

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1st December 2014 in Drinkstone Village Hall

Present;

Cllrs Clarke (Chairman), S. Cousins, C. Harbutt, C. Munford, T. Moss, P. Nolan, SCC/MSDC Cllr P. Otton Ryann Brunning Police and three residents.

1 – Apologies for Absence;

There were no apologies for absence.

2 – Declarations of Interest;

Cllr Cousins declared an interest in the application to form an annex at Little Meadow House 3540/14

3 – Cllr Otton’s Report;

New Highways Officer; Josh Kerridge has been given ‘our patch’ as John Simpson has been promoted Cllr. Otton met with him on 18th to make sure he was up to speed with the many outstanding highways issues in her division. As a result he has promised that Park Road is on the list for resurfacing. She also raised the issue of gully clearance. She asked what had happened to the idea of having enforceable 20mph, which he will get back to her on. Again the severe rain last week resulted in a lot of flooding in some areas including Drinkstone Road in Beyton.

Thurston Community College; Cllr Otton was at the official opening of the sixth form centre in Beyton on 13th where along with others cut the ribbon. She thought they were all pleased to see the refurbishment work had been finished so well and in time for the start of the new school year. At the liaison meeting on 25th she raised the issue of transport and lunches. There are some problems which are being addressed including going out to tender for a better late bus service. The catering service is under review as there are/have been long queues and lack of choice for late sittings. 2 students are to be on the judging panel for the Mid Suffolk community achievement awards.

Cheese Wedge; Cllr Otton rang mid Suffolk Sarah Carter, who agreed to send a vehicle to take away all the ‘rubbish’ once the clearance has been completed.

Mid Suffolk Sheltered Housing; the council is conducting a review of sheltered housing and a letter has been sent to all residents in these properties.

Cost of emptying dog bins; she raised this and apparently it was agreed last year that the cost should come in line with Babergh charges which are still higher, and considers this unfortunate!

Community Infrastructure Levy; Cllr Otton hoped that most of the parish councillors had been able to get to one of the sessions, as it is a major change. Unlike section 106, CIL could be spent in other parts of the district if not county! And can only be used to help fund some facilities.

Cllr Otton is pleased to see that the Brewers Arms in Rattlesden is now registered on the community right to bid/buy register

4 – Police Report;

PCSO Ryann Brunning read his report.

During the period 3rd November to 30th November 2014 one crime has been recorded. One telephone call has been recorded for the village regarding an abandoned car to police.

Priorities;

The current SNT priorities were set at a meeting held at the Council Offices, Needham Market on Thursday 2nd October 2014 they are presently;

Priority 1 – Parking issues;

Conduct visible patrols in hotspot areas as identified by the public.
Educate and advise offenders.
Enforce serious offences and 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 Area Forum and Priority Setting Meeting will be at Elmswell Police Station, School Road Elmswell – Thursday 8th January 2015 at 7pm Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please visit the local SNT website for details of SNT surgeries and public events.

Police connect

Police Connect is the new messaging service- connecting you to the very latest policing news for your area via e-mail, text or phone, replacing Police Direct. You can register to receive information about the issues that matter most to you and be among the first to be alerted by police in the case of an emergency affecting your are.

There are a lot of advantages to knowing what is going on in your local area or areas you are interested in such as where you work or where a vulnerable relative lives. You can take steps to safeguard yourself and your property, you may need to change plans, or re-route, because of an incident nearby or you may even be able to help us solve a crime. Information from the public is a major help in the fight against crime. We need your help to make your community a safer place.

You can register by visiting; www.suffolk.police.uk/aboutus/ourservices/policeconnect. By taking a few moments to fill out a simple form, you become more informed about what's happening in your community and can become more involved in helping to prevent and reduce crime.

Any information or would like advice on police matters. Our contact telephone number is 101. Our e-mail addresses are; Annelly.miles@suffolk.pnn.police.uk & Ryan.brunning@suffolk.pnn.uk

5 – Open Forum;

Three members of the public were present at the meeting all attending as they were very concerned about the proposed garage conversion and extension to form an annex at Little Meadow Cross Street. The chairman said that he would open the meeting to the pubic when the Council discussed the planning issue. Item 10 .c on the agenda.

6 – Minute;

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3th November 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7 – Matters Arising;

a] Places need to be booked for Community Infrastructure Levy sessions at Needham Market for councillors able to attend.

b] Parish survey was presented by Cllr Cousins and filled in.

8 – Playing Field

a] Cheese Wedge; It was decided to shred as much of the rubbish as possible and the remaining to be disposed of by MSDC as recorded in Cllr Ottons report. **Action:** Cllr Nolan.

b] There is a problem with the build-up of water due to blocked ditches on the boundary with Cherry Tree Rise. There seems to be broken concrete in the ditch that is possibly caused when someone has put the posts in to erect a fence. Ownership of fence needs to be established and action taken by the owners to rectify the problem.

Action: Cllr Clarke, Cllr Nolan.

c] Petter Blemmings has confirmed that the Holly will be coppiced.

9 – Finance

Cllr Cousins gave her report;

Santander current account £2,441.17, Santander Deposit account no1 £2,655.4 and account no2 £5.27 VAT owing £312.99 Total £5,414.83

Allotments Lloyds Bank £620.57

Anglian Water invoices; Gedding Road £5.93 Rattlesden Road [estimated] £9.89

Invoices to pay

Kirsteen's clerks wages £121.54 + HM Revenue & Customs £30.20

Old Parsonage Grass Cutting for November £ 93.75

Cllr Cousins book of 2nd class stamps £6.36

CAS Insurance £360.85

The budget for 2015 was discussed and minor adjustments made. Cllr Cousins put forward the cost implications with regards to the forth-coming elections. The completed budget will be presented at the next meeting in January

10 – Planning;

a] Cherry Tree Rise Plot 107 application 3400/14

A revised plan for plot 107 has been submitted as originally the plan was to convert the old Cherry Tree Building, the builders have now discovered that the building has deteriorated so much and is no longer a feasible proposition. Plans now are for demolition and a new build using the same foot print. No objections were raised.

b] Garage conversion and extension to form annex Little Meadow House 3540/14

[The chairman asked Cllr Cousins to leave the room while application was being discussed]

The Chairman opened the meeting for public discussion. Residents from neighbouring properties voiced their concerns. They considered there was no need for and annex as the property has four bedrooms and a custom built wet room. There are only two adults and one child living in the property they stated that annexes were not normally detached; this plan is increasing the footprint by approx. 50% creating a separate building that sometime in the future could have a second floor added and sold off as a separate property. The proposed annex would invade the privacy to the properties to either side with overlooking windows and doors; there would be considerable amenity loss. There would be fewer parking spaces; the entrance was passed as a turning point to the lane and this could cause traffic problems. . Neighbouring residents confirmed that they were individually formally objecting to MSDC

Members of the Council expressed concerns regarding the intended use, scale and position of the proposed development. The loss of car parking area could lead to encroachment onto the shared access/turning area from which the property is accessed off a single-track highway. It was further considered that, as the extension will be towards the main dwelling there will be a loss of amenity to that dwelling. The council noted residents' concerns that a separate dwelling would be created leading to segregation and possible sale. Therefore the Chairman agreed that given all the concerns he would send the objections to the planning department MSDC for consideration. **Action:** Cllr Clarke

[Cllr Cousins was invited back into the room]

c] MSDC Decisions.

Green Farm; Raising the roof of the existing cartlodge and extension. granted

Moat Farm; grain store granted.

11 – Parish notice board;

The chairman confirmed that he had not been given a date for delivery. Cllr Cousins confirmed a cheque had been made out ready to pay the invoice on completion and delivery of the board.

12 – Allotments;

Cllr Clarke confirmed that the hedge at the Gedding Road Allotments had now been cut. He also confirmed that there would be no increase in water rates this year. He also suggested that it might be possible to introduce some sort of reward scheme in the future to encourage tenants to keep the site well maintained.

Renewal of charity status is now due. **Action:** Cllr Clarke

13- Correspondence; there is no correspondence.

14- Any other business; Cllr Munford warned that due to weather conditions some of the footpaths are very slippery. There had been five falls reported.

Cllr Moss had been approached by a resident complaining of continual dog fouling on the Cricket. This is an on-going problem and it was suggested that a by-law be put in place to either ban dogs or for owners to keep dogs on a lead. Cllr Moss to investigate possibilities. **Action:** Cllr Moss

Date of next meeting Monday 5th January 2015 at 8pm

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm