

Drinkstone Parish Council

Report from Councillor with Responsibility for Community Engagement

Report to the Ordinary Meeting Dated 2nd August 2021

Agenda Item: Councillor Portfolios

Parish Council Website Revisions

A big thank you to fellow Councillors for your time in contributing helpful comments and suggestions as I progress through the current website so that we can see how it can be kept updated and made more user-friendly.

The main changes have involved a kind of 'order of play' sequence to the information we provide on the website, rather than any change to its current content, so that visitors to the site can find current and relevant information quickly and easily. Raising the profile of the work and duties of the Parish Council is also key to our online presence and we may wish to re-visit how we currently present this; we have talked about including photos, but everyone needs to agree with what feels most comfortable.

I still need to contact Tony and Liz Schmitt who manage the website and check with them whether and how these revisions might be accommodated.

Engagement with Drinkstone War Memorial Institute (Village Hall Committee)

I met with the Chair and Vice-Chair (Sue Foulsham and Robin Sharp) of the VH on Thursday 24th June in my capacity as Trustee and Representative Member for the Parish Council. They kindly provided me with an introduction to the role and responsibilities of the VH Committee, providing a timeline of its history and development and its current position, with copies of helpful documentation.

An issue which affects their and our interests is responsibility (and the liability therein attached) for the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and cabinet. The division of responsibility is set out in a document from the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) as follows:

"...the AED would remain the property of the East of England Ambulance Service (EEAS); the PC would own the cabinet and act as stewards of the facility on behalf of the village; the VHMC would provide the site and means to power the installation, as facilitators of the project."

In October 2019, the VHMC sought guidance from the EEAS and received information that they noted as a '...deepening of the responsibility and liability for the person(s) who carries out these checks, and who is expected to put his/her name(s) to the checklist document.' The VHMC considers its role to be that of 'venue provider and facility enabler' in view of which it considers "...that it would now be more appropriate for a custodian to be nominated by the PC, which holds stewardship of this village amenity."

The role of custodian carries considerable duties, along with the uncertainty of potential liability. The VHMC themselves state that knowledge of such liability has the potential to 'inhibit' recruitment of members to their committee in the future.

Points to raise:

- Is the PC responsible for the checks and records required by the EEAS
- Who is/ are the nominated custodian(s)
- How is personal liability for this covered
- Are we potentially facing the same consequences to future member recruitment as a result of responsibility for the AED
- Can funds be found in order that this responsibility be assigned to a third party company with expertise in this field

(Document: History and Circumstances of the Drinkstone AED and Cabinet, VHMC, 2021)

I was unable to attend the AGM of the Drinkstone War Memorial Institute, but they have very kindly provided me with minutes and have also included me in their mailing list. I hope to be able to attend future meetings with them.

Engagement with All Saints

Lynne Woodward has kindly made introductions on my behalf to the Parish Church Committee (All Saints) and has also provided me with information about its organisation, fundraising and the community events it hosts.

I have been invited to attend a meeting following the outcome of their fundraiser discussions in order to explore how the PC and All Saints might work together in promoting, enabling and ensuring the success of these and other community initiatives.

Engagement with Drinkstone Education Charity

I will be meeting informally with David Ford in his capacity as longstanding Member and Treasurer of the Education Charity on the 22nd July in order to find out more about their role and how I might become involved on behalf of the PC.

Anne Lane has invited me to their next meeting (27th July), but I have had to send my apologies as I will be away from the village that day. I have asked for minutes and will report on my meeting with David Ford at the PC meeting in August.

Engagement with local Parishioners

Delivering butties in my daughter's distinctively orange car to help out with the railings painters has been a wonderful opportunity with which to meet the good souls of Drinkstone who are not involved in any committees, but are nonetheless happy to make a contribution to our shared community.

What a wonderful project decision from colleagues on the PC – engaging more and other sections of the community can be achieved in time.

Prepared by Councillor Slattery

Dated 21st July 2021