any consultation event and as part of the planning application.

A MoP asked if the need for housing was put forward by Hastoe.

Cllr Beach stated that the establishment of the need for the houses was taken from a completed housing survey and the village questionnaire. Community Action Suffolk undertook the survey and the results of this were given to ESC and Hastoe. Hastoe had to show a need for housing before any site was looked at, or housing proposed. The scheme, if built, will remain in perpetuity for the village as social housing.

Cllr McDonald said that this is going to create a rural exception site.

Cllr Richards said that comments made both to ESC and Hastoe at the last consultation should have been noted. At the moment there has been no planning application received, this will be looked at as any other planning application is when it is presented to the Council.

A third MoP said that having looked at the website, could only find a draft copy of the Village Plan.

ACTION: Check the website for the Village Plan.

5.10 War memorial – Cllr Beach commented that Cllr Lock, Cllr McKenna and himself had been to look at the site. If one of the posts were to be removed, it would return the memorial to the same look as 1927.

ACTION: To bring to the next meeting.

Cllr Reid arrived at 8.04pm

5.11 Grass Verges – Cllr Richards said that this item is ongoing.

ACTION: To place on the next agenda.

5.12 Flooding on the roads – Cllr Richards commented that he had reported the flooding issues on the SCC online reporting tool.

Cllr Lock said that workmen have been working on the drains near to the Church, but not sure about the bus shelter.

Andrew Reid said if you pass him the reference number, he will chase the work. He has a meeting with the Community Engineer on Friday.

Cllr Richards said that he is also concerned about the Church Green site.

ACTION: Cllr Richards to pass on the Highways reference number to Andrew Reid.

5.13 Snape Warren – Cllr Richards commented that he was hoping to meet with the owner at a meeting but has not yet been able to speak with him.

Cllr D Norman reported that new footpaths appear to be popping up in that area.

ACTION: Ongoing

5.14 Zip Wire – Cllr Beach reported that a new zip wire would cost in the region of £18,000. The PC needs to make a decision about (the £10,000) any contribution from its reserves towards this project. This would make the match funding much easier. Not much has been spent on young people in the village.

Cllr McKenna said that the Playing Field Committee need to build a case for the need of a new Zip Wire, what the maintenance costs would be per year, etc.

Cllr Beach said that the PC has funding in the account, the Councillors need to decide whether £5,000, £10,000 or nothing.

Cllr McKenna said that the PC needs to see more information (is required) about the project.

Cllr Beach said that 5 quotes have already been gained.

Cllr McKenna said a short simple plan of a couple of A4 sides setting out the costs and benefits and stating (that) how the money from the PC would assist with other funding applications would be very useful.

Cllr Richards said that subject to the information the PC would, support in principle, up to £6000.

Cllr Rainger said that the Playing Field Committee should apply.

It was noted that the zipwire project had been set up as a Parish Council responsibility (as owner of the playing field land) and it was agreed that the Playing Field Committee would provide more information in support of the proposal for funding from the PC reserves.

Suffolk County Councillor Andrew Reid

Andrew Reid commented that the SCC are working on the budget, the government funding is not as much as first thought. Adult care and looking after young people take 77% of the total Council income. £75m on both of those services. There are some difficult decisions to make. The SCC must make a balanced budget. The grants to groups such as the Long Shop Museum will be reduced. The team are trying to make savings. All proposals are being looked at ahead of the full council meeting on the 14th February. It is expected that there will be a 4.99% increase on the council tax.

Cllr Rainger said that it is difficult to take money away from groups.

Andrew Reid said that this does not mean that all funding will be cut straight away.

Cllr Rainger asked what other items will be affected.

Andrew Reid said that the Highways budget will remain the same. Sea Link and Lion Link have applied to the planning inspectorate.

Cllr Rainger said that the response from Richard Rout was disappointing.

Andrew Reid said that there is a need to know all the details before formally objecting at this stage.

Sizewell C has gone a long way in giving recommendations to the relevant parties.

Cllr Richards said that everyone is increasingly worried about the power projects in this area.

Andrew Reid said that in April 2018, SCC started to consider the power projects.

Cllr Beach said that the view of the 50 nearby villages is consistent, Richard Rout did not cover the concerns of the village.

Andrew Reid left at 8.36pm.

Cllr Farrant commented that the bus shelter had received a grant from Andrew Reid for £500 towards the repairs. One of the speed signs is not downloading data at the moment, Westcotec have been contacted. If they come out to assess it the cost is £195 for a site visit, any work is additional. It was agreed by all to approve the cost of the repair up to an additional £200.

Cllr Rainger commented that it is important to keep a record of the traffic movements.

Cllr McKenna confirmed that the speedwatch group had purchased a new speed gun.

6 Planning Applications & Decision Notices.

DC/23/4572/FUL – 2 Hulver cottages, Hulver Lane, Snape, IP17 1QU

Single storey extension to rear.

It was agreed to have a response of no objection to this application.

ACTION: Cllr Farrant to submit a response to ESC.

DC/24/0011/FUL – 70 Firs Farm Cottage, The Warren, Snape, IP17 1NS

Installation of a detached timber outbuilding.

It was agreed by all to a no comment response to this application.

ACTION: Cllr Farrant to submit a response to ESC.

Firs Farm Cottages, and similarly with Badgers Bank had been permitted applications for both properties and these latter ones are additional to the original, and in Cllr Farrant's view they are not substantial, but the PC would object on the grounds of visual amenity and would suggest for both properties that the new structures be located away from, say behind, the existing houses

Cllr McDonald reported that at a planning forum it was felt that the PC should take a view and not necessarily represent the neighbours.

It was agreed that any comments on planning applications should be sent through to Cllr Farrant.

Cllr Farrant commented on the recent planning application for Bentwaters site, this will have traffic implication on Snape.

Cllr Beach reported that the impact on other villages should be taken into consideration when any application is submitted from Bentwaters. All local PC's should be involved in the expansion of the site.

7. 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: Ladybird Nurseries (village green project) - £74.90, Unity Trust Bank (bank charges) - £18.00, Snape Village Hall (electric charge) - £25.00, DB IT support (renewal of laptop security) - £10.00, M Backhouse (Salary for December/January) - £581.80, HMRC (Income Tax) - £171.80, SARS (Annual donation) - £50, M McKenna (speedwatch camera) £206.49, J Poll (annual donation Priory wood) – £200, Snape Village Hall (annual donation) - £200, Snape Church (annual donation) - £200. Total £1737.99.
Income: Unity Trust Bank (interest) - £360.68.

(b) Quarterly Accounts/Bank reconciliation

Cllr D Norman proposed that the quarterly accounts and bank reconciliation to the end of December be noted, this was seconded by Cllr McKenna and agreed by all.

(c) Internal Auditor

It was agreed by all to use SALC for the internal audit.

(d) Application for £3000 from PC funds

Cllr M Norman said that the allotments require some work, the trees need to be pollard, the culverts require clearing, etc. This money could be released from the £10,000 that the PC agreed at the budget for village work.

Cllr McKenna said that the PC needed to be sure that the money would not be required in the near future. How is the amount of £3000 built up.

Cllr M Norman said that the tree work is around £1200, and the rest is for clearing the culverts.

Cllr Farrant proposed that the allocation of £3000 should go to the allotments, this was seconded by Cllr Rainger and agreed by all.

8. Parish Council Business

a) Alde & Ore

Cllr Beach reported that there is no further update at the present time other than preparatory work continues to be carried out ready for the spring.

Cllr Lock commented that there is to be a litter pick on the 10th February at 9.30am.

b) Boardwalk to the Maltings

Cllr Beach reported that the cost of the boardwalk was quoted as £200,000. There is some support for this project. Would anyone be willing to take this project on?

Cllr McDonald said that he would be willing to take a look at the project and consider.

ACTION: To place on future agendas.

c) Roadkill

Cllr Beach asked who is responsible for clearing roadkill?

East Suffolk Services are responsible for moving the roadkill, they would need to be notified.

d) Joint Parish Traffic Initiative

Cllr Beach said that this has already been covered.

9. Correspondence

Cllr Richards commented that a letter had been received from the Postmaster stating the forthcoming closure of the outreach service to the village. A mobile vehicle may be provided in its place. This is from the end of March.

ACTION: Cllr Richards to write a letter on behalf of the PC to the Postmaster.

10. Matters for consideration at the meeting on the 26 March 2024

Cllr M Norman and Cllr D Norman gave their apologies for the March meeting.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

26 March 2024 – 7pm.

Meeting Closed – 9.10pm.

Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk

snapepc.clerk@gmail.com 23 January 2024