

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th November 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
2 members of the public

2016/356 **Apologies for Absence** — None

2016/357 **Declarations of Interest** – None

2016/358 **Adjournment for:**

Open Forum – A request was put forward that consideration be given to banning bonfires on the allotment site, Cllr Lambert will forward this to the Trustees for consideration at their upcoming meeting.

Meeting resumed:

2016/359 **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 3rd October 2016 were signed as a true record.

2016/360 **Clerks report** – The application for funding to provide a heavy duty and a lightweight strimmer for the Adopt a Footpath Scheme volunteers has been successful with a cheque received for £988.00 from Suffolk Rural Fund.

2016/361 Enquiries have been made with Beyton PC regarding rejoining the Speedwatch rota. The speed gun is currently away for repairs with Beyton PC considering the purchase of a new machine as the current one may have reached the end of its working life. It was agreed that advertising for volunteers be held off until it can be decided if rejoining the group is possible.

2016/362 The village hall cannot be booked for the planned Annual Parish Meeting on 4th May 2017, it was agreed that an alternative date be arranged.

2016/363 The clerk confirmed that it is with regret that she has tendered her resignation and is very sad to be leaving however the additional work load of a primary job has had to take priority. Assurance is given that in the lead up to her departure she will be committed to facilitating a smooth and efficient handover to a new clerk.

2016/364 **Finance** – The clerks Financial Report for November 2016 was approved.

2016/365 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Youngs, with all in favour.
Clerk's salary for October 2016

2016/366 It was resolved to approve payment for the football nets at £38.89

2016/367 The Budget Working Group reported on proposals for the 2017/18 Budget. It was resolved to accept the drafted budget proposed by the Working Group with a majority in favour (5 – 1). Further consideration will take place once the tax base calculations are available from MSDC and the precept request can be agreed.

2016/368 **Adjournment for:**

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

Meeting resumed:

Planning – There were no applications to consider.

2016/369 There were no MSDC decisions to note.

2016/370 **Memorial for Cllr Munford** – Various quotes for signage to be placed at the start of "Cora's Walk" were discussed from a small wooden plaque at £30 up to a steel opening information board at £300+. It was resolved to provide an acrylic printed UV ink A3 sign at £60 on steel legs at £45. Cllr Hembra will arrange all fitting and fixing. Proposed by Cllr Hembra with all in favour. The A3 sign will be printed with a tribute, possibly a photograph and a footpath map. An article will be

drafted by Cllr Youngs for the village magazine to advise on council's plans and seek support.

2016/371

Councillor Portfolios –

Allotments – Nothing to Report

2016/372

Footpaths – Cllr Schofield reported that some new way marker signs had been put up. Volunteers will be sought for the Adopt a Footpath Scheme now that funding had been received for the equipment. It was noted that some safety and protective equipment will be required before work can begin. It was noted that although FP2 at the rear of the church had now had the side growth cut back further work was needed to give the minimum clearance required.

2016/373

Playing Field – Cllr Hembra's report had been circulated and is attached to these minutes.

2016/374

Consultations – Proposed BT public payphone removals

It was agreed that no objections would be lodged to the removal of the phone boxes in Drinkstone as neither had been used at all in recent times. It was resolved to try and purchase the red box adjacent to the church, proposed by Cllr Youngs with all in favour.

Consideration on its future use will be taken if purchase is successful.

2016/375

Government 2018 Boundary Review: Eastern Region Initial Proposals – It was resolved to submit the following comments:

"Drinkstone Parish Council is aware that within the 2018 Boundary Review: Initial Proposals for England the village would be transferred to the constituency of South Suffolk. Currently, it comes under Bury St Edmunds.

The proposals, if given effect, would mean that Drinkstone has a key change in representation. South Suffolk mainly encompasses towns and villages which have little in common with Drinkstone. Our present constituency includes Mid Suffolk District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Both are the geographical and logical focus for the residents of Drinkstone - especially in terms of service delivery. It is felt that the proposed change would have a negative impact on the village and its surrounding area.

Representation would rest with an MP whose principal interests, rightly so, would be with the majority of residents in the south of the county who have markedly different interests from those people living and working in the north of the county where Drinkstone is located. This loss of influence would be detrimental to the needs of residents who look to the neighbouring towns of Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket for services and facilities, including the delivery of transport, health services and education.

It is felt that the proposal to move Drinkstone and its close rural village neighbours would leave the village isolated from its obvious and 'natural' town neighbours, and its current relationship to the A14 and adversely affect its ability to have any sort of meaningful say through its MP."

2016/376

Suffolk County Council Highways Maintenance Operational Plan – It was agreed that no response be given

2016/377

Correspondence – There were no comments to tabled correspondence

2016/378

Matters to be brought to the attention of council – Councillors expressed their sadness at the passing of Henry Riches with acknowledgement for the support Henry gave to the parish council over the years.

It was noted that advertisement of the vacancy for Parish Clerk and RFO would go to SALC, on Jungle Drums, the notice board, magazine and website with a Job and Person specification drafted and a closing date for applications of 16th December. The Staffing Committee will consider any applications and make recommendation to the January meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 5th December 2016 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall