

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7th April 2014 in Drinkstone Village Hall

Present

Cllrs A. Clarke, S. Cousins, M. Goldstaub (Chair), C. Harbutt, C. Munford, P. Nolan, the Clerk, MSDC/SCC Cllr P. Otton, Mr Tony France and Mr Michael Wager (Community First Responders) and twelve residents.

Community First Responders

Before the formal business of the evening the Chairman welcomed Mr Tony France and Mr Michael Wager to the meeting. They had been invited to attend in order to give a short presentation on Community First Responders. Mr France addressed the meeting and explained that the small group of volunteers has now been operating for six years and they are activated by 999 calls to the ambulance service. They are currently covering the four main villages of Woolpit Elmswell Norton and Tostock but would very much like to extend their area. This will only be possible if they get more volunteers to join the scheme. Their main role is to attend life threatening emergencies such as heart attacks, chest pain, cardiac arrest, fits and breathing problems. They do not attend incidents involving children under 8; road traffic accidents; childbirth or incidents involving alcohol. The team carry kits which include a defibrillator and oxygen along with general first aid materials. Once they have received their training the group is fully insured by the Ambulance Service. As the team are based within the rural area they often get to the patient before the ambulance as they are closer and more familiar with the area. Over the six years that they have been in operation they have attended more than 800 calls and helped to save many lives. The group is funded by voluntary contributions and needs £1000 a year to operate.

Two residents in Drinkstone and one in Rattlesden have recently registered an interest in joining the volunteers and Mr France stated that if he could recruit a few more people he would be able to move a set of equipment to be based in the Drinkstone area.

If anyone is interested in finding out more they should contact Mr France on 01359 240208

Mr France then took questions from the floor

The Chairman thanked Mr France for a very interesting talk.

1 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Moss and the Police

2 – Declarations of Interest

Cllr Harbutt declared an interest in planning application 0828/14

3 – Cllr Otton's Report

- Cllr Otton said she had been in touch with David Fawcett (SCC Highways) and he has arranged a site meeting to investigate the flooding in Park Road
- The District Council has approved financing the installation of solar panels to Council owned properties.
- In reply to a question from Cllr Goldstaub, Cllr Otton said that the county wide housing survey is a more detailed questionnaire than the local housing needs survey which had been carried out in the village. The survey has not been sent to every house but to random properties across the county.

4 – Police Report

The Clerk read a report compiled by Annette Miles and Colette Denny

- No crimes recorded in the village over the last month
- Police are once again warning of oil thefts – they are currently averaging 14 a month. Simple measures can be taken to help reduce the risk of being targeted including: - screen your tank; lock back gates; conceal pipework; install security lighting; install lockable caps/padlocks and consider buying a tank alarm.

- The “Paws on Patrol” initiative was launched at Needham Lake on 23rd March. The event was well attended and 80 registration forms were handed out. If anyone wishes for further details they should contact Annelly or Colette on midsuffsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk or by dialling 101 and asking for Elmswell Police Station
- Collette has arranged to visit the Youth Club before the school holidays to give the youngsters a talk on personal safety and road awareness.
- The next priority setting meeting is on 9th April at Mid Suffolk Council Offices.

5 – Open Forum

- A resident stated that despite what was minuted last month he had taken offence about the comments about his grandchildren visiting the playground. The Chairman reiterated her statement that spending on the precept has to have priority of residents at its core. Over the last year the PC has taken note of the resident’s emails and has taken action where appropriate.
- There has still not been a response from Robinson’s Estate Agent about the woodland clearance in Chapel Lane. To date there has been no planning application submitted for the cleared land.
- The hole in the pavement outside Perjoanet has been reported and Highways have confirmed that an order has been issued for repairs to be carried out asap.
- A further discussion was held on the flooding situation in Park Road. It was reported that it is believed that there is a blocked underground sump and chamber which is causing the problem. It was agreed that both Cllr Otton and the Clerk would contact David Fawcett and ask him to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

6 – Minutes

Subject to two minor typing errors the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd March 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7 – Matters Arising

- The broken highways sign at the by-road has been reported.
- A new copy of the publication Local Council Administration has been received.
- It was noted that some work on updating broadband in neighbouring villages has been carried out. Several fibre optic boxes have been seen in rural locations however, there is no news of any update in the Drinkstone area.

8 – Clerk’s Resignation

The Chairman reported that she had received a resignation letter from the Clerk. A vacancy notice was approved and this will be advertised in the Parish Magazine and via the SALC website.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her hard work over the years and wished her well.

9 – Flooding Park Road

Dealt with under Open Forum

10 – Cherry Tree Rise Footpath

A further site meeting was held at the footpath on 28th March. Three Parish Councillors, the Clerk, Cllr Otton, Patrick Scrivens and a contractor were present. Lots more measuring and discussion took place with regard to the installation of some kind of barrier to stop children skate boarding from the path onto the road. The regulations are now very strict and the upshot was that because of the narrowness of the path nothing is available that complies with the current Disability and Discrimination Act. Cllr Otton stated that she would not fund anything that was not compliant. The Police have arranged to visit the Youth Club and the situation will be monitored over the summer months.

11 – The “Cheese Wedge”

1. An email has been received from Victor Parker of Orbit Homes concerning the trees at the back of the affordable homes. He would like to meet a representative of the Council to discuss trimming back some

of the overgrown branches. He does not want to do it just from the resident's side as he feels this may leave the trees looking unbalanced. The PC agreed that the best person to deal with this would be one of the village tree wardens and the Clerk agreed to arrange this.

2. Another of the residents of Cherry Tree Rise has shown an interest in either purchasing or renting the section of the "cheese wedge" that backs onto their property.
3. Another draft of the village survey on the "cheese wedge" was handed out to Councillors and residents. A short discussion was held on the various options and the wording on the survey. It was agreed that the survey questionnaires should be numbered to prevent copying; that question 3 should be deleted and that the Clerk would try to incorporate a section of the map onto the questionnaire to avoid having to print two separate sheets of paper. Some concern was raised over the cutting back of the hedge if the land is kept as an extension of the playing field. Councillors were in agreement that if the land is retained the hedge has to be cut back to open it up so that children can be seen from the playing field. David Mitchell (MSDC Tree Officer) has visited the site and agreed that this could be done. If the outcome of the survey is to sell then the land will be advertised for the best price with restricted covenants to what it can be used for.

12 – Playground

1. Cllr Cousins confirmed that this year's annual play inspection will take place in June (before the school holidays) and the price will be the same as last year.
2. After many years of carrying out weekly patrols on the Cricket Sheila Beswick and Edna Gunnet have decided to retire. It was proposed by Cllr Goldstaub and seconded by Cllr Munford that a small token of appreciation is purchased and presented to them. The Clerk agreed to advertise for new volunteers to take on the role.
3. Another notice on dog fouling was placed in the parish magazine. It was agreed to advertise the "paws on patrol" scheme and to keep under review whether or not to fence in the play equipment area.

13 – Finance

The current account stands at £1799.06; deposit account at £2653.74; deposit account 2 at £5.27 giving a total balance of £4458.07. The following invoices were approved for payment £221 – SALC subscription for 2014/15; £78.50 – SALC Purchase and postage of Local Council Administration and £16.80 – SALC Payroll Service

Allotment Finance

The separate allotment account stands at £618.05. Cllr Clarke confirmed that he had sourced a free delivery of mulch for the Rattlesden Road allotment hedge. He has also sourced some cheaper weed killer and is looking at the cost of hedge ties. It was proposed by Cllr Goldstaub and seconded by Cllr Harbutt that these are purchased. The materials for installing the automatic feed to the tanks on Gedding Road allotments (expenditure already approved) will also be purchased in the near future. The Clerk confirmed that the allotment invoices have been delivered which will boost income for the above purchases.

14 – Planning

The following planning applications were considered: -

1. 0650/14 – Erection of three bay cart-lodge with garden store at High Barn, Chapel Lane. Councillors expressed concern at the scale of the development considering that the site is on a flood plain. The planning department should seek assurances from the Environment Agency before approving this application
2. 0491/14 – Listed building work to High Barn, Chapel Lane. To include – Re-render exterior in lime mortar; replace existing metal windows; repair chimney stack; install oil fired heating; alter internal partitions; installation of flue; change window to patio door and change facing materials. No objections
3. 0794/14 – Listed Building consent to change gates and fence at The Old Rectory, The Street. No objections
4. 0828/14 – Tree Work on trees with TPO's at Ambers, The Park. No objections
5. 0615/14 – Erection of conservatory at Hammond Hall, Rattlesden Road – No details available – application is registered but no details supplied.

MSDC Decisions

1. 0052/14 – Erection of detached garage and alterations to dwelling at The Paddocks, Gedding Road – Approved
2. 0240/14 – Erection of two storey extension following demolition of existing conservatory at Woodend, Rattlesden Road – Approved

15 - Village Notice Board

The Clerk reported that two further quotes for a replacement notice board have been received - one from the Notice Board Shop at £1328.16 and one from Harry Stebbing Workshop at £1191.00. Both quotes together with the quote received last month from a local joiner are like for like replacement i.e. wooden framed/double doored and post mounted. The village hall committee has confirmed that they have no objections to a notice board being mounted on the hall however, this would have to be a much lighter aluminium type material and no quotes have been received for this type of board. It was agreed that locating the board on the roadside is probably a better place for the general public. The quotes have been placed in the correspondence file for Councillors to view. It was suggested that as well as the heading Drinkstone Parish Council the years 1914 – 2014 were included in reference to the World War I centenary.

16 – Correspondence

Walking Festival Brochure 2014

Suffolk County Council – Footpath 8 Diversion Order

Suffolk Police – Vehicle Activated Speed Signs. It was noted that the Community Speedwatch in Drinkstone has been stood down due to lack of volunteers. Councillors agreed to review the information on vehicle activated signs as a possible replacement.

Quotes for New Notice Board

Clerks and Councils Direct

The Local Councillor

Glasdon Products

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:44 pm

Date of next meeting Monday 12th May 2014

Note – There will be two meetings on 12th May – Annual Parish Council AGM starting at 7pm and Annual Village AGM at 8pm