

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on
Monday 9th April 2018

Present: Cllrs Cousins, Hembra, Lambert, Moss, Schofield, Thurlow, Youngs (Chairman)

Attending: District Council Ward Member Cllr Penny Otton
Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow
17 members of the public

18.04.01 **Noted:**
That there were no apologies for absence.

18.04.02 **Noted:**
That there were no Members' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items and no additions and/or deletions to the Council's Register of Interests.

18.04.03 **Proposal: Cllr Youngs;**
That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th March 2018, as tabled, be agreed as a true record.
Seconded Cllr Thurlow

Amendment proposed: Cllr Cousins;
To insert at 5.3 the words, 'that rents would remain unchanged,' immediately following the word, 'confirmed'.

Amendment found no Seconder and fell

Substantive Proposal carried

18.04.04 **Noted:**
That there was no correspondence to this meeting not dealt with as an Agenda item or in the Clerk's report.

18.04.05 **Noted:**
5.1 A written report from Cllr Lambert as Portfolio Holder for the Allotments;
5.2 A written report from District and County Council Ward Member Cllr Penny Otton;
5.3 A written report from Cllr Hembra as Portfolio Holder for the playing field;
5.4 Cllr Lambert spoke to clarify certain aspects of her Report.

18.04.06 **Noted:**
The following when public comment or question invited on any Agenda item:
6.1 The Chairman undertook to liaise with the resident who is known to carry out regular litter picking in the village to offer the possibility of wider volunteer involvement.
6.2 Cllr Hembra offered to clear the branches of a tree currently causing a nuisance near to the Park Road / Gedding Road junction

18.04.07 **Noted:**
An oral report from the Parish Clerk and matters arising as follows:

7.1 Papers for the Internal Audit are in preparation for submission on 16th April; The Council's status as an Exempt Authority under recent legislation removes the requirement for an External Audit once the relevant figures are confirmed by the internal Auditors.

7.2 The first tranche of the 2018 / 2019 Precept has been received in the sum of £4,220.00 and will show in the next monthly account balances report.

7.3 The fee for hire of the village hall for Council meetings is taken as an authorised payment to be noted at item 8 in the sum of £240.00 representing the charge for 12 meetings.

18.04.08

Noted:

The following authorised payments:

8.1	Peter Dow – Clerk's wages	£158.17	Santander 000472
8.2	Wave – Allotment water – Rattlesden Road	£25.34	DD
8.3	Wave – Allotment water – Gedding Road	£34.78	DD
8.4	HMRC – weeks 10, 11,12	£118.80	Santander 000473
8.5	Clarks of Walsham, fencing materials (08.3.16 refers)	£66.59	Santander 000474
8.6	War memorial Institute – hall hire	£240.00	Santander 000475

18.04.09

Noted:

The current account balances and reconciliation, as scheduled, and the Chairman's confirmation that they are supported by relevant Bank Statements.

9.1 The Clerk confirmed that he had only now been able to secure from Lloyds an up-to-date statement listing the debit of £60.12 in respect of allotment water charges leaving a balance of £54.05 rather than the £114.17 as published.

18.04.10

Noted:

Planning results as notified by MSDC:

- 10.1 DC/18/00248 Erection of laboratories and ancillary office
Farm buildings North of The Meade, Beyton Road GRANTED DPC supported
- 10.2 DC/18/00832 Pollard 1 no. Sycamore Tree and reduce 1 no. Lime Tree by 10%
Park House, Park Road GRANTED DPC supported

18.04.11

Noted:

Planning applications as notified by MSDC for comment:

11.01 DC/18/01268 Outline Planning Permission (with all matters reserved) – Erection of 2 No. detached bungalows.

Land on the north side of Shortgate, Beyton road, Drinkstone

Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons:

- 1 The site is in the countryside. It is outside of the settlement boundary of a 'countryside village'. Both of these factors combine to make an undeniable case against the proposed development.
- 2 Tested against NPPF, the case for this proposal falls when the adverse impacts are weighed against the benefits, assessed against the policies within the Framework as a whole regarding sustainable development.
- 3 Councillors take it that the three NPPF dimensions of sustainable development should not be taken in isolation, but that any gains should be sought jointly towards the Framework aspiration of 'seeking positive improvements in the quality of the built, natural and historic environment as well as in people's quality of life.'

- 4 Given the absence of any commercial infrastructure in Drinkstone by way of shops or services, economic gain can only accrue by way of the very short-term build-out period when there is the possibility of the employment of local construction trades workers.
- 5 Given the lack of any assessed support for more housing of the type proposed, Councillors rely on local knowledge to confirm that there would be no resultant social benefit.
- 6 The environmental impact would be seriously adverse. The limited resources afforded in Woolpit are 4 miles distant. There is no pedestrian path along the unlit winding rural roads which have limited forward visibility making cycling hazardous. The fact that a bus service is 'regular' does not offer any useful amelioration:
- 6.1 Of the 4 daily buses to Bury St Edmunds, just 1 offers the possibility of timings that would allow commuting should those timings coincide with work patterns i.e. depart at 07.22, return at 18.30.
- 6.2 The bus to Woolpit runs on Fridays only and is a privately operated service which could cease at any time. It covers the 4 miles in 55 minutes as a result of diverting via other rural locations.
- 7 The inevitability of extra car use, should this application succeed, runs counter to the NPPF central objective of sustainability. Further, the current development pressure at Woolpit impose an uplift in housing stock of several hundred dwellings which will place great strain on the available parking and tend to divert traffic seeking retail and other services further afield.
- 8 The impact on the street scene of modern bungalows in this very rural location and in the context of a strong Suffolk rural vernacular would be much to the detriment of the amenity of the neighborhood.
- 9 In coming to these conclusions, Councillors had reference to:
NPPF paras. 17, 34, 35, 55
Local Plan policies GP1, H3, H7, H13, H15, H16
Core Strategy policies CS1, CS2, CS5, FC1

18.04.12 **Resolved:**
That Drinkstone Parish Council makes known to the Corporate Manager, Development Management, at Mid Suffolk District Council its views on the Planning application on this agenda.

18.04.13 **Noted:**
The following when other Planning matters for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda were invited:

13.1 The Meeting agreed that an Application ref. DC/18/01234 for Prior Approval under Pt 3 Class Q for the change of use an agricultural building to a dwelling house at Joli Farm, Hill Farm Lane, justified the calling of an Extraordinary Meeting of Council for comment should the Clerk not be able to secure an extension to the deadline for comments, currently 04.05.2018.

13.2 The Meeting noted the Appeal decision ref DC/17/03945 dismissing the appeal against Mid Suffolk's refusal of Planning Permission for the replacement of a roadside hedge with a timber fence at Southacre, Rattlesden Road.

18.04.14 **Resolved:**
That Drinkstone Parish Council conveys to the consortium comprising the householders at nos. 4,6,8 and 12 Cherry Tree Rise in equal parcels by area the land known as the Cheese Wedge at Drinkstone being some 0.11 acres adjacent to the village playing field in the sum of £3,501 as per their offer dated 11.03.18 on

the understanding that the purchasers jointly pay the Council's reasonable legal costs to a maximum of £2,200 net of VAT.

- 18.04.15 **Noted:**
The proposals in draft recommendations for the Electoral Review of Mid Suffolk.
- 18.04.16 **Noted:**
Approval of the formal representation from the Chairman, on Council's behalf, to Jo Churchill MP, copied to Matt Hancock MP, regarding the poor broadband provision in Drinkstone seeking to have them use their influence to secure from BT a coherent programme for delivery of fibre optic provision.
- 18.04.17 **Resolved:**
That the maximum sum of £100.00 net of VAT be set against the Neighbourhood Plan budget towards the purchase of refreshments and stationery for this year's Annual Parish Meeting.
- 18.04.18 **Noted:**
That when Public comment or questions on any matter of Council business was invited none was forthcoming.
- 18.04.19 **Noted**
That there was no other Council business for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda.
- 18.04.20 **Noted:**
That the scheduled date for the next Meeting, being the Annual meeting of Council, is Monday 14th May beginning at 7.00pm in the Village Hall to be immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at which the proposals for a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Drinkstone are to be aired
- 18.04.21 **Noted:**
that the meeting closed at 9.02pm.

These Minutes are in draft form only. They have not been ratified by Council and are not a matter of formal record. They will be before the next Ordinary Council meeting for approval.

Any queries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, at 6 Warren Close, Elmswell IP30 9DS

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