

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on
Monday 5th February 2018

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

Attending: District & County Council Ward Member Cllr Penny Otton (from 8.30pm)
Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow
11 members of the public

- 18.02.01 **Noted:**
1.1 An apology for absence was accepted from Cllr Lambert who was unwell
1.2 An apology for lateness was accepted from Cllr Mrs Penny Otton as she had prior meeting commitments.
- 18.02.02 **Noted:**
That when any Members' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interests and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items were invited and any additions and/or deletions to the Council's Register of Interests tabled for noting, none were forthcoming.
- 18.01.03 **Resolved:**
That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th January 2018, as tabled, be agreed as a true record.
- 18.02.04 **Noted:**
To consider correspondence to this meeting not dealt with as an Agenda item or in the Clerk's report:
4.1 From SCC Highways re Community Self Help survey; a response to be considered at the March Ordinary Meeting.
4.2 From Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association seeking support and a donation; Councillors were invited to bring a Proposal to the March Ordinary Meeting.
4.3 From Isaac Chenery of Radio Suffolk seeking to gauge interest in reviving a Suffolk Village of the Year competition; Cllr Youngs offered to run this past the next Tuesday Club meeting to test potential support.
- 18.02.05 **Noted:**
5.1 A written report from District and County Council Ward Member Cllr Penny Otton.
5.2 A written report from Cllr Hembra as Portfolio Holder for the playing field.
5.3 Cllr Otton later spoke to confirm the continuing unrest and uncertainty surrounding the proposed MSDC / BDC merger and her continued support for a reconsideration of the proposed changes to home-school travel arrangements. She drew the Meeting's attention to the forthcoming overnight closures of A14 and to the closure of the consultation period on the current Ward Boundary Review.
- 18.02.06 **Noted:**
The following when public comment or question invited on any Agenda item:
6.1 The Meeting noted the lack of action on the part of SCC Highways in the matter of the loss of railings following a vehicle impact at the Woolpit Road / Beyton Road / Drinkstone Road junction and the fact that a further collision had occurred there 2 days ago.

6.2 The Meeting noted RoW problems of flooding on the un-numbered path between Cherry Tree Risa & Chapel Lane and a broken handrail support on the **footbridge.....** which Cllr Schofield undertook to inspect with a view to a possible repair.

18.02.07

Noted:

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

7.1 The Council's Internal Audit is booked with Heelis & Lodge, as authorised at 12.11.12, for wb 16th April.

7.2 A resident is to be in touch with further details of the most recent collision with the railings as per 6.1 above.

7.3 The protracted matter of unfinished surfacing at Beyton Road is finally resolved and the road is now safe to use.

7.4 The emerging GDPR legislation on Data Protection might allow for a cheaper option than thus far proposed and the situation is being closely monitored.

18.02.08

Noted:

Authorised payments:

8.1	Peter Dow – Clerk's wages	£158.17	Santander 000465
8.2	MSDC – play area inspection	£57.04	Santander 000464
8.3	HMRC – PAYE	£118.60	Santander 000466
8.4	Information Commissioner – Registration fee	£35.00	Santander 000467

18.02.09

Noted:

Payments for authorisation:

9.1 Peter Dow – reimburse payment for Press advertisement re land for sale in the sum of £266.40 inclusive of VAT.

9.2 The Clerk confirmed that the total expenditure thus far on the proposed land sale amounted to £370.00, in excess of the budgeted sum ref 12.12.13 of £250.00, but that this accorded with good practice given the nature of budget figures and that it in no way posed a threat to Council's financial probity.

18.02.10

Noted:

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

18.02.11

Noted:

Planning results as notified by MSDC:

- 11.1 DC/17/05943 & 05944 Listed building and planning consent for erection of extension to garage outbuilding and erection of gazebo/summer house Street Farmhouse, Beyton Road GRANTED DPC supported
- 11.2 DC/17/05714 Discharge of conditions ref DC/17/03975 – condition 3 (construction management) Yew Tree Farm Cottage, Cross Street APPROVED

18.02.12

Planning applications as notified by MSDC for comment:

12.01 DC/18/00248 Erection of single-storey commercial office and laboratory building following demolition of redundant cattle sheds and silos. Farm buildings north of The Meade, Beyton Road

Councillors supported this application on the grounds that it will permit development under Use Class B1 Business Use only.

12.02 DC/18/00067 Conversion of barn to holiday let with associated alterations; Erection of single storey extension to and restoration of north store.

Drinkstone Mills, Woolpit Road

Councillors supported this application on the understanding that Permission is Conditioned with a constraint against 52-week occupation in any one year in the interests of retaining the use as a holiday cottage and against the possibility of the creation of a separate curtilage.

- 18.02.13 **Resolved:**
That Drinkstone Parish Council makes known to the Corporate Manager, Development Management, at Mid Suffolk District Council its views on the Planning applications on this agenda.
- 18.02.14 **Noted:**
 The following Planning matters for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda:
 14.1 The Clerk confirmed that a Section 78 Appeal on the basis of the Householder Appeals Service has been made against MSDC's determination of Refusal for development ref DC/17/03945, erection of a fence following removal of a hedge at Southacre, Rattlesden Road. Further, that there is no opportunity for further comment.
- 18.02.15 **Noted:**
 That in the matter of the disposal under s.127 (1) of the LGA 1972 of land adjacent to the play area and known locally as, 'The Cheese Wedge', an independent professional valuation has been obtained and that an appropriate advertisement in the Bury Free Press was published on 02.02.18. This is backed up by publicity on the website and notice board. Those who have previously made informal expressions of interest have been apprised of the due process whereby sealed bids will be opened by the Clerk in the presence of the Chair & Vice chair of Council together with Cllr Schofield, agreed by this Meeting as a third Councillor to help take the matter forward. The sale will include the payment of Council's legal fees by the purchaser and the Clerk, in consultation with the delegated Councillors, will instruct a Solicitor with a view to ascertaining likely costs. The process should allow a formal Proposal for sale to the March Ordinary Meeting.
- 18.02.16 **Noted:**
 That there is not enough of substance, at this stage, to allow for any coherent response by Council to the consultation on the proposed merger of Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils. A watching brief is to be kept on what looks likely to develop into a very fluid situation.
- 18.02.17 **Noted:**
 The Meeting supported the suggestion that Council should present to the Annual Parish Meeting the broad outline of the Neighbourhood Development Plan concept with a view to testing the community mood regarding the possibility of Drinkstone engaging in the Neighbourhood Plan process. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting should begin at 7.00pm on 14th May to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Cllr Youngs undertook to approach the village charities and ask for written reports only for this year and, further, to contact appropriate speakers for the Neighbourhood Plan session. Cllr Moss agreed to work with Cllr Youngs in organising the evening which might, it was suggested, include cheese & wine refreshment.
- 18.02.18 **Resolved:**
That the Chairman, Vice chairman and a councillor elected by this Meeting work with the Clerk to publish a report on each monthly meeting of Council in the Drinkstone Newsletter.
 18.1 Cllr Cousins agreed to act as the non-post holding contributor to the editorial group and this was supported by the Meeting.
- 18.02.19 **Resolved:**
That Council makes a donation of £10.00 towards the funding of the Drinkstone Village website.
 19.1 Cllr Otton spoke from the floor to congratulate the webmaster on their success in achieving a SALC award for the site which is of exceptional quality, despite having only been recently established.
- 18.02.20 **Noted:**
 That when any public comment or questions on any matter of Council business was invited none was forthcoming.

- 18.02.21 **Noted:**
That there was no Council business for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda.
- 18.02.22 **Noted:**
That the scheduled date for the next Ordinary Meeting of Council was Monday 5th March beginning at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.
- 18.02.23 **Noted:**
That the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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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