

# **DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017**

- 1 Prior to assuming post at the weekend I was pleased to be able to meet with Cllr Youngs and with my predecessor, Paula Gladwell. Both were extremely helpful and it is clear that the Council's affairs are in very good shape. Which means that the transition will, inevitably, present a less well-ordered picture for some few weeks. I would appreciate input from any Member who spots any errors / omissions or has a query. My thanks for the messages of welcome which I have received from Councillors.
- 2 I have the details from BDO of the last Annual Review to which DPC will be subject given the new audit framework defined in the Transparency Code. The period for the Exercise of Public Rights extends from 26<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> August. A brief overview of the financial records suggest that there has been excellent management and I would anticipate no problems in dealing with queries from electors given the clear and comprehensive nature of the records passed on to me.
- 3 I am pleased to see that Heather Heelis & Lynne Lodge are appointed to conduct Council's Internal Audit. I have worked with them in the past and they strike a very practical balance between the niceties of Regulation and the practicalities of Common Sense. I recommend that internal auditors are changed regularly, usually on a 3 year cycle, so as to bring in fresh eyes and to avoid any clouding of judgement because of over-familiarity. Members might expect that issues could well emerge from the process in the first year of a fresh appraisal. This may best be seen as an opportunity to consider ways of making what would appear to be a very good council even better.

Peter Dow

Clerk to the Council

03.04.17