

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd June in Drinkstone Village Hall

Present

Cllrs A. Clarke, S. Cousins, C. Harbutt, C. Munford, T. Moss, P. Nolan, the Clerk, SCC/MSDC Cllr P. Otton, twelve residents and one observer

1 – Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from the Police

2 – Declarations of Interest

None

3 – Cllr Otton's Reports

Suffolk County Council

- The recent heavy rainfall has shown that some improvements to surface drainage still need to be carried out. Plans have been made out to reduce the flooding under the bridge at Beyton and it is hoped that work will be carried out soon.
- The contract for dealing with recyclable materials has been awarded to Viridor. They will be taking all this type of waste to the Gt. Blakenham processing site. There is now a facility for disposing of coffee pods at all 11 of the household recycling centres.
- Time Passmore (Police Crime Commissioner) has recently presented his annual report to the Council. In it, he confirmed that the contact centre will not be moving to Norfolk.
- The Customer Service Direct contract is due to end shortly and emails should now go to the named contact at the Council @suffolk.gov.uk; any still going to the CSD email will be diverted.
- The Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket has been shortlisted for the countrywide award of "small visitor attraction of the year".
- Environmental Officers from the Council have been working closely with the BBC to deliver the Springwatch programmes from Minsmere.

Mid Suffolk District Council

- The District Council has launched a consultation on the changes to developer's payments to the Council. The old section 106 agreements are to be scrapped and replaced by a Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Sue Francis has been appointed to deal with planning enforcement issues.
- The Playworld Centre at Stowmarket has re-opened after a re-fit and now includes a magical interactive floor.

In reply to a question from the floor regarding why the verges have not been cut, Cllr Otton said that priority goes to the A roads; followed by B roads and C roads will be very lucky to get a one cut this year. It is down to landowners to keep their verges and hedges trimmed back in rural areas.

4 – Police Report

The Clerk read a written report from CPO Annelly Miles:-

- No crimes were recorded in the village for the month of May.
- The Community Speed Watch in Needham Market has recently been re-launched. Annelly reported that she was disappointed that the Drinkstone Scheme has ceased operating and appealed to any residents concerned with speeding to get in touch if they are able to give up a few hours of their time to re-launch the Drinkstone scheme.
- The Suffolk Constabulary website now has a new wildlife protection page and anyone interested in countryside matters/protection is encouraged to visit the site. A Rural and Wildlife Crime Officer can be contacted by calling 101 or by emailing ruralcrimeteam@suffolk.pnn.police.uk
- The Annual Police Quiz is on Friday 4th July at Thurston Grange
- The Safer Neighbourhood Team has been visiting all the local pubs in the area in preparation for the World Cup.
- The Team were in attendance at both Woolpit Steam Rally and Felsham Fun Day. Both events were well attended and went off without incident.

5 – Open Forum

1. A resident asked if there were any by-laws relating to nuisance bonfires as she had been submitted to smoke problems from a field bonfire all day today (2nd June). The Chairman stated that the PC has no powers to evoke a ban and that such problems should be reported to the Environmental Health Department at Mid Suffolk. This has been raised in the village on a number of occasions and it is hoped that residents are mindful of neighbouring properties when burning waste. The best solution is not to burn rubbish but take it to the Household Recycling Centre. It was agreed that a notice should be published in the magazine reminding residents of the hazards.
2. A local farmer has complained that members of the public are not sticking to the footpath and are walking on his crops. It was agreed that a notice reminding people to stick to the paths (although overgrown) should be published; it was also agreed to pass this message on to Woolpit PC as it was thought that a number of Woolpit residents may be involved.

6 – Minutes

The minutes of the two meeting held on Monday 12th May (Parish Council AGM and Village AGM) were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

The Village AGM minutes were too big to include in the magazine however, they can be viewed on the village website www.drinkstonevillage.co.uk

7 – Matters Arising

The adverts for playground volunteers; the Clerks vacancy and details of the Cambourne Charity were all published in the Parish magazine.

8 – Parish Council Vacancies

Councillor

Following the resignation of Cllr Goldstaub a statutory notice asking if any residents want an election has been placed on the notice board. If no one demands an election then the Council is free to co-opt a new member from 6th June.

Clerk

Two applications have been received for the post of Parish Clerk. The letters have been printed off and placed in the correspondence file. It was agreed that the closing date of 7th July (next meeting) should be set for applications.

9 – Village Survey Results

The Clerk read out the results of the village survey which was carried out in May 2014 to gauge residents opinion on whether to sell or retain the “cheese wedge” (the land beside the Cricket and given to the PC by Mid Suffolk DC). Full report attached Appendix I.

It was agreed that the report should be sent to the village website for publication.

The Chairman stated that the PC should take time out to consider the comments and suggestions with no firm commitment at this stage.

10 - Parish Council Notice Board

Three quotes have been obtained for replacing the PC village notice board. Before any order is placed it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cllr Otton to see if there is any Locality Funding available to help with the purchase.

11 – Playground

- The Clerk reported that no volunteers had come forward to take over the playground inspections; in the meantime Cllr Cousins and the Clerk were keeping an eye on the playground. One resident present at the meeting volunteered to help. The Chairman suggested that a small working group is set up to ensure that the inspections continue.
- The rabbits continue to a problem on the field. All Councillors had taken a look at the problem and agreed that the rabbit’s main habitat is the hedge/ditch/bramble area between the field and the Gipping Homes site. This area is so overgrown it is difficult to determine where the border actually lies. Cllr Cousins had obtained a quote from The Old Parsonage Garden Services for £480 to clear the brambles and remove the waste. It was agreed that before any work is carried out, the Clerk should approach Gipping Homes to find out what their plans are for the border between their development and the field. It was suggested that they might like to share the costs of clearing the brambles.
- The rabbits have also scraped out the area at the top of the slide ramp. Cllr Harbutt passed around a digital photo of the damage. Cllr Cousins had spoken to Adventure Playgrounds (who have gone out of business) and they have not come across this problem before. The Play Inspection is due this month. Cllr Nolan agreed to investigate and report back and in the meantime the hole will be closely monitored.

12 – Finance

The current account stands @ £3153.76; deposit account 1 @ £2653.92; deposit account 2 @£5.27 and VAT owing is £28.97, giving a total balance of £5841.92

£800 is ring-fenced for next year’s election and £900 for playground repairs

The following invoices were approved for payment: - £25 Tom Duchesne (slide repairs); £25 Henry Riches (Internal Audit); £222 Mid Suffolk DC (bin emptying) and £125 Old Parsonage (grasscutting)

The separate allotment account stands at £612.57. One water bill - £7.77 for Rattlesden Road allotments was approved. The Gedding Road allotments are in credit by £1.75

13 – Planning

The following planning applications were considered

1. 1257/14 – Erection of two bay stable block, hay barn, storage and log store with first floor storage area, following demolition of existing stable block at Whitefield House, Park Road. Councillors viewed the plans and agreed that the replacement building was excessive. The size of the building and its position would make it visible across open countryside; eroding the character of the land and the amenity of the rural area. It was considered too grand a structure for the site especially as it is adjacent to a listed building; outside the normal development area and not forgetting Drinkstone's status as a village in the countryside. Councillors agreed to object to the proposals.
2. 3373/13 – Application to vary the conditions of the operations at Rattlesden Gliding Club. The tow hours will be extended from 10 am to 4pm to 10am to 6pm; 7 days a week. Light aircraft movements will be extended to 30 per month. Councillors raised no objections to the proposals.

MSDC has approved the following application:-

0794/14 – Erection of new gates at the Old Rectory, The Street, Drinkstone

14 – Highways

It was noted that none of the verges have been cut this year and the majority of roadside verges and hedges are overgrown.

There were also reports off potholes in Beyton Road and Cross Street

The Clerk agreed to report these items to the Highway Department and ask for action to be taken

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15 – Footpaths

Likewise no footpath cutting has been carried out this year. We have usually had the first of two annual cuts by now. The Clerk agreed to contact Rights of Way and ask when the work is going to be done.

16 – Correspondence

Thank you card from Sheila Beswick

MSDC – Parish Liaison

2 Applications for Clerks Vacancy

PC Risk Assessment Document – for review

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:07pm

Date of next meeting Monday 7th July 2014