

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th February 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Lorna Thurlow (in chair) Cllr Gary Hembra Cllr Tim Moss
Cllr Haslett Schofield Cllr Sue Cousins

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

2016/426 **Apologies for Absence** — Cllr Daphne Youngs, Cllr Christine Lambert

2016/427 **Declarations of Interest** – None.

2016/428 **Adjournment for:**

Open Forum – Concerns were expressed regarding the recent flooding at the junction of The Street and Woolpit Road yet again. The build up of soil and vegetation around the drains has blocked water from entering the river and caused flooding of the road again. The clerk will try to get some action from Highways to clear this.

Meeting resumed:

2016/429 **Appointment of new clerk** – Regret was expressed that Tina Newell has withdrawn her acceptance of the post of Clerk/RFO. The Staffing Committee will convene as soon as possible to action the recruitment process again.

2016/430 **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 5th January 2017 were signed as a true record.

2016/431 **Clerks report** – All footpath issues from last meeting have been reported, it was noted that none as yet had been actioned by PROW.

2016/432 Several charity donation request letters have been received, it was confirmed that there is no budgeted funds for S137 payments at this time. It was agreed that an item be added to the next agenda to consider S137 charity grants.

2016/433 Suffolk CC have confirmed that from next year grit piles will not be replenished and only sites with a grit bin will be refilled. It was confirmed that there are currently 4 grit piles which if to be replenished would need a grit bin, consideration of the purchase of new grit bins would be added to the next agenda.

2016/434 **Finance** – The clerks Financial Report for February 2017 was approved.

2016/435 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Thurlow, with all in favour.
Clerk's salary & Exp for January 2016

2016/436 Drinkstone History Group - Website £10.00

2016/437 It was agreed that no contribution will be made to Tina Newell's training course.

2016/438 **Planning** – It was resolved to submit the following comments to MSDC, Proposed by Cllr Thurlow, with all in favour. Application 0245 Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian use, Park Road – "*Drinkstone Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available*"

2016/439 The following MSDC decisions were noted; 4508/16 Erection of extension and timber garage outbuilding, Stone Cottage, Park Road – GRANTED and 4033/16 Outline planning permission sought for a 1.5 storey detached dwelling with all matters reserved – The Cottage, Rattlesden Road – REFUSED (corrected decision) and

4632/16 Removal of unapproved rear/side single storey extension and reinstatement of external walls. Replacement of polycarbonate roof with glazed roof, The Old Post Office, The Street – GRANTED.

- 2016/440 **To review Internal Controls** - Standing Orders and Financial Regulations together with all policies and procedures were reviewed with no amendments proposed. It was resolved to approve the reviewed documents. Proposed Cllr Thurlow with all in favour.
- 2016/441 The Risk Assessment was reviewed with some amendments made. It was resolved to approve the amended Risk Assessment, proposed Cllr Thurlow with all in favour.
- 2016/442 **Effectiveness of Internal Control** – A review of the effectiveness of councils governing arrangements and systems of internal control was carried out. All controls in place were felt to be effective and no areas for development were identified.
- 2016/443 **Adjournment for:**
County and District Cllr Otton’s Report – Cllr Otton gave her report which is attached to these minutes.
- 2016/444 **Meeting resumed**
Councillor Portfolios –
- 2016/445 **Allotments** – Nothing to report
- 2016/445 **Footpaths** – Cllr Schofield reported that FP2 at the rear of the church was obstructed by livestock electric fence posts, the clerk will contact the landowners to request that these are moved and that the side growth is also cut back further in order that this path meets the clear width requirements for walkers.
- 2016/446 **Playing Field** – Cllr Hembra gave his report which is attached to these minutes. It was noted the litter bin near the children’s play equipment had not been used for dog bags since it was highlighted in the minutes of the last meeting. Concerns were expressed from the public that dog fouling has been noticed on the playingfield recently.
- 2016/447 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.
- 2016/448 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – None

Meeting closed 8.52pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th March 2017 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall