

# DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr Daphne Youngs (Chairman) Cllr Sue Cousins  
Cllr Gary Hembra Cllr Haslett Schofield  
Cllr Lorna Thurlow

County and District Cllr Penny Otton (part)  
3 members of the public  
Parish Clerk - Paula Gladwell

2015/123 **Apologies for Absence** — Cllr Christine Lambert, Cllr Cora Munford

2015/124 **Declarations of Interest** – None

2015/125 **Adjournment for:**

**County and District Cllr Otton's Report** – Cllr Otton gave her report which has been circulated. Cllr Otton confirmed that she would be able to help fund new grit bins from her locality budget.

**Open Forum** – No questions

**Meeting resumed:**

2015/126 **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 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 were signed as a true record.

2015/127 **Clerks report** – It was noted that no invoices had yet been received for grass cutting. All issues regarding footpaths have been reported together with the condition of the phone box with promises made to rectify the problems. The condition of the far stretch of Cross Street has also been reported with no response to date, this will be pursued. MSDC have been unable to clarify Chapel Lane ownership and suggest that properties sold by themselves in the past have included a provision that the purchaser has taken responsibility for the stretch of lane adjacent to each property so they suggest that all residents probably have responsibility. It was agreed that nothing further can be done by the parish council to access further information and that residents would need to seek Suffolk County Council Highways help regarding maintenance.

It was noted that a road closure order had been issued for Gedding Hill through to Park Road junction between 4.01.16 and 12.02.16 to enable drainage repairs.

2015/128 **Planning** – It was resolved to send the following response to MSDC for application no. 3851/15 - Erection of two bay cartlodge with attached annexe, High Barn, Chapel Lane *"Drinkstone Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available however would like to request that conditions are attached to any granted planning permission to ensure that the annexe cannot be separated from the main dwelling and can only be used for extended family accommodation with no holiday let/commercial purposes. It is also requested that the existing hedge screening of the plot between neighbouring properties, "Bellrod" and "Brookside" be retained."*

2015/129 There were no MSDC decisions to note.

2015/130 **Finance** – The clerks Financial Report for December 2015 was noted.

2015/131 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Youngs with all in favour.  
Clerks salary for Aug – Nov 2015

2015/132 Anglian Water £46.80

2015/133 It was resolved to opt in to the Sector Led Body for the procurement of External Audit services from April 2017, Proposed Cllr Thurlow with all in favour. It was noted that the estimated cost of £100 would cover 5 years of audit.

- 2015/134 Amendments to the 2016/17 budget were approved including an additional £100 for External Audit and MSDC confirmation of increase for bin emptying. A further review would take place with precept setting at the January meeting.
- 2015/135 **Councillor Portfolios –**
- 2015/136 **Allotments** – Cllr Lambert provided a report for the Allotments which noted that Rattlesden Road site is looking good and the cockerel has been moved. The work to the hedge boundary at Gedding Road has been completed allowing much more light onto the site resulting in a better growing environment. A working party has concentrated on an end of season tidy up and volunteers are thanked for their hard work. It was decided to leave the ditches as some initial clearing of the drains has proved adequate for purpose.
- 2015/137 **Playing Field** – Cllr Hembra reported that he is awaiting quotes for maintenance recommended in the inspection report. No complaints had been received this month regarding dog fouling however there is evidence that owners are not all picking up on the play area. The weekly play equipment checks have been reviewed with no issues raised.
- 2015/138 **Footpaths** – No matters reported.
- 2015/139 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.
- 2015/140 **Provision of Grit Bins** – It is acknowledged that some salt grit piles are affecting adjacent hedges and following assessment of the seven salt grit sites it was agreed that two would benefit from a grit bin. It was resolved to provide one bin for Rattlesden Road junction and one at Park Road junction. Proposed Cllr Youngs with all in favour. Cllr Otton will complete an application for funding from her locality budget.
- 2015/132 It was agreed that a list of volunteers willing to spread salt grit during icy weather would be compiled in order to ensure those volunteers would benefit from SCC insurance cover.
- 2015/133 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – None

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall**