

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th September 2016 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Daphne Youngs Cllr Lorna Thurlow Cllr Gary Hembra
 Cllr Haslett Schofield Cllr Sue Cousins Cllr Christine Lambert

Parish Clerk - Paula Gladwell County and District Cllr Penny Otton
5 members of the public

2016/302 **Apologies for Absence** — Cllr Cora Munford

2016/303 **Declarations of Interest** – None

2016/304 **Adjournment for:**

County and District Cllr Otton's Report – Cllr Otton gave her report which has been circulated and is attached to these minutes.

Open Forum – Concerns were expressed that when Suffolk County Council cut the verges they do not do around the road signs. It was confirmed that it is unlikely that contractors will undertake manual strimming of signs and that this is something that may have to be arranged locally.

Councillors were asked if they had formulated a council response to the devolution consultation, it was confirmed that councillors had agreed in the absence of a scheduled meeting that they would respond individually if wished.

It was noted that the overgrown hedges along Beyton Road were outside the village boundary however the clerk would willingly report to SCC if photos could be sourced.

It was suggested by Cllr Otton that some kind of ongoing liaison with Envirofield could be established in order to monitor planning conditions.

Meeting resumed:

2016/305 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr Youngs that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were approved. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 4th July 2016 were signed as a true record.

2016/306 **Clerks report** – Cllr Munford has submitted her resignation as a councillor and subsequently the position of Footpath Warden due to ill health. It was acknowledged that Cora's long and committed service to Drinkstone in her role as a parish councillor and a chairman would be sadly missed and all present wished her well. MSDC will be notified of the vacancy.

2016/307 It was confirmed that Drinkstone PC's pension auto enrolment staging date has now passed. The declaration of compliance has been completed and acknowledged and a letter sent to employees confirming that there is no obligation to contribute to a pension scheme at this time as they do not meet the criteria necessary. If any future employees have earnings that are above £192 per week then a scheme would have to be set up and contributions made.

2016/308 The overhanging hedge on Woolpit Road has been reported to SCC again and they have responded that they agree that some hedges do require attention along this stretch of road, however they feel that travel along it is safe with care. They will review this after Sept 1st when nesting season has finished and they are able to cut the hedges again. The encroaching verges at the junctions of Beyton Road with Park Road and Gedding Rd have also been reported however to date no work seems to have been carried out.

2016/309 Council has been notified that Giles Youngs has volunteered to become the Local Recorder for Drinkstone on behalf of the Suffolk Local History Council.

2016/310 Council have been informed that BT wish to site a green fibre box opposite Ivy Cottage on Rattlesden Road, A meeting has been set up with the engineers to see where best to site the box and also whether any way leave will be available.

- 2016/311 We have received a request to put a parish council voice to asking residents to have more consideration of neighbours when lighting bonfires. It was agreed that an article be put into the newsletter asking people to be considerate of their neighbours when burning in their gardens.
- 2016/312 **Finance** – The clerks Financial Report for September 2016 was approved.
- 2016/313 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Youngs, with all in favour.
Clerk's salary for July & August 2016
- 2016/314 Laptop and Scanner £593.97
- 2016/315 Anglian Water £83.54
- 2016/316 It was resolved to purchase a filing cabinet for council papers at a cost of £154.80
Proposed Cllr Youngs with all in favour.
- 2016/317 The completion of the BDO external audit was noted, there were no issues arising that required action.
- 2016/318 **Planning** – It was resolved to send the following comments to MSDC: Application no. 3314/16 Insertion of new window to first floor on east elevation, Holm House, Garden House Lane – *"Drinkstone Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available"*
- 2016/319 Application no. 3247/16 Erection of detached dwelling with use of existing vehicular access to Gedding Road, Briar Cottage, Gedding Road – *"Drinkstone Parish Council OBJECTS to this application on the following grounds:"*(a copy of the objections is attached to these minutes)
- 2016/320 The following MSDC decisions were noted: 0722/16 Continued use of land and buildings as an operational base for agricultural research and development.
Erection of storage building and cabin (following removal of existing structure)
Meade Farm Buildings, Beyton Road – GRANTED and
3054/15 Erection of 5 dwellings with formation of vehicular accesses, Land at Chapel Lane – REFUSED
- 2016/321 **Adopt a Footpath scheme** - It was noted that some interest had already been shown by residents keen to be involved in adopting a footpath and helping out with their maintenance. It was resolved to approve the Terms of Reference for the Adopt a Footpath Working Group, Proposed Cllr Youngs, with all in favour and Cllr Schofield will arrange a meeting of the Working Group in order to take this project forward.
- 2016/322 **Councillor Portfolios –**
- 2016/323 **Allotments** – Nothing to report
- 2016/323 **Footpaths** – Cllr Schofield agreed to take on the role of Footpath Warden on a permanent basis. It was reported that FP2 to the rear of The Rectory was almost impassable due to excessive side growth, the landowner will be asked to cut this back as soon as possible.
- 2016/324 **Playing Field** – Cllr Hembra's report had been circulated and is attached to these minutes. It was noted that the annual playground inspection report had been received and any recommendations will be considered at the next meeting.
- 2016/325 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2016/326 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – None.

Meeting closed 9.10 pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 3rd October 2016 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall