

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st February 2016 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Lorna Thurlow (in chair) Cllr Sue Cousins
Cllr Gary Hembra Cllr Haslett Schofield
Cllr Christine Lambert Cllr Cora Munford

County and District Cllr Penny Otton (part)
8 members of the public

2015/166 **Apologies for Absence** — Cllr Daphne Youngs, Parish Clerk - Paula Gladwell

2015/167 **Declarations of Interest** – None

2015/168 **Adjournment for:**

County and District Cllr Otton's Report – Cllr Otton gave her report which will be circulated.

Open Forum – Concerns were expressed that the hedge on Woolpit/Drinkstone Road corner is still overhanging the road. This has been reported in the past and has been trimmed, however it seems that there are still concerns that it is overhanging the road.

Concerns were expressed regarding a drain in The Street opposite the Old School which it was suggested may be blocked as water gushes out in heavy rain causing a large amount of surface water. This has been reported to Anglian Water who have investigated the issues.

Concerns were raised regarding trees overhanging the village hall boundary, it was suggested that the village hall committee contact the land owner.

A request for signage to the village hall was noted and the clerk has requested information and costings from SCC Highways to add signs to the existing signposts. It was agreed that the provision of these signs and any information from Highways be referred back to the village hall committee by Cllr Thurlow.

Meeting resumed:

2015/169 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr Thurlow that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 4th January 2016 were signed as a true record.

2015/170 Cllr Cousins requested that it be minuted that the quote for grass cutting had been kept the same as previous years.

2015/171 **Clerks report** – Cllr Thurlow gave the clerks report. It was confirmed that all our grit spreading volunteers must be issued with Health and Safety guidelines and a copy of the SCC conditions relating to their insurance cover. Once volunteers have confirmed that they are happy with these they can be covered by Suffolk CC insurance.

2015/172 It was noted that the requests for grit piles at Cherry tree rise had been rejected by SCC as the road is not adopted by Highways. The request for grit from the Village Hall has also been declined as this is private property.

2015/173 Suffolk County council have been asked if they can provide directional signage to the village hall. Their response and costings will be passed to the committee.

2015/174 **Planning** – It was resolved to send the following comments to MSDC Planning for Application no. 0115/16 T1 Mature Willow Tree in front garden, Reduce to approx 2m below the old reduction points and reshape to create good framework of pollard heads, 4 School Meadow – *"Drinkstone Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*

2015/175 There were no MSDC decisions to note.

2015/176 **Finance** – The clerks Financial Report for February 2016 was noted.

- 2015/177 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Thurlow with all in favour.
Clerk's salary for January 2016
- 2015/178 ICO payment £35.00
- 2015/179 Drinkstone History Group Website donation £10.00
- 2015/180 **Review of Effectiveness of Internal Controls** – Deferred.
- 2015/181 **Councillor Portfolios –**
Allotments – Nothing to report
Footpaths – Nothing to report.
- 2015/182 **Playing Field** – Cllr Hembra's report had been circulated and it was noted that
- 2015/183 replies were still awaited from Adventure Playground Ltd and several other play equipment maintenance companies for quotes to carry out the recommendations from the inspection report.
No complaints this month regarding dog fouling on the park. Footpath sign at Cross Street has not yet been replaced. A new yearly playground equipment check list rota is currently being put together for this year. Some trimming will be carried out to the large bush/tree at the the entrance to the park as its well over grown and obstructing the path.
- 2015/184 **Playingfield Working Group** – Cllr Hembra reported that he is in the process of contacting village volunteers to form a discussion group for ideas to develop the additional land as part of the playingfield. He is contacting Fran Haill, who led the campaign to keep the "cheese wedge" as part of the playingfield and had collected a list of volunteers to carry any maintenance work required on the site. It was noted that this group of volunteers may be able to save the Parish Council a great deal of money which otherwise would be needed to outsource the maintenance of the many trees on the site. The Terms of Reference for the group will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- 2015/185 **Correspondence** – Cllr Cousins volunteered to co ordinate forwarding some community notices that the Council receive to village information streams. It was agreed by councillors that Cllr Cousins should contact the Chairman and the Clerk for approval before sending any notices.
- 2015/186 There were no comments to tabled correspondence.
- 2015/187 **HM Queens's 90th Birthday Celebrations** – Cllr Thurlow reported that there is now a working group to arrange a celebration on Saturday 11th June 2016. Cllr Hembra agreed to join Cllr Thurlow to represent the Parish Council on the working group which also includes Sharon Edmondson and Sheila Riches from the Village Hall and Dave Woodward and Roger Kemp from the PCC. Please contact any of the group if you wish to get involved.
- 2015/188 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – Cllr Cousins was asked if she would like to try to obtain sponsors for the village bins but she declined.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 7th March 2016 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall