

# Snape Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.00pm In Snape Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Paul Richards, Cllr Russ Rainger, Cllr Andrew McDonald,  
Cllr Vicki Newstead, Cllr Edward King  
and Cllr Margaret McKenna.

**Attendance:** 3 members of the public.

### **Contributions by Members of the Public**

MofP 1 was a representative from CATS and KATCH. Buses are difficult to run regularly as they depend on a certain number of customers. A visit was made to 'Meet up Monday' to inform residents of what is available. If there is a need for residents to travel to Saxmundham, what is the service they require. Conversations have taken place with the local MP. There is no intention to push a service when there may already be one in place. The KATCH bus is the more popular one. CATS is able to go to Aldeburgh, Leiston etc. If they are able to help, please contact them.

Cllr Richards commented that a survey has been undertaken, the results are in draft, when this has been sorted contact will be made to CATS. Regular and on demand – these need to be sorted and the gap closed between the two models.

MofP 1 said that a nearby village already has a Tesco trip. All it takes is for one person to book the trip and then as many people who want may join. If it becomes a regular thing the time and the cost needs to be sorted. If it was regular, it would need to run even if no body uses it.

Cllr McDonald stated that the resident need to understand what service is available.

Cllr Rainger said that people do not understand the service, they think it is for special needs people or older people, but this is not the case.

Cllr King asked how much notice is needed.

MofP1 said that it needs to be tied into when people want to go. A couple of weeks' notice is needed. The cost is £5 return; a discount is given if there are 6 or more customers. They are also able to take dogs etc. This helps with mental health and wellbeing, people who would not venture out are able to do so. If needed he is happy to attend a coffee morning to promote and explain the service.

MofP 1 left the meeting at 7.29pm.

### **County Councillor Andrew Reid**

Andrew Reid submitted a written report.

### **District Councillor Katie Graham**

Katie Graham commented the ESC Energy Team are working flat out. Sea Link consultation is ongoing. There are Environmental mitigation concerns. Lion Link consultation has opened. ESC is inviting PCs to attend a meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> Feb to go through the responses. Scottish Power have cable routes in place. The roundabout at Friday Street should be open in the summer. The Sizewell C works tracker is really useful. SALC has appointed a energy consultant who is currently working part time and is being trained. Thorpeness is very stressful for the residents, the extreme erosion. ESC has been working to manage realignment since 1970. Defences put in to try and slow it up are short term solutions. In 2021 there was increased activity along the coast, they have tried to put in rocks, but it is not enough to protect the resident's properties. Officers have supported residents, offering housing. ESC has funded any demolition costs.

Cllr Rainger said that there is no compensation to residents, there is only £6,000 from the government.

Katie explained that ESC are using money from reserves to assist, some of this will be refunded. The whole of Thorpeness is not at risk, the sea will reach its limits. There is no viable solution to stop this. ESC are looking at other countries to see what may be done, but it is not possible to stop erosion. The Resilient Coast

Scheme is related to trying to manage erosion, talking with residents. There may be 3 more properties at risk. There is talk of a potential flood risk further down, there is no increase in this from what is happening. The coastal team meet with residents every week.

Cllr McKenna asked if the East Suffolk coastline is at risk, or is it just a limited area.

Katie replied that most of the East Suffolk coastline is eroding. Shingle Street appears not to be at this time. There is a specific formation around Thorpeness. If there is anything done, it must be checked to make sure it does not affect other areas.

Cllr McDonald stated that it appears that the AOEP is falling apart, things should be moving ahead. The cost is out of reach. Orford has started to arrange their own plan. What can ESC do?

Katie said that managed realignment is the governments stance. Lots of options have been looked at, but money will not stop what is happening.

Cllr McKenna said that SCC is in discussion regarding 20's plenty. The TC and PCs may come forward with proposals. Should Snape look at their own model?

Katie reported that District Councillor Paul Ashton will email soon with further information.

Cllr McKenna asked if ESC would have some funding available for the 20-mph scheme.

Katie said that she is unsure about the funding but Sizewell C are offering to fund SIDs.

Cllr Rainger stated that the PC should be involved with the placing of the SIDs, the data collection may be used to support the impact of traffic on Snape. The village has a very active Speedwatch Group. The PC are looking at the traffic impacts in different times of the year. Snape has a good idea of where the issues will be. The Quiet Lanes appear to be full of mud in the centre of the road, this needs to be cleared.

Cllr King said that there are also a lot of potholes, which are causing an issue for drivers.

Katie said that the SCC may not have enough funding.

Cllr Richards said that all the issues with traffic that was predicted is coming true.

Cllr McDonal stated that the Quiet Lane he lives on is becoming wider.

The MofP 3 stated that Highways is an issue, the state of the signage is poor, the pot holes are dreadful and there is no co-ordination of the road works.

Cllr Rainger said that he attends the Southern Transport Forum, but this is not very useful. Many of the road signs are left in the highway even if the roadworks is not happening. The teams should tidy up the mess, and take down any old signage.

Cllr Richards said that apologies have been sent to motorists for the disruption that the roadworks have caused, but there has been nothing sent to the PC's.

Katie said that Paul Ashton is leading the 20mph, and she could ask him to attend a PC meeting to discuss this further.

Katie Graham left the meeting at 8.03pm.

## MINUTES

### **1 Apologies and Approval of Absences**

Andrew Reid.

### **2 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Member**

Cllr Newstead – School crossing, children at school.

### **3 Applications for Dispensation**

None

### **4 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

Cllr King proposed that the minutes are accepted as a true record of the meetings, this was seconded by Cllr Rainger and agreed by all who attended.

### **5 Matters arising from the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

**5.1 Power Projects** – Cllr McDonald reported that he had circulated an up-to-date document concerning the power projects. Sea Link is predominantly an environmental issue; there is no responsibility for traffic out of the area. The draft document will be submitted for the consultation, he may not be able to speak but will

join the online event. The King has also objected to Sea Link. Cllr McDonald said that he will continue to join anything event that comes through concerning the power projects.

ACTION: To continue to place on the agenda.

**5.2 Website Accessibility** – Cllr Richards commented that the website is ongoing.

ACTION: Continue to place on the agenda.

**5.3 20's plenty** – Cllr McKenna reported that she had received 2 emails from residents who live on the A1094, who both support the 20's plenty. This idea keeps rolling on. It would be good to start a consultation with the residents about speeding in the village.

Cllr Richards asked how this consultation would be undertaken.

Cllr McKenna commented that local engagement is the starting point. Could this be in the form of a questionnaire, or put together a proposal.

Cllr Rainger said that Andrew Reid would pass this onto Highways. The PC could compile a list of things for a TRO, and put them all together under one consultation fee. The PC have already been doing traffic monitoring.

Cllr McDonald stated that the SCC documents are full of criteria that the PC must prove exists in Snape.

Cllr McKenna confirmed that she would investigate what the assessment criteria is.

ACTION: Cllr McKenna to continue to monitor the information regarding 20's plenty.

**5.4 Allotments** – Cllr Richards reported that there is no update on the boundary dispute. Permission was given for the survey work, but this has not been completed.

ACTION: To continue to place on agenda.

**5.5 Housing needs** – Cllr Newstead reported that ESC have agreed to underwrite the cost of the archaeology.

ACTION: Cllr Newstead to continue to monitor this project.

**5.6 Post Box** – Cllr Richards commented that Royal Mail has consulted with ESC about removing the Post Box. ESC does not agree with this. Royal Mail contractors are proposing to go ahead with the removal anyway. They do, however, need written permission to go onto the site to undertake the work. The PC needs to review this, and do not intend to allow this to happen.

Cllr Rainger said that Royal Mail may make the decision to close the post box. There may be safer alternatives. The PC could put a step or a handrail on the site.

ACTION: Cllr Richards to continue to investigate this issue.

**5.7 Boardwalk** – Cllr McDonald reported that there was no update.

Cllr McKenna said that she had spoken with someone from the Waveney Vally who had made a boardwalk with the assistance of volunteers. She has set up a meeting with them to gain more information.

ACTION: Continue to place on the agenda.

**5.8 Public transport to and from Snape** – Cllr Richards said that the survey had been completed and the document is very useful. There is a request for a route to specific areas, there will be more information available at the next meeting.

ACTION: Continue to place on the agenda.

**5.9 Councillor vacancies and recruitment** – Cllr Richards said that there was an advert for Councillors placed in the Ebb & Flow. There are some conversations taking place with some residents who are interested in becoming a Councillor. The numbers of Councillors are very low at this time.

**5.10 Defibrillator** – Cllr Richards said that both of the defibs are in place and up and running. Thanks must go to Curles for the electricity connections etc for the one at the Church, all of which was completed free of charge. Cllr Rainger and Mr Boulton managed to sort the Church defib. There needs to be some spare pads. Mr Boulton said that there will need to be regular checks completed on the Church defib.

Cllr Richards said that he entered the information on the Circuit, there are also defibs at Snape Maltings and the School.

Cllr Newstead to speak with the school about the defib being on the outside of the school so accessible for all.

ACTION: Cllr Newstead to speak to the school regarding the defib.

**5.11 Cycle Tour** – Cllr Richards reported that the survey of the location chosen needs to be completed.

Cllr Rainger said that there has been an offer of a repair station as part of a group. The racks will need to be done as well.

MofP 3 asked if there could be a cycle rack at the church green.

Cllr Rainger said that there is the funding for this and it could go ahead now.

ACTION: Cllr Richards to organise the survey of the chosen location.

## 6. Planning Application & Decision Notices

Cllr McKenna said that there have been three or four planning applications since the last meeting, these have been dealt with.

Cllr Rainger commented that Curles have sent in an outline application.

## 7. (a) Review and authorisation of payments

Cllr McKenna proposed that the PC authorises the payments, this was seconded by Cllr Rainger and approved by all.

Expenditure – Snape Good Neighbour Scheme (annual donation) - £260.00, Community Action Suffolk (domain name) - £27.00, Defib4life (defib pads, cabinet and battery) – £976.80 M Backhouse (Salary) - £562.60, Unity Trust Bank (bank charges) - £12, HMRC (PAYE) - £200.20, Gary Whiting (grass cutting) - £110.00, Vertas (grounds maintenance) - £485.83, DB IT Support (Bitdefender for 1 year) - £10.00, Birketts (allotment boundary dispute) - £660.00, Total £3304.43.

Income – Unity Trust Bank (interest) - £214.60, HMRC (VAT refund) – £522.75. Total £737.35.

### (b) To note the quarterly accounts and the bank reconciliation.

The quarterly accounts and the bank reconciliation was noted by the Councillors.

### (c) To approve the internal auditor.

It was agreed by all to use SALC for the internal audit for the financial year 2025-26.

## 8. Parish Council Business

### (a) Alde & Ore

Cllr McDonald reported that there were no updates. One local parish is already doing its own thing; there is a possibility that the plan may be re-written.

### (b) Snape Village Hall

Cllr McKenna said that the Village Hall has advertised for some trustees. There were 1 or 2 positive interests in joining the group.

### (c) Infrastructure Bill -

Cllr McDonald reported that he had done a paper on this, it is called the Infrastructure Act. There are fewer judicial reviews, less planning obstructions, environmental mitigation will be more central, biodiversity gains. Most developers are loving the new act.

Cllr McKenna asked what the implications are for Snape.

Cllr McDonald responded that the PC will not be heard when planning applications come in.

ACTION: Cllr McDonald to write a summary of the Act.

### (d) Snape Common

Cllr Richards reported that the property on the Terrace opposed the footpath as it cuts through private land. It has been suggested to remove the footpath.

### (e) Church Green Flooding

Cllr Richards said that there is concern about the flooding near the Church. SCC do not appear to be too bothered about it. The Community Self Help group could complete the work. Friends of Snape Church have raised funding from Sizewell C to complete the work, and a contractor was engaged, there was no street works licence from SCC, therefore the Highways Team stated that the work could not go ahead. An email has been sent to Andrew Reid about this, but the funding gained could be lost if this project is unable to be moved forward. There has been no response from Andrew Reid. SCC Highways will produce new costings. There has been no communication with the local Highways Engineer. A new preferred contractor will cost more, and therefore more funding would need to be sourced. The flooding is serious.

Cllr King asked what the shortfall of funding would be?

Cllr Richards said it is likely that there will be an additional £2000 - £3000 needed. The last quote was completed in June.

Cllr Rainger said that the informal layby the other side of the Sternfield Road was raised with Sizewell C regarding the damage. SCC are sympathetic to this, and will help to return this area to green. There could be a mound put to stop vehicles from driving on this site. This could be raised with Scottish Power Renewables.

**(f) The future of the Golden Key**

Cllr Richards said that the Golden Key is closed. Currently they are trying to find out the plans from Adnams for the property. Registering this as an Asset of Community Value could be an option. Adnams have stated that the pub will not be closed permanently. It is difficult to find new tenants. Cllr Rainger said that if you can prove that this is a valuable asset to the village, an Asset of Community Value could be put into place. There is no harm in doing this but the owners must be informed if this was to go ahead.

Cllr Richards said that he would try to speak with Adnams again.

MofP 2 asked what is happening with the Crown.

Cllr Richards said that he is unsure of the plans for the Crown. The pubs are an important part of the community.

Cllr Rainger said that there are several communities led pubs.

MofP 3 said that the Crown and the Golden Key are very different establishments.

**(g) Local Government Reorganisation**

Cllr Richards commented that the LGR is rolling along.

**(h) Friday Street** – this was covered earlier.

**9. Correspondence**

**Padel Courts** – Cllr Richards said that the PC had been contacted re creating some padel courts, this would be in one of the units as you come into the village on the industrial park. This could be suitable. The resident would like to meet with a couple of Councillors on site. It was agreed that Cllr Richards and Cllr McKenna could attend the meeting. A date will be agreed and circulated to all. There may also be some outside courts, which would involve changing facilities, floodlighting etc.

**Cable undergrowth** -This was a request asking for the PC to give permission for some overgrowth to be cut away from the cables. It was agreed to pass this onto SCC as they are the landowners.

Cllr McDonald stated that there is a lot of new fencing at Snape Warren. Lots of re-organisation and cattle grazing the land.

Cllr Richards said that some residents have raised concerns about this, it is not a footpath but it is open access land.

Cllr Rainger said that Benhall are writing an Emergency Plan, and would like some assistance.

Cllr Rainger said that an email had been received about the Fromus.

Cllr McDonald said that there are 2/3 bits of work being done re drainage. Scottish Power Renewables and Sea Link will be doing work near the Fromus. Cllr McDonald will consult with Cllr Rainger about this and then make contact with the resident.

**10. Matters for consideration at the next meeting.** (Possibly the 24<sup>th</sup> February)

Meeting with Highways response, bus services, possible visit from Paul Ashton.

March meeting – gateway signs.

**11. Date of the Next Meeting**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (urgent items only)

24<sup>th</sup> March 2026

28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (urgent items only)

Meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Marie Backhouse, Parish Clerk

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27<sup>th</sup> January 2026