

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr Daphne Youngs Cllr Christine Lambert Cllr Lorna Thurlow
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

- 2016/449 **Apologies for Absence** — None.
2016/450 **Declarations of Interest** – None.
2016/451 **Adjournment for:**
Open Forum – Concerns were expressed regarding the flooding from a pond at Drinkstone House. The clerk will report again.
Meeting resumed:
- 2016/452 **Appointment of new clerk** – It was Resolved to appoint Peter Dow as the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer as recommended by the Staffing Committee. Proposed Cllr Schofield, sec Cllr Thurlow with all in favour. Peter's start date will be 1st April 2017. It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting will now be held on Monday 8th May and holiday commitments will necessitate a temporary clerk for the May meetings.
- 2016/453 **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 6th February 2017 were signed as a true record.
- 2016/454 **Adjournment for:**
County and District Cllr Otton's Report – Cllr Otton gave her report which is attached to these minutes.
Meeting resumed:
- 2016/455 **Clerks report** – Bury St Edmunds Masterplan consultation, a new process of engagement regarding the Issues and Option for the town centre was noted. It was agreed that no comments be submitted at this time.
It was confirmed that the Section 137 appropriate sum per elector for 2017/18 has increased by 2% to £7.57.
- 2016/456 **Finance** – The clerks Financial Report for March 2017 was approved.
2016/457 The following payments were approved. Prop by Cllr Youngs, with all in favour.
Clerk's salary for February 2016
2016/458 Hall Hire £220.00
2016/459 Anglian water £17.90 and £68.58
2016/460 It was noted that Cllr Youngs intended to cover the cost of her attendance at SALC Planning Conference personally.
- 2016/461 It was resolved to purchase up to four new grit bins to replace grit piles, including ones at Cross Street/Rattlesden Road and Blacksmiths Corner, if external funding can be secured in the next financial year. Proposed Cllr Cousins, sec Cllr Lambert with all in favour. It was confirmed that current best value cost per bin is £86.50 plus vat.
- 2016/462 Following consideration of Charity donation requests received it was agreed that no charity grants be awarded at this time. It was noted that the budgeted £50 for CAB would remain in reserves. It was suggested that public comment be sought regarding future Parish Council grants to Charities at the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting in May.
- 2016/463 It was resolved to appoint Heelis & Lodge to carry out the Internal Audit for 2016/17. The Terms of Engagement and Audit Plan were approved. Proposed by Cllr Thurlow with all in favour.

- 2016/464 **Planning** – It was resolved to submit the following comments to MSDC, Proposed by Cllr Youngs, with all in favour. Application 0249/17 Continuance of operations in accordance with permission granted under 3373/13 without compliance with Condition 2 of that permission. (2 year time limit from 01.05.15) Rattlesden Gliding Club, High Town Green, Rattlesden - *Drinkstone Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available*
- 2016/465 The following MSDC decisions were noted; 0245/17 Change of use from agricultural to equestrian use, park Road – GRANTED
- 2016/466 The following appeal decision was noted; 3247/16 Erection of detached dwelling, Briar Cottage (APP/W3520/W/16/3162070) – DISMISSED
- 2016/467 **Website** – Following consideration of the options available for a website in order to comply with the Transparency Act it was resolved to continue to have input into the new village website which is currently under construction. Proposed by Cllr Youngs with all in favour. It was confirmed that there is Government funding available as this time for councils to create their own website should this be necessary.
- 2016/468 **Councillor Portfolios –**
Allotments – Various tenant correspondence and trustee responses were noted. It was agreed that a meeting be set up for Trustees, tenants and councillors to discuss the boundary issues at Rattlesden Road site. Any recommendations raised from this meeting will be put to full council for consideration.
- 2016/469 It was noted that a possible water leak at Gedding Road site will be investigated. It was resolved to action any emergency work required. Proposed by Cllr Lambert with all in favour.
- 2016/470 The clerk will draft tenancy invoices for Cllr Lambert to sign and distribute.
- 2016/471 **Footpaths** – Cllr Schofield reported that FP2 at the rear of the church was still obstructed by livestock electric fence posts; however the side growth had now been cut back sufficiently. The clerk will report the broken marker post at Gedding Road end of FP4.
- 2016/472 **Playing Field** – Cllr Hembra gave his report which is attached to these minutes. Concerns have again been expressed from the public that dog fouling is increasing on the playingfield recently. It was agreed that an educational type notice be placed in the magazine requesting all dog owners to clear up after their dogs and be vigilant in reporting those who do not.
- 2016/473 **Correspondence** – Recent promotional correspondence from a local grass cutting contractor had been received, it was suggested that a quote be sought for grass cutting in order to have comparisons when considering the new season contract.
- 2016/474 There were no comments to further tabled correspondence.
- 2016/475 **Motion to exclude temporarily the Public and Press** - It was resolved to exclude the Public and Press pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed concerning staff contracts. Proposed Cllr Youngs with all in favour.
- 2016/476 The new Clerk and RFO contract was approved. Proposed Cllr Lambert with all in favour.
- 2016/477 **Matters to be brought to the attention of council** – It was confirmed that Cllr Hembra would like to attend the Routine Play Equipment Inspector Course. Consideration of approval will be added to the next agenda.
- 2016/478 It was suggested by Cllr Cousins that numerous errors were contained in the clerks report for Item 6e. The clerk disputed this and felt no corrections were needed to a report that had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

Meeting closed 8.52pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 3rd April 2017 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall