

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 13 April 2015 at 8.00pm in Drinkstone Village Hall

Present: Cllr Adrian Clarke (Chairman), Cllr Sue Cousins, Cllr Barry Evans, Cllr Christine Harbutt, Cllr Cora Munford, Cllr Tim Moss and Cllr Paul Nolan

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

1 Apologies for Absence

None.

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. She arrived late following her attendance at the meeting of another parish council. Her report (attached as an appendix to these minutes) was read out and duly noted. There were no matters arising.

4 Suffolk Constabulary

Neither PC 421 Annelly Miles nor PCSO 3225 Ryan Brunning was able to attend the meeting. Both had sent their apologies. The Suffolk Constabulary report (attached as an appendix to these minutes) was read out and duly noted. There had been two crimes reported in the period since the last Council meeting. One was of harassment and the other a burglary.

5 Public Discussion

Concern was expressed about dog mess on the children's play equipment at the playing field. It was emphasised that, due to its location, it was not an accidental occurrence but had been placed there deliberately. Given the circumstances, it was agreed that the matter would be reported to Suffolk Constabulary.

Meeting resumed:

6 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 2 March, be signed as a true record.

7 Matters Arising

None.

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8 Council Vacancies

8.1 Parish Clerk

There was further discussion about the Parish Clerk vacancy and both the basis on which this post might be paid and how it might be restructured. However, with changes to the composition of the Council imminent due to a contested election, it was felt that it would be an inappropriate time to determine the way forward. Councillors, therefore, recommended that the salary be increased but deferred any formal resolution to a future meeting of the new Council.

8.2 Allotment Trustee

It was reported that a resident had come forward to take on this role and agreed that the appointment be confirmed. The Chairman would notify the individual accordingly.

9 Playing Field and 'The Cheese Wedge'

It was confirmed that there would be a working party on Saturday 8 May starting at 9.00am. Appropriate advertising would be published in the parish magazine in the hope of attracting volunteers. On a separate issue, the Council noted a report from a resident about rats but agreed that the particular circumstances suggested that this was a one-off problem about which no action was possible. Nonetheless, the matter would be monitored.

10 Finance

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

Current account (Santander UK)	£2,090.40
Deposit account I (Santander UK)	£2,659.79
Deposit account II (Santander UK)	£5.27
Total:	£4,755.46

Allotments

Current account (Lloyds Bank)	£604.75
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It was noted that the current account included contributions from residents, in the sum of £406.00, towards the fund for the defibrillator. Further, that £300.00 had been received from Suffolk County Council, also towards the defibrillator fund, courtesy of the Cllr Otton's locality budget. As per the written report supplied to councillors, Cllr Cousins confirmed that £100 would be retained by the Council for any subsequent defibrillator-related expenses such as insurance. With the first part of the precept payment of £1,787.50 having been received from Mid Suffolk District Council together with the Council Tax Support Grant of £16.67, the current account would start the new 2015-2016 financial year totalling £4,194.57. It was resolved that outstanding invoices be paid, as below:

- ◆ Cllr Cousins: £6.36 (book of second-class stamps);
- ◆ Suffolk Association of Local Councils: £227.00 (subscription 2015-2016); and
- ◆ Suffolk Association of Local Councils: £25.00 plus £5.00 VAT (attendance by Cllr Cousins at an audit briefing).

It was also resolved that a case for the village hall defibrillator now be ordered at a cost of £530.00.

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11 Planning

11.1 Applications

0753/15 concerned Brookside, Chapel Lane. The application proposed the replacement of a modern (C20) staircase, re-thatching of roof south face and ridge; and the replacement of clay tiles on porch with pantiles and fit barge board. The Council had no objection.

0703/15 concerned The Willows, Chapel Lane. The application proposed the erection of a three-bay cart lodge with storage area above and extended staircase. The Council had no objection.

0833/15 concerned Meade Cottage, Beyton Road. The application proposed the erection of a two-storey rear extension; and erection of single storey side and rear extension (following demolition of existing outbuilding). The Council had no objection.

11.2 MSDC Decisions

0348/15 concerned Hill Farm House, Hill Farm Lane - Listed Building Consent had been granted.

0078/15 concerned land to the rear of 1 Field Close - the proposed change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian, and the creation of a new access from the existing property had been granted.

12 Highways

Various matters were the subject of updates. It was reported that potholes in Park Road were in hand with the County Council but that those at the east end of Cross Street needed to be reported. Further, that mud on the highway in Deadman's Lane needed to be re-added to the County Council list of outstanding matters awaiting action.

13 Parish Noticeboard

It was confirmed that the new noticeboard had now been installed and was fully functional. A problem had been encountered with the possible refurbishment of the old noticeboard but Cllr Moss offered to look further into any options for its potential reuse.

14 Footpaths

It was reported that some fingerposts had been restored but that others awaited attention. It was also noted that the Area Rights of Way Officer at Suffolk County Council had changed and this might impact upon progress in the short term. Cllr Nolan informed the meeting about a possible complaint relating to the trajectory of an electric fence across the field from Park Road. There was, however, a little confusion about the complaint. Cllr Harbutt would look at the matter and investigate any possible issue on behalf of the Council.

15 Parish Council Elections 2015

It was confirmed that there would be a contested election in Drinkstone on Thursday 7 May. Three current councillors had not submitted nomination papers to re-stand. There would be eight candidates for the seven places on the Council.

16 Correspondence

Though not correspondence as such, the Chairman noted the adverse comments about the Council in the recent parish magazine and reported that he would be

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providing an appropriate factual reply. There had been no other significant items of correspondence received.

17 Other Business of an Urgent Nature

Cllr Evans reported concerns from residents whose address was Council Houses, Gedding Road. This was based upon the adverse impact the address had on any legitimate business carried out from home. Initial enquiries suggested that any possible name change would require the approval of the Parish Council. Given the changes to the Council which would result from the forthcoming contested election, it was felt that any action should be deferred and followed-up at the next or later meeting.

18 Next Meetings

It was noted that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 11 April at 7.00pm in Drinkstone Village Hall to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm in the same location.

The meeting closed at 9.26pm.

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