

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2013 in All Saints' Church

Present

Cllrs A. Clarke, M. Goldstaub (Chair), C. Munford, P. Nolan, the Clerk, P.C. Neil Brown, CPSO Collette Denny and two members of the public.

1 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Harbutt, Cllr Cousins and Cllr Otton

2 – Declarations of Interest

None

3 – Cllr Otton's Report

No report available from District and County Council this month

4 – Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Colette Denny to the meeting. Colette replaces Sian Uttley our previous Police Community Support Officer who left last month. Colette was accompanied by PC Neil Brown who is supervising some of her training. Colette said that once trained she hoped to spend some of the time cycling around the area, as she felt that this was a good way to find her way around and to meet people.

Colette read a report which had been compiled by Community Police Officer Annelly Miles:-

- One theft occurred on the 10/12th April – some mesh panels for building were stolen from a property in Beyton Road.
- In response to an inquiry raised at the village AGM the community speed watch statistics for Drinkstone had been obtained. In 2012 a total of 40 letters had been sent to motorists who were caught speeding in the village (24 from recordings taken in Rattlesden Road and 16 in The Street). So far this year (2013) 17 letters have been sent (12 from recordings taken in Rattlesden Road and 5 in the The Street).
- Annelly recently attended a Safer Neighbourhood development day and Tim Passmore (Crime Commissioner) has said that there is to be a review of where the police mobile speeding vans are sited to make better use of them in rural villages. In the meantime, Annelly and Colette will continue to do spot checks when time permits.
- There is a busy summer lined up with lots of village fairs and events to attend. The Police will be attending the Open Gardens day in the village. Annelly is also planning to spend some time on attachment to the Dog Unit.

A short discussion was then held on the various speeding issues and the effectiveness of the Community Speed Watch. The Clerk suggested that a sign as you come into the village saying "you are now entering a Community Speed Watch area" might be useful as a deterrent. PC Neil Brown said that police were extremely grateful to all the village teams of Community Speed Watchers and felt that they were doing a very good job. The Clerk agreed to report again the missing 30 mph sign in Rattlesden Road.

In reply to a question about recovery of stolen property; PC Neil Brown said that the main problem with recovery is that people are very bad at keeping serial numbers. If an item is recovered and its serial number is registered then it is very easy to restore it to its owner. The police encourage people to mark their property and to log their serial numbers whenever possible.

5 - Open Forum

- It was reported that once again the pipe that flows out from the pumping station and crosses Mr Ollett's land has burst. The waste material is flowing down the field and into the ditch. Anglian Water had said in March that everything was in good working order. Councillors agreed that the situation is not acceptable and further pressure will be put on Anglian Water to investigate the problem. The Chairman reported that Hessett village had similar problems and the water board had been forced to take action by putting a camera along the pipe. It is thought that some of the original lining of the pipework is faulty. Mr Ollet has also said that there is an area on his field now where nothing will grow due to the spillages. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Anglian Water and to copy in the Environment Agency as they may need to get involved.
- A resident stated that it does not seem correct that a motorist is given three chances when caught by a Speed Watch Volunteer, but the police can book and fine a motorist on the first occasion. The limit is 30 mph and this should be strictly enforced; he felt that more motorists should be prosecuted for breaking the speed limit.

6 – Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of village AGM and the Parish Council AGM which were held on Monday 13th May were both approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7 – Matters Arising

- The broken drain cover in Park Road was photographed by Cllr Harbutt and the pictures were sent to Highways. An engineer has been out and measured the drain and a replacement cover has been ordered.
- A notice advertising the Cambourne Charity was inserted in the Parish Magazine.
- The troublesome bird scarers have been removed.

8 – Parish Council Vacancy

The casual vacancy notice has been displayed and the 14 working days in which residents have to call an election expires on Wednesday 5th June. If no election is requested then the Parish Council will be free to co-opt a new member for the remainder of this term of office. An advert will be placed in the parish magazine to try to recruit a new member.

9 – Finance

In the absence of Cllr Cousins the Clerk read the Finance report:-

The current account stands at £2869.82; deposit account 1 at £2651.42; deposit account 2 at £5.27 and VAT owing is £61.60; giving a total balance of £5588.11

The separate allotment account stands at £664.70.

Two invoices were approved from the allotment account £5.57 Water for Gedding Road and £3.74 Water for Rattlesden Road. Anglian Water has rescheduled their billing for non domestic customers.

Three invoices were approved from the current account: £62.50 Old Parsonage Garden Services (grass-cutting); £43.23 – Cambourne Charity and £43.22 – Wrenn Charity (the last two payments

disperse the monies received from the closure of the Perambulation and Widows Charities as agreed at the AGM).

10 – Planning

The following application was considered:-

0909/13 – Erection of cart lodge at Argyle House, Cross Street. No objections were raised.

MSDC Decisions

0902-03/13 – Insertion of replacement windows at Hill Farm, Hill Farm Lane – Approved

11 – Footpaths

An email had been received from a resident of Hessett regarding a footpath which starts at the end of Hubbards Lane, Hessett and comes to a dead end. The resident is convinced that at one time the footpath would have led somewhere rather than stop at the Drinkstone border. Cllr Goldstaub reported that she had visited the path and walked along it until the path ends at a gap in the hedge just two fields from Park Road. She said the views were lovely and it would make an attractive walk between the villages. However the land is private and there are signs up to say trespassing will be prosecuted. Cllr Goldstaub said she had contacted Ray Bland who used to own some of the land and he has no knowledge of an official path. It is thought that years ago farm workers may have used the path and also that currently the area is walked regularly by gamekeepers. It was suggested that the Chairman and Cllr Munford pay a visit to the records office to see if they could turn up any evidence of a historic path in the area. If this could be established then it might be possible to approach land owners about access.

12 – Correspondence

MSDC – Community Emergency Planning
Community Speed Watch Statistics

13 – Other Business

- Cllr Clarke reported that the Highways had recently cut the verge in the Blacksmiths Corner area and left a lot of debris behind; he would be taking this up with the Highways Department. A general discussion was held on the state of the verges as they are very overgrown – it was noted that the Highways Contractors have not visited the village yet this year. Some private owners have made a very good job of clearing their own verges.
- The next PC meeting is on the 1st July and this will be the last PC meeting to be held in the Church as the new village hall opens on the 7th July. Following the summer break the PC meeting of 2nd September will be held in the new hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:55pm

Date of next meeting Monday 1st July 2013

These minutes will be verified at the next meeting