

# DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

---

## Minutes

*Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 held in the Village Hall at 8pm*

---

### Present

Cllrs Clarke (Chairman), S.Cousins, C.Munford, T.Moss, the Clerk, SCC/MSDC Cllr P. Otton and 5 Residents.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

The Police and P.Nolan sent their apologies.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None

### 3. Cllr Otton's Report

#### Free School Transport

Cllr. Otton has been working with a group of parents from Beyton who are asking for free school transport to Thurston in September. She is delighted that the appeal on the basis of the children's safety was successful. However there still seems to be a few concerns about the school transport to and from Thurston from Beyton is causing some problems but she is currently liaising with the school to sort this out.

#### School Lunches

It has also been raised with Cllr. Otton that there is an issue with the timing of the lunches at Thurston but again, she is working with Thurston Upper School to resolve the problem.

#### Midsuffolk Gliding Club Application

This may go to committee in October or November as the Council has just agreed even stricter rules for referral to committee by councillors. The Council has approved a revised planning charter; copies can be available. These will come into effect after January 2015.

#### 0845 Phone Numbers

These are to be replaced with 0345 numbers which reduces the charge to the caller. 0800 free phone numbers remain.

#### Filming Council Meetings

Due to the filming of public meetings now being law, Cllr. Otton has voiced that although she has no issue with councillors and council officers being filmed, but she has raised some issues; i.e.; would members of the public wish to be filmed they will now have the choice. Councils have no jurisdiction over any public film/ video which could be edited. Several parish councils have grave concerns. This change in the law is something that seem to have come in without much thought to the implications.

#### Sky Lanterns and Helium Filled Latex Balloons

The council has agreed to prohibit these to be used or released on all land owned by Mid Suffolk. This is based on numerous examples of fires and damage to animals and wildlife. The council is hoping other organisations will follow.

#### 4. Police Report

##### **Crimes of note since your last meeting:**

There is one crime to report being fuel thefts from a number of agricultural machinery, full details are yet to be obtained from the reporting person but there are number of these occurring across the county.

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

- 1 Admin
- 1 Concerning highway obstruction
- 1 Theft

##### **Safer Neighbourhood Team news**

The Priority Meeting was held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October given to:

##### **Priority 1 - Parking Issues**

- Conduct visible patrols in hotspot areas as identified by the public
- Educate and advise offenders
- Enforce serious offences or repeat offenders

##### **Priority 2 - Enhancing personal safety**

- Provide crime reduction advice to members of the public
- Work with Night time economy outlets to prevent offences
- Provide visible patrols to reassure night time economy users and deter any offences

The next meeting when anyone can put forward their suggestions on what they feel we need to concentrate on will be held at The Elmswell Police Office on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October and the next 3 months attentions will be January 2015 at 7pm

##### **Tim Passmore: Four-wheel drive to cut rural crime**

The Police also wished to highlight an article which was recently featured in the Bury Free Press that was written by the Police Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, The Article discussed the many issues that countryside policing faces and how reducing rural crime is a key strand of his Police and Crime plan.

The full article can be found on the Bury Free Press Website:

<http://www.buryfreepress.co.uk/news/opinion/columnists/tim-passmore-four-wheel-drive-to-cut-rural-crime-1-6255295>

#### 5. Open Forum

- In regards to the ditches, the road sweepers have been and have cleaned the gulleys. However, it was noted that they did not so as effectively as was required. On Park Road, there appears to be a stretch of the road where at least 18" from the kerb was building up with soil, vegetation etc. Most of this stretch of road you can't see the kerb at all. It runs from the crossroads on the Beyton Road up to and just past the farm entrance which is a considerable stretch. It was mentioned that at the after the last heavy bout of rain that this build up with a large contributing factor to the localised flooding as the water was unable to drain away effectively. The Council shall contact the road sweepers and highlight the areas of concern again.
- The condition of road surface half way up Clay Hill is to also be reported to the Highways department as the verge is starting to collapse and starting to cause hazards. We have been informed that there is plans to build a small retaining wall in order to support the verge.

- The hedge along from Woolpit to Drinkstone Road is in the process of being dealt with. One resident shall be acting to clear the area and overhang in the winter. One resident queried the ownership of the issue and the final resident is yet to be contacted.

## 6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 appears to have had two issues these being:

- The replacement of the word “hedge” for “verge” in the Section 3 under Highways. The line now reads “Cllr Otton was made aware that the Park Road verge is still untouched...”
- The addition of the word “with” in Section 12. The line now reads “the area that Cllr Cousins is concerned about has recently been packed *with* soil...”

The Chairman has signed the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 as a true record.

## 7. Matters Arising

- Woolpit Health Centre has been awarded Practice Accreditation status by the Royal College of General Practitioners. This is an award given to Practices who have proven to the College that they provide quality services to their patients. It is quite a prestigious award as we believe that they are only the 9<sup>th</sup> Practice in the UK to be given this award. A Councillor will be going as a representative of the Parish Council to the awards evening on 17<sup>th</sup> October, where Dr Daniel Poulter, Minister for Health, will be presenting the award to the Practice.
- At the last meeting we were looking into replacing the contact details on the playground sign with weatherproof stickers. However during the price research it appears that it would be very uneconomical due to the number required and the pricing structure of suppliers. May be more cost effective to print a new sign and have it laminated.

## 8. Finance – Report by Cllr. Cousins

We have received the 2nd half Precept payment of £1,648.50 which is included in the Current Account figure. The Santander current account stands at £3,774.21; deposit account 1 at £2,654.46; deposit account 2 at £5.27 and VAT owing is £85.57, giving a total balance of £6,519.51.

We have received a cheque from Lucy Blake for £52 so this brings the balance for the separate Lloyds bank account stands at £620.57.

The following invoices are to be paid; SALC for 6months Payroll Service is £16.80 (Inc. VAT) and MSDC Annual Play Inspection is £62.04 (Inc. VAT) Both Invoices are for the same prices as last year. We are still awaiting an invoice for grass cutting for August so we anticipate paying double next month with September’s invoice.

## 9. Parish Council Vacancies

### Parish Clerk

Unfortunately the Clerk has decided to step down from her position due to work commitments. The position will be re-advertised and applications should be sent to the Clerk or the Chairman.

### Councillor

The Chairman has received 2 applications for the Councillor position and is putting them up for consideration. However, the search for a Councillor shall be put on hold until the Clerks position has been filled.

## **10. The Cheese Wedge**

A resident was allowed to discuss the meeting that took place in regards to the clearing of The Cheese Wedge due to the absence of Cllr. Nolan. The plan that has been discussed and actioned is that the clearance of The Cheese Wedge will start on the 25<sup>th</sup> October.

The hedge behind the basketball shall be kept and the rest to be removed as the majority of the hedge is brambles. The Cheese Wedge is to be cleared and levelled by the working party of 5/6 residents. The next stage will be to focus on the tree maintenance and for the Tree Wardens to be called and inspect the trees once the area has been cleared. The removal of the rubbish is to be discussed when it is known how much needs to be disposed of as a bonfire would be an inappropriate method of removal.

Concern was raised in regards to the removal of the hedges as to whether this will leave it more open to attack from Wildlife if they were to be removed. However, this was counteracted by the argument that they should merely be removed or thinned at the least due to a previous argument that people to keep an eye on the children using the playground. It is to be decided upon the clearance of The Cheese Wedge.

It was noted that any trees over hanging residents boundaries as at the discretion of the land owner to remove offending branches to their boundary lines.

The Parish Council also had a request for hedgehog boxes to be bought and put in The Cheese Wedge due to their displacement from the former Cherry Tree site. The council unfortunately do not have the funds to purchase them but have said that they have no objection if someone was to make or install one themselves.

## **11. Cherry Tree**

There are no definitive deeds for either property, due to the ages of the sites that specify ownership of the boundary. As a result there appears to be no hard evidence in either party's favour. As you are doubtless aware, the ditch has been cleared in preparation for the erection of a fence. The clearance has revealed that there is a slight difference in height between the two banks but no evidence of any boundary hedgerow.

It was reverted back to the laws of the land that focus on agricultural land as this is what both areas used to be before 1850. It was decided that ditch belongs to the former Cherry Tree site as this is the side to which the hedge was planted. With this in mind a fence will be placed on the side of the Cherry Tree site and the responsibility the land shall be that of the new homeowners.

The Parish Council were in agreement of the new land lines that were as proposed by Gipping Homes.

## **12. The Cricket**

The Play Equipment Report is yet to be read by all Councillors so shall be discussed in full at the next meeting. The Chairman has read the report and plans to look into the metal chains of the swings as this seems to be a slight concern in the report.

## **13. Footpaths**

A new bridge has been erected on Wash Lane over ditch along the side of the sugar beet field.

There are still no new posts on Park Road or on Woolpit Road. There has, nevertheless been some new posts put up to replace other fallen signs but there have been no new signs to put on them These will need to be re-ordered in order to finish the signposting.

## **14. Speed Activation Sign**

The Chairman began the discussion by highlighting the history of speed awareness in the Village. The first attempt to stop speeding in the village was by the police using a speed gun to track speed of vehicles. The second attempt was training up volunteers to use the speed gun to track motorist's speeds through the village but the volunteers as like many in the locality have diminished.

By using a purely computerised system of a Speed Activation sign there would be no interaction or repercussion for speeding through the village. It was decided that due to the lack of complaints about speeding and the financial implications that a speed activation sign would cause that it would be put on hold until complaints are received.

### **15. Doug Fouling**

Due to Cllr. Nolans absence, this shall be discussed at the next meeting as several complaints have been made to him. Complaints have been made about bags of excrement being thrown over hedge and up trees instead of being placed in the appropriate bins or taken home.

A notice is to be put in the parish magazine to remind people of how to properly dispose of their dogs' excrement.

### **16. Planning**

2868/14 | Raising the roof of the existing 3 bay cart lodge. Extension to the cart lodge. | Green Farm, Rattlesden Road, Drinkstone

The Parish council has no objections to this planning application.

### **17. Correspondence**

Strengthening local democracy together.  
Clerks & Councils Direct.  
Age UK Suffolk – International Day of Older Persons and Winter Warmth.  
Citizens Advice - Eastern Savings and Loans Credit Union.

### **18. Any other urgent Business**

Cllr. Munford has been made aware of a resident requesting an allotment space. All applications must be submitted to the Clerk or the Chairman and placed upon the register.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:02pm

Date of the next meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014

The above minutes will be verified at the next meeting.