

Snodland Events – 13th January 2026

Attendees:	Joanne Thompson, Steve Cameron, Gary Ellis, Maria Ellison, Helen Orme
Councillors present:	Cllr G Miners, Mrs S Bell, Mrs D Crook, M Wakefield, P Hickmott, A Bennison and Ms J Usher
Council Members present:	Mrs K Sowten (Chief Executive), Mrs Karen Miners, Mrs Helen Comber, Mrs Trudi Kinslow, R Kinslow
Apologies:	3 rd Snodland Brownies, Rev D Pearson-Smith, Cllr K Mordecai-Woolf, Mr C Howick and Mrs L Howick

1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> See above
2.	<u>Charities</u> Donations for light for life. This year £290 was raised and donated to Snodland Hub. Suggestion was to nominate WI for 2026 donations. WI will check to see if they are able to receive donations, once confirmed will need to be discussed and approved at the Amenities and Recreation meeting.
3.	<u>Minutes – To Agree the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2025</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 7 th October 2025 were agreed a true record.
4.	<u>Date of the next meeting</u> 9 th April 2026

Snodland Fete – Saturday 5th July 2025

1.	<u>Advertising</u> We need to organise the banners for this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x across the Malling Road at the crossroads • Across the crests • On Potyns fence • On Fair gates
2.	<u>Any other Items</u> Food stalls to be discussed with Joanne (Fair) directly. Cost of stalls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free for a service stall • £20 per stall • £40 for Scouts

3.	<p><u>Date of next event</u> – Saturday 4th July 2026</p> <p><u>AGREED</u></p>
----	--

Fireworks –Wednesday 5th November 2025

1.	<p><u>Feedback</u></p> <p>From our donation buckets - £2073.48 was raised. This goes towards the Christmas Lights. Some people asked if we had a card machine to donate as a lot people do not carry cash. Scouts use a company called Sum up which works well.</p> <p>Due to the concerns of the youths throwing fireworks at staff and into the crowd, the future of the event will be discussed at the next Amenities and Recreation meeting. Once a decision has been made the committee will be updated.</p> <p>We need to consider Martins Law which is new legislation that has been approved by Government.</p>
2.	<p><u>Any other items</u></p> <p>When blue badge holders were using the car park, they caused congestion by trying to leave the car park at the same time as the crowds, causing a bottleneck as the road closures were still in place and all cars in the car park unable to leave. The cars continued to move around the car park at the same time as the pedestrians were leaving, causing a health and safety concern. A solution could be for blue badge holders to park in the Paddlesworth Road Car park.</p>
3.	<p><u>Date of next event</u> – Wednesday 4th November 2026 dependent upon council decision.</p>

Remembrance – Sunday 9th November 2025

1.	<p><u>Feedback</u></p> <p>The event went well and was well attended. We had positive feedback regarding the PA system. We will be having a further speaker for next year.</p> <p>There was a slight problem with the March off from the cemetery, we need to make that clearer next year. Suggestion – for the leaders to about turn and lead out directly. We will ask for the parents to wait on Cemetery Road whilst this is happening.</p> <p>Rainbows were at the back, and they found it hard for their little legs to catch up. In previous years we have been in the front and have been able to set the slower pace, could this be suggested for this year.</p>
----	--

	<p>The use of the large hall at the Community Centre did not work logistically and we have been assured that the Paddlesworth Room has been booked for this year.</p> <p>Need to commend the young children and their behaviour.</p>
2.	<p><u>Any other Items</u></p> <p>We are no longer going to provide a buffet for the band and dignitaries, it will be cakes and biscuits for everyone, including small drinks for the children.</p> <p>The flower bed in front of the Cenotaph looked shabby. The lavender is not looking healthy; can we arrange for some nicer winter flowers to be bedding a few weeks before.</p> <p>How long do we keep the flag and wreaths on for? Wreaths are usually left in situ for 2 weeks as this is our standard policy at the cemetery for wreaths. Flag is removed usually 12th November. We will check with Cllr J Ayres to see when the appropriate date should be and will be discussed at the next Amenities meeting.</p>
3.	<p><u>Date of next event</u> – Sunday 8th November 2026</p>

Christmas – Saturday 29th November 2025

1.	<p><u>Feedback</u></p> <p>Went really well, although weather was not good in the morning or early afternoon.</p> <p>Scouts were commended on the set up, especially at the entrance to the market which allowed shelter from the rain. Food was excellent, with an addition of turkey, stuffing, pigs in blankets and cranberry.</p> <p>In the morning, the Scouts advised that they were still having problems with the cars parking in the car park. Whilst setting up people are wanting to move their cars, this included one that was determined to move his car even when the whole event had been set up.</p> <p>With these issues, the weather and with booking and being charged by TMBC for the use of the car park, the Scouts considered the viability of the market for future years in the current location.</p> <p>New Christmas lights looked good, especially the new colour scheme.</p> <p>Count down to the switch on went well.</p> <p>Found that that this year the parade seemed a little bunched up, and a lot of parents present so you couldn't see the full effect of the lanterns. To potentially spread out a bit more for next year.</p>
----	---

2.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>The Grotto collection and the buckets in the parade and High Street raised £418.41 which is the most we have received. This will go back into purchasing more Christmas presents for the grotto.</p>
3.	<p><u>Any other Items</u></p> <p>An alternative location was suggested for the Christmas market to be held at the Community Centre. Scouts to still run this, however it would allow for more stalls inside, and shelter from the rain, grotto inside. Scouts would still cook outside. The fair could be outside, and the car park would be shut to vehicles. The Community Centre is available and had been provisionally booked.</p> <p>We need to ensure advertising is good, and push this after the Summer Fete. It will be advertised as a new Christmas Market.</p> <p>It has been suggested that 5 further lampposts should be included in the switch on event. This will be investigated.</p> <p>The co-ordinator from Cohesion plus, Gurvinder, is also a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Kent and we will send an official invitation to ask him to carry out the count down for the light switch on ceremony.</p> <p>A suggestion was put forward to have a stall at the Community Centre to make lanterns, so that others can join the parade after the schools. It could be a limited number that they could make with their parents/guardians.</p> <p>A suggestion was put forward for an inflatable Grotto; however, it was felt that the existing Grotto was acceptable and this would not incur any further additional costs.</p>
4.	<p><u>Date of next event</u> – Saturday 28th November 2026</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2010.