

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 6 July at 8.00pm in Drinkstone Village Hall

Present: Cllr Daphne Youngs (Chairman), Cllr Sue Cousins,
Cllr Christine Harbutt, Cllr Gary Hembra and Cllr Lorna Thurlow

In Attendance: County and District Councillor Penny Otton
11 parishioners
(Acting) Parish Clerk: Doug Reed

2015/029 Apologies for Absence

Accepted from Cllr Cora Munford and Cllr Haslett Schofield both of whom were on holiday.

2015/030 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Youngs declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11.2 (minute 2015/040) being an allotment-holder.

2015/031 The meeting was adjourned for reports from external bodies and for public comment and questions:

031.1 District and County Councillor: Cllr Otton presented her report, which had been circulated previously (attached as an appendix to these minutes), and answered questions from councillors. She noted the initiative in nearby villages, in the context of speeding, to acquire a Vehicle-Activated Sign (VAS) and queried whether Drinkstone Parish Council might be interested in following suit. The suggestion was noted and it was felt that further information should be obtained. Cllr Otton confirmed that she was pursuing problems with a significant hole in Park Road and was also asked by a parishioner if she would refer to the County Council a problem with a raised drain/manhole in Beyton Road.

031.2 Suffolk Constabulary: It was noted that no officer was present or had offered apologies for absence, and that no report had been supplied by the Safer Neighbourhood Team. .

031.3 Public Discussion: Several matters were brought to the attention of councillors including the poor state of footpaths, a highways matter in Beyton Road (as referred to Cllr Otton), the naming of the Council Houses in Gedding Road, and dog mess on the playing field.

Meeting resumed:

2015/032 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

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

2015/033 Matters Arising

033.1 Signatories (minute 2015/020.1 refers): Cllr Cousins reported that the work on this had been completed.

033.2 Council Houses (Gedding Road) (minute 2015/020.4 refers): Cllr Cousins reported that she had looked further into this problem and that the

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fault rested with Royal Mail whose databases had not been updated and so did not properly reflect the true addresses of the properties. Accordingly, it was for individual householders to each raise the problem with Royal Mail as the Parish Council could do nothing to effect the necessary changes.

033.3 Playing Field/ Cherry Tree Rise (minute 2015/027.1 refers):

Cllr Hembra had ensured that required strimming had been carried out.

2015/034 Parish Clerk Vacancy

Cllr Youngs reported that one candidate had come forward to date although there were still a few days left before the deadline for applications expired. With the only applicant thus far on a higher salary than was advertised councillors resolved that, if necessary, an appointment might be made up to and including SCP 22 (£10.527 per hour) on The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay scales for 2014-2016. However, any appointment would be subject to a satisfactory interview. Accordingly, it was further resolved that an interview panel be established, comprising the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and, subject to availability, either Cllr Hembra or Cllr Schofield with delegated authority to make an appointment. Finally, it was agreed that the new incumbent would take on the role of Responsible Financial Officer upon commencing as Clerk, with the intention that the start date be 1 September. **Action: Cllr Youngs**

2015/035 Planning

035.1 Applications: None.

035.2 MSDC Decisions: It was noted that applications 1143/15 concerning 1 Field Close, 0703/15 concerning The Willows (formerly known as Vermond), Chapel Lane, 2697/14 and 2698/14 both concerning Home Farm, The Street and 0753/15 concerning Brookside, Chapel Lane had been granted.

2015/036 Finance

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

Treasurer's account (Santander UK)	£3,309.11
Deposit account I (Santander UK)	£2,661.56
Deposit account II (Santander UK)	£5.27
Sub-Total:	£5,975.94
VAT owing	£50.00
Total:	£6,025.94

Allotments

Current account (Lloyds Bank)	£735.38
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It was resolved that outstanding invoices be paid, as below:

- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: £886.11 (election fees); and
- ◆ Mr D Reed: £110.40 (acting Parish Clerk - June).

In addition, a replacement cheque was raised to Physio-Control UK Sales in the sum of £530.00+£106.00 as the original, paid in May, could not be traced by the company and had, as a result, been 'stopped'.

£1,626.83 was confirmed as being ring-fenced:

- ◆ Defibrillator fund: £111.83;

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- ◆ Elections: £615.00; and
- ◆ Playing field: £900.00.

2015/037

Councillor Portfolios

037.1 Parochial Church Council (Cllr Cousins) - there were no matters to report.

037.2 Allotments (Cllr Harbutt) - the only issue was that of the management policy and role of the Trustees which was a substantive item later on the agenda (minute 2015/40).

037.3 Playing Field (Cllr Hembra) - it was reported that the annual playground inspection had been set up with Mid Suffolk District Council, the grass had now been cut following a problem with the contractor's equipment, and the matter of dog mess had been raised again. Cllr Hembra noted that he would seek, not least through the village magazine and forthcoming fête, to highlight the issue of dog fouling and the problems that it caused. Finally, he indicated that he wanted to seek volunteers to help with work on the 'Cheese Wedge'. To that end, a parishioner in the audience who offered to supply Cllr Hembra with an existing list of those who had previously provided and/or offered help.

037.4 Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr Thurlow) - there were no matters to report.

037.5 Footpaths (Cllr Munford) - in the absence of Cllr Munford, the Chairman and Clerk confirmed that no less than 10 reports had been raised with the Rights of Way Team at Suffolk County Council. These highlighted a range of problems from encroaching brambles to shoulder-high growth impeding walkers. Pressure would be kept on that Council to effect remedial action.

2015/038

Drinkstone Educational Charity

It was resolved in his absence that Cllr Schofield be appointed to the charity. Cllr Youngs would seek his agreement to the position.

Action Cllr Youngs

2015/039

Correspondence

There were no issues arising. Correspondence had either been actioned or addressed under other agenda items.

2015/040

Allotments

Cllr Harbutt had circulated a briefing paper which had referenced a management policy in which items six and seven had seemingly been removed. It was resolved that those items be reinstated:

6. The Council will consult if it is considering any substantial changes to the allotment management policy or the tenancy agreement.
7. The Trustees will be responsible for the following:
 - a) resolving tenant disputes;
 - b) notifying the Council of non-cultivation of plots; and
 - c) consulting tenants on the Council's behalf on any substantial changes to the allotment policy or tenancy agreement, and advising the Council.

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The updated/corrected policy would be circulated to Trustees.

Action: Cllr Harbutt

2015/041 Matters to be Brought to the Attention of the Council

None.

2015/042 Next Meeting:

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 7 September at 8.00pm in Drinkstone Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm.

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