

# DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

---

## Minutes

*Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st September 2014 held in the Village Hall*

---

### **Present**

Cllrs Clarke (Chairman), S.Cousins, C.Munford, T.Moss, P.Nolan, the Clerk, PC 421 Annelly Miles, SCC/MSDC Cllr P. Otton and 4 Residents.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology was received from Cllr C.Harbutt

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **3. Cllr Otton's Report**

Free School Transport Cllr. Otton is working with a group of parents from Beyton who are asking for free school transport to Thurston in September. The committee and officers will walk the route on 1<sup>st</sup> and meet to discuss on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cllr Otton made the meeting aware that when Beyton was a middle school there was a successful campaign for free school travel from Thurston to Beyton due to safety concerns so the discussion will be whether it is still dangerous for older children.

Gypsy and Travellers; Sites had been identified for transit sites (these are needed to deal with illegal encampments) which was out for consultation. However as some landowners have put forward alternatives this has been stopped and a new consultation will now take place. (The nearest to Drinkstone is the old Little Chef site at Kentford and by the Orwell bridge).

Highways Cllr. Otton is becoming increasingly frustrated where works have not been done. She has been in contact with John Simpson, but has now passed this to the portfolio holder Graham Newman expressing our annoyance. Cllr Otton was made aware that the Park Road hedge is still untouched and was going to bring this up with Graham also.

Free School Lunches The new policy to provide a free hot meal for all primary children, Cllr. Otton has asked the portfolio holder if all the schools would be ready to do so. She has been assured that they are.

Fire Service During industrial action no major incidents were reported. Working with the police a grant was received from government for shred stations as in Elmswell. They are now looking at similar arrangements for Stowmarket and Ipswich.

Locality Budget. Cllr Otton has agreed to contribute £300 towards the new village notice board.

Midsuffolk Solar Panels Work has been done on many of the council houses and has been well received, this should help reduce tenants' fuel costs. It was noted in the meeting that Drinkstone houses are yet to be started.

New Council Houses The Council has been awarded over £1million to build new council house 38 in mid Suffolk which will be scattered around the area on existing Council owned land that is deemed appropriate. This will be delivered by Havebury housing partnership.

Hedges Cllr. Otton also brought it to the Councils attention in the meeting that the Council has informed her that the overgrown hedges are not the responsibility of the council but the landowners. Any landowner who fail to take appropriate care of their hedges will be charged for any work the council has to do.

#### 4. Police Report

**Crimes of note since your last meeting:** The police are pleased to confirm that there have been no crimes since our last meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

#### **8 telephone calls have been recorded for the village regarding:**

- 3 Relating to alarms,
- 1 Concerning highway obstruction
- 3 Concerns for safety
- 1 Relating to dogs

#### **General crime in the area**

- Thieves are targeting catalytic converters in Mid Suffolk Over the last few weeks catalytic converters have been removed from a number of vehicles across a number of locations in Mid-Suffolk. The Police have advised people to;
  - Park your vehicle in a locked and secure garage/compound at all times.
  - The use of alarms, lighting and CCTV should be considered to deter thieves.
  - If this isn't possible park in a well-lit, public area.
  - Vehicles can be parked in such a way as to make access to the catalytic converter difficult or parallel with another vehicle if you own one.
  - Look out for people 'working' under vehicles as they may not be the owners or lease holders, even if they have fluorescent jackets on.

The Police held another CAT marking session at Taylor Commercials in Haughley on Saturday and the next one will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> September at Truck East, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket between 6pm – 10pm. Motorists are advised to consider this advice to protect their catalytic converters, in particular owners of vehicles with a high ground clearance which are often targeted.

- There has been a spate of Shed thefts in the Tostock area. Thieves have been stealing lawnmowers, chainsaws and other large garden tools.
- There have also been several business premises broken in the area but nothing directly in Drinkstone.

#### 5. Open Forum

- It was brought up that there was an issue with the overflow of the ditches in the village in particular the area opposite the Rectory and Home Farm. A letter is to be written to the owners to highlight the issue. Some residents have been trying to fix the issue but debris was left in the area so more work had to be done.
- One resident brought up the issue of road clearance around the corner a lot of debris on the road which used to be cleared. May be an issue to bring up with Road sweepers as this is a new problem.
- Another resident brought up a boundary issue with regard to Gipping Homes misleading the residents in regards to whom his property home is adjacent. Gipping Homes boundary issue was discussed in more detail under point 11.

#### 6. Minutes

There was an amendment to section 9 of Junes' minutes. The sentence has been reworded to say "The PC was unanimous in voting to retain the cheese wedge in compliance with the wishes of the majority of the 64% of village questionnaires that were returned"

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

## **7. Matters Arising**

- A meeting was set up with Gipping Homes to discuss the border issues between the hedge and the new homes. The meeting was on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August and will be discussed in point 11.
- An advert to recruit a new member of the Council was sent to the Parish Magazine and should appear in the September issue.
- The new notice board has been ordered and an acknowledgement of the order has been received (in correspondence file).
- There are now five volunteers to take over the playground inspections from Edna and Sheila. A rota has been made up until the end of 2015.
- After the meeting it was discovered that it was not possible to delete the Peggs Farm footpath from the cutting schedule in favour of the Church path as the Peggs path is over the border in Rattlesden. A letter has been sent to the landowner of the overgrown path behind the church asking if he could arrange for some clearance to be carried out as soon as possible.

## **8. Finance – Report by Cllr. Cousins**

The Santander current account stands at £2,303.76; deposit account 1 at £2,654.46; deposit account 2 at £5.27 and VAT owing is £85.57, giving a total balance of £5,049.06.

The separate allotment bank account with Lloyds stands at £659.85.

The following invoices are to be paid; Old Parsonage Garden Services (3 cuts in July) at £93.75; Sharon's final invoice for 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July for 10hours @£8.43 is £83.40. Anglian water for Gedding Road Allotments is £59.61 and Rattlesden Road Allotment is £31.67. Anglian Water Invoices are for the period 14<sup>th</sup> May to 7<sup>th</sup> August are based on accurate readings.

## **9. Parish Council Vacancies**

### Councillor

No applications were received as of the meeting.

### Trustee for the Allotments

There has become a vacancy for a trustee for the allotments. Anyone interested in becoming a trustee should contact the Chairman or the Clerk.

## **10. The Cheese Wedge**

- Cllr. Harbutt submitted her comments prior to the meeting stating that throughout August she been doing the weekly playground inspection that has included the Cheese Wedge area. The area has become very untidy and she would consider it unsafe for children to play in. She was also concerned that it might start to be used as a dumping ground as she had already found a large plastic item possibly car parts amongst the undergrowth. The whole area has become very overgrown.
- It was discussed at the meeting that Cllr. Nolan would organised a team to start clearing and maintaining The Cheese Wedge.
- The Cllr. Clarke has received a letter in regards to the possibility of renting a part of The Cheese Wedge. The Council agreed that this is not a viable option due to the administration it would take to organise the rental agreements. It was also noted that it could cause issues if only partially rented as it could only add to the confusion to whom is responsible for what part of the land.

## 11. Cherry Tree

- Following the meeting between Peter Blemmings Assistant and the Council. There was a mutual agreement that something has to be done about the hedges but no responsibility was decided upon.
- Peter Blemmings of Gipping Homes is looking for the Deeds of the Land at the time of the meeting but this will be discussed in October's meeting if the documents are found.
- Following the discussion in point 5 about Gipping Homes boundaries, it was highlighted that the landscaping of the Gipping Homes site is the shared responsibility of the plots at the Old Cherry Tree site. Gipping Homes have delegated the responsibility of the landscaping. The land next to the playing field is the responsibility of the house to the side of it – Plot 105.

## 12. The Cricket Play Equipment Report

- The Council discussed the warnings noticeboard at the playground and the wording of it. It was noted that the contact details of the Clerk are to be changed on it due to the change of Clerk.
- Cllr Cousins brought up concerns about the deterioration around the slide at the park. The Chairman highlighted that the area that Cllr Cousins is concerned about has recently been packed soil so not to be a hazard to the public. The decision was made that the Council are only liable if deterioration of the ground is near the ladder of the slide.

## 13. Footpaths

- As mentioned in point 5, it was discovered that it was not possible to delete the Peggs Farm footpath from the cutting schedule in favour of the Footpath 2, which runs from the church to Deadmans Lane, as the Peggs path is over the border in Rattlesden. We have received an apology from the landowner of footpath 2 and the matter has now been resolved.
- With reference to the footpath that runs from the Park to Hessett Church. The land owner has complained that the broken footpath sign still has not been replaced, this is causing problems as people are confused to where the path actually runs resulting in them using a private farm track. This sign and several others in the village have been damaged but have now been reported to the relevant parties.
- The Chairman has suggested that a digital copy of the footpath map is added to the parish website. This would not only be beneficial to the residents whom wish to report any issues with the footpaths but may also highlight the many unused public footpaths the village has to offer. It was also put forward that maybe a brief description of each path could be put with the map stating where it starts and where it ends.

## 14. Planning

No new planning applications this month

The following applications have been approved by MSDC:

### Application 2500/14 The Former Cherry Tree Public House and adjacent land, Gedding Road, Drinkstone

- Plot 103 – Erection of sunroom/greenhouse to south elevation comprising of a glazed timber structure on brick plinth.
- Plot 109 – Erection of a UPVC conservatory to south elevation and patio doors to west elevation in lieu of window to lounge.
- Plot 114 – Erection of a UPVC conservatory to south elevation.
- Plot 115 – Erection of a UPVC conservatory to south west elevation.

These additions have been considered as non-material with consideration of the overall permission.

**15. Correspondence**

The Play Inspection Annual Report

SALC "Successful relationship with the media" course leaflet

Vitalise Charity Leaflet

Harry Stebbing Workshop Order Acknowledgment

The Local Councillor

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:47pm

Date of the next meeting Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

The above minutes will be verified at the next meeting.