

Snape Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 27 February 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).

Contributions by Members of the Public

A member of the public wished to mention the bins.

Cllr Richards asked for query about the bins to be placed into an email and sent to the Council.

The second member of the public wished to listen to the debate about the allotments.

Meeting opened 7.05pm

Cllr Richards commented that there are a few items that will be mentioned under the Parish Council Business; update on the housing, Post Office, Village Green Project.

MINUTES

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

None

2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Member

Cllr M Norman – allotments.

3 Applications for Dispensation

As above declarations

4. Parish Council Business

a) Housing project.

Cllr Richards reported that he, Cllr Rainger, and Cllr Beach had met with a group of residents, at the resident's request. There were quite a few residents attended both face to face and online. There were a number of concerns about the project, the use of the rural exception site and what impact this will have on the village. The people who attended live on Church Common. Hastoe are promoting the work, and there was a couple of questions that the residents would like Hastoe to answer. The first was what is the likely timetable for the work and the second is the nature of the next part of consultation. The residents requested a formal question and answer session. Hastoe are happy to do that. During the site investigation Hastoe has found some items of archaeological interest. This has been discussed with the County Council, and further investigation work will be needed. This means that the project has been delayed. The consultation will now take place in the Autumn. Cllr Richards read an email from Hastoe explaining the situation.

“As part of Hastoe's development plans for a Rural Exception Site in Snape to deliver homes to meet the housing needs of the community we have undertaken a ground scan of the site to understand the archaeology of the land. Our ground scan has identified numerous areas of interest and will need to explore undertaking trail trenching with

Suffolk County Council before we progress any further with our development, as such the planned Public Consultation event in April 2024 will need to be postponed until the archaeological works have been completed. We are estimating that these works along with other surveys will put the Public Consultation back into Autumn 2024. If you do have an interest in one of the affordable homes please visit our website www.hastoe.com or email us at eastdev@hastoe.com for further details.”

The Parish Council will wait to hear from Hastoe about further implications.

Cllr McDonald commented that residents are aware of the implications on the site, and will organise some questions to present at the next consultation session.

It was agreed that the information about the need for further archaeological investigations and the consequent postponement of the project and the next round of Public Consultations should be posted on the Village/Parish Council website. It was also agreed that the possibility of using the April date as a further opportunity for an information and consultation event should be explored.

A member of the public asked why a set group of residents should be entitled to a consultation with the Council.

Cllr Richards said that any consultation will be open to all the residents who wish to attend.

Another member of the public asked why the agricultural land is to be built on.

Cllr Lock said that the farmers are struggling to find workers at the moment.

Cllr Beach said he has a leaflet with some information on that will assist the member of the public to understand, he will pass this leaflet on.

b) Allotments

Cllr Richards commented that the minutes from the meeting held in November 2023. This item was referring to an increase in allotment fees, and a map was mentioned. This map was described as defining and showing boundaries. Some members of the village who lived near the allotment interpreted this as a map showing the definitive boundary. This is not the case; it is just a sketch map not to scale. It is just showing the numbers of the plots and is information for the allotment holders. Cllr McKenna commented that the boundaries on the map are not definitive.

Cllr Richards said that in the future a definitive map of the allotments may be required, but this is likely to be expensive and quite time consuming and may require a professional survey.

A member of the public commented that the schematic map to show who has which allotment. He personally took on an allotment 14 years ago, the boundaries have always been in the same place and has been for many years. Firstly, the PC needs to protect the village assets and secondly to act on behalf of the allotment holders. The allotment holders are against the resident hoping to gain more land. The boundaries should remain the same as they have for nearly 80 years. The PC will need to make a decision.

c) Laptop

The Clerk reported that she had been having issues with the laptop. It is not loading very quickly and you cannot guarantee that it will save any documents that you have been working on. The Clerks computer advisor is able to purchase a laptop and also upload the information from the current laptop to the new. The old laptop was purchased in December 2017 at a cost of £332. The new laptop would cost £500.

Cllr M Norman proposed that the Clerk should have a new laptop at a cost of £500, this was seconded by Cllr Beach and agreed by all.

d) Post Office

Cllr Richards said that the Post Office are due to close the outreach post office in a couple of weeks. The proposal is for a mobile van to visit the village hall, this is unsatisfactory as it is only once a week and not three times as the outreach currently is. The village will have to have the van if there is no alternative, but it is not really acceptable. Speaking with the other affected villages, Kelsale is not having any replacement. The service is important for the village.

Cllr Farrant said that one session for around an hour or so is not really acceptable.

Cllr Richards said that the new Post Master at Saxmundham is happy to run everything as it is but this is being prevented by the Post Office Ltd.

Cllr Beach suggested that the PC writes a letter of thanks to the outreach post office lady, she has played an important part in the village.

Cllr McKenna commented that the residents of the village may want to make their voices heard by writing or making a petition.

Cllr Richards said that a draft letter could be made available for residents as could a petition.

e) **Village Green Project**

Cllr Richards commented that the final claim for the AONB grant is due, this currently has £72 outstanding. If the PC wishes to fulfil the whole amount then some flower bulbs need to be ordered and the invoice passed to the Clerk quickly.

It was agreed by the Council to purchase some Snowdrop bulbs.

ACTION: Clerk to purchase the bulbs and submit the invoice to the AONB.

5. Planning

Cllr Farrant commented that The Firs planning application is being referred to Committee. Badgers Bank was very similar and it was given permission. The Garage application is the same structure but slightly longer.

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

Cllr Rainger suggested that the PC invites the bus company to give a presentation. This was agreed by all.

7. Date of the Next Meeting

26 March 2024 – 7pm.

Meeting Closed – 7.41pm.

Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk

snapec.clerk@gmail.com 27 February 2024