

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 5 January 2015 at 8.00pm in Drinkstone Village Hall

Present: Cllr Adrian Clarke (Chairman), Cllr Sue Cousins, Cllr Cora Munford and Cllr Tim Moss

In Attendance: County and District Cllr Penny Otton
Seven members of the public
(Acting) Parish Clerk: Doug Reed

1 Apologies for Absence: Noted from Cllr Christine Harbutt and Cllr Paul Nolan.

2 Declarations of Interest : None.

The meeting was adjourned for reports from external bodies and for public comment and questions:

3 District and County Councillor

Cllr Otton was not available when this agenda item was taken. The report was read out and duly noted.

FLOODING; YET AGAIN you have had to suffer from flooding in parts of the village.. There is obviously still a problem at Drinkstone rd Beyton and Park rd. Josh Kerridge at Suffolk county council has got some work done in Quaker lane so we will keep at it!!!

At the last council meeting before Christmas there was a report on property assets including county farms. 12,826 acres of land . in 2012 it was agreed to continue they be managed to maximise viability but also to support the “Greenest county” including “Grow your future” working with Otley College.

It was also agreed to lead a Suffolk campaign for better mobile phone coverage seeking investment from the governments mobile infrastructure project and to get the 5 network providers to also invest in Suffolk.

Suffolk Energy Action; offering free loft and cavity wall insulation to EVERYONE without it, regardless of income, age or status; contact www.suffolkenergyaction.org

4 Suffolk Constabulary

Neither PC 421 Annelly Miles nor PCSO 3225 Ryan Brunning was able to attend the meeting. Both had sent their apologies. Accordingly, the Suffolk Constabulary report (attached as an appendix to these minutes) was read out. It was noted, in particular, that there had been no crimes reported in Drinkstone over the recent holiday period.

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During the period 1st December 2014 to the 1st January 2015 there have been no crimes reported over this festive period.

During the same period 2 telephone calls were recorded from residents that were both for highway disruptions.

In general

Dwelling burglaries continue in the area by thieves taking advantage of peoples gifts and just before xmas the area saw a Post Office raid in Badwell Ash and an Old Post Office was also targeted.

Community Speedwatch - volunteers needed across Suffolk

Community Speed Watch schemes across Suffolk are appealing for additional volunteers to join their teams, to target those speeding in 30mph limits within their local areas. Last year Drinkstone and Wetherden folded within our area due to lack of volunteers. We certainly don't want others to follow suit as they make a significant difference to speeding in the villages making our communities a much safer place to be and are a valued addition to the policing family.

Safer Neighbourhood Team news

The team would like to take the opportunity to thank Drinkstone Parish Council for all their efforts over 2014 at keeping us on our toes and well informed. Here's hoping that 2015 will be a positive and productive year.

The next Priority 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 8th January 2015 at 7pm.

5 Public Discussion

Several matters were raised while the meeting was closed and so open for public comment including planning application 3788/14 relating to Ticehurst Gravels and a variation of 'Condition 1' to allow continued storage and recycling of inert waste and infilling of land until 31 March 2017; the clearing of ditches around Grange Farm; and speeding, particularly along Rattlesden Road and Gedding Road. Regarding the latter, the Chairman offered to approach Suffolk Constabulary to request some checks and monitoring to tackle the evident safety concerns.

Meeting resumed:

6 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 1 December, be signed as a true record.

7 Matters Arising

Cllr Moss reported that he had been investigating the possibility of the Council creating a byelaw to deal with dog fouling but had been advised that legislation was already in place and available for use by other agencies. However, he had been referred to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as other options may be open to the Council and indicated that he would update the Council as soon as further information was available.

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8 Playing Field

8.1 'The Cheese Wedge'

It was reported that the green waste was to be shredded but that it needed to be dry before that could be done. Also, that residual soil would be put back down. It was noted that two piles of waste remained to be sifted and that a working party was needed to do that.

8.2 Boundary with Cherry Tree Rise

Further to problems with flooding by the bridge, Cllr Clarke reported that he had spoken with the relevant landowner who was equally concerned about the situation. Remedial action was being pursued and the Chairman confirmed that both he and the landowner would be monitoring the position very carefully.

9 Finance

9.1 Financial Report and Update

Cllr Cousins reported on the current position with the Council finances, as below:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Current account (Santander UK) | £1,829.32 |
| Deposit account I (Santander UK) | £2,656.27 |
| Deposit account II (Santander UK) | £5.27 |
| Sub-total: | £4,490.86 |
| VAT owing | £312.99 |
| Total: | £4,803.85 |

Allotments

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Current account (Lloyds Bank) | £604.77 |
|-------------------------------|---------|

It was noted that the cheque for the noticeboard, in the sum of £1,429.20, had yet to be cashed but that the money was excluded from the current account balance as presented. It was also confirmed that there were no invoices outstanding and that forms to provide for new signatories had been submitted to Lloyds Bank.

9.2 Precept 2015-2016

Cllr Cousins presented a budget proposal for 2015-2016 which took into account increases in expenditure, both known and anticipated. Compared with the 2014-2015 budget of £3,320, it was expected that a further £255 would be needed in order for the Council to meet its costs and discharge its functions as required.

There was some discussion about the level of increase, with a suggestion that a slightly larger rise be considered to allow a degree of leeway against unforeseen costs but, after debate, it was agreed that the precept should be set at £3,575.

10 Planning

10.1 Applications

There were no new planning applications for the Council to consider.

10.2 MSDC Decisions

There had been no planning decisions reported since the last Council meeting.

11 Parish Noticeboard

The Chairman reported that delivery of the new noticeboard was expected on 9 January and that a working party would be needed to install it. Cllr Moss offered to lead the work needed. Cllr Clarke added that a local company had enquired about refurbishing the old noticeboard. Should this prove possible then it might be relocated, used and maintained but at no cost to the Council.

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12 Correspondence

Woolpit Health Centre had invited the Council to send a representative to a meeting on 20 January to discuss neighbourhood planning but as the Council had no intentions in that regard then it was agreed that the invitation be declined. Correspondence had also been received from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) advising that the annual membership subscription would be rising to £227. It was noted that the increase had already been incorporated in the budget for 2015-2016.

13 Other Business of an Urgent Nature

13.1 Allotments: It was reported that a resident had raised concerns about securing a vacant plot but the Chairman reassured the meeting that he had spoken with the person in question who was on the waiting list for a vacancy.

13.2 Footpath Signs: While it was noted that some had not yet been put up, it was also noted that the County Council was aware of the situation and would be pursued for action should none be forthcoming within a reasonable timeframe.

13.3 Flooding and Potholes: Further to problems with flooding in Cross Street, it was agreed that Cllr Munford would approach the relevant landowner for remedial action in sorting out matters affecting local ditches. Cllr Clarke offered to report issues concerning potholes in the same location to the County Council.

13.4 Rattlesden Road and Gedding Road Drain Problems: Though these were brought to the attention of the Council, it was emphasised that they related to particular properties and so were, necessarily, the responsibility of the owners.

14 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 2 February at 8.00pm in Drinkstone Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Date of next meeting Monday 2nd February 2015 at 8pm