

# DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in All Saints Church, Drinkstone.

Before opening the meeting the Chairman wished everyone present a Happy New Year

### **Present**

Cllrs A. Clarke, S. Cousins, M. Goldstaub (Chair), L. Hannant, A. Johnson, C. Munford, the Clerk, MSDC/SCC Cllr P. Otton, CPO A. Miles and four members of the public.

### **1 – Apologies for Absence**

An apology was received from Cllr P. Nolan

### **2 – Declarations of Interest**

None

### **3 – Police Report**

Community Police Officer Annelly Miles presented a short report-

- One crime was recorded in the village over the last month. Entry was gained into a business premises in Beyton Road via a six foot fence and thieves stole a winch from a lorry.
- Suffolk Police has recently released crime figures which show that the total crimes for the year 2010/11 are the lowest for a decade.
- The next Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting will be held at Elmswell Police Station on 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7pm. Cllr Hannant agreed to attend the meeting, members of the public are also welcome.
- The Police are requesting people to be vigilant whilst out driving near bridges on the A14 and the A12. So far 22 motorists have been affected by the incidents of debris thrown from bridges across these major roads. The Police have increased patrols and are asking people to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour.
- The incidents of lead theft are still very high. Members of the public are asked to try and make the lead on flat roofs as inaccessible as possible. There is now a new product on the market called smartwater which can be painted onto the precious metal and this can be detected under UV light. The paint has a unique DNA which can be used to trace the origin of the metal and anyone who has handled it. Details of the product can be found on the internet.
- Farm packs are now available and these contain information on farm security and stickers for farm vehicles. The Clerk agreed to pass on details to the Police of anyone who is interested in receiving a farm pack.
- Cllr Munford asked PC Miles if something could be done about the motor bike which has been dumped in the hedge along Park Road.

### **4 – Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

## **5 – Matters Arising**

- There has been no further progress with UK power Network regarding the new cables to be laid to the Cherry Tree site.
- A youngster in the village has asked the PC if there is any additional community work which could be done on a volunteer basis. The PC has already suggested litter picking; Cllr Goldstaub suggested that Cllr Munford might like a hand with cleaning the village signs. Cllr Munford said she would welcome the help and agreed to call round to see the young lady.

## **6 – Cllr Ottons Reports**

### **Suffolk County Council**

- The outcome of the schools organisation review is still not decided. The consultation on the Thurston Pyramid has closed although the on-line petition is still open. Concern has been expressed over the additional parking that will be needed at Primary Schools and the extra classroom space that will be required. The final decision will be taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January.
- Permission has been granted to Ticehurst Gravels to continue with its processing of recycled materials on the site off Tostock Road.
- The Cabinet has agreed to set up a joint venture company with Norfolk County Councils transport division. This will include school and rural transport operators.
- Information has been passed to schools on how to obtain Olympic Games tickets.

### **Mid Suffolk District Council**

- Interviews for the two remaining Director posts in the new Council will be held in January – there have been over 100 external applications.
- The Communities and Local Government Department has agreed a sum of £982k to develop the facilities at the Forge Travellers site in Combs Lane Stowmarket
- Cllr Otton said she was not aware of any plans to re-open the Ipswich Park and Ride; it is not known what effect the closure had on the towns Christmas trade.
- Cllr Otton reported that all Councils were looking closely at their budgets before setting the 12/13 Council Tax. Mid Suffolk are still considering whether to accept the Governments offer of extra cash or to put the Council Tax up by 2.5%.
- Cllr Otton said she had not obtained the information from Mid Suffolk on sustainable homes as requested at the last meeting. It was agreed to defer the matter until the next meeting.

## **7 – Open Forum**

The Chairman opened the meeting to the floor –

Mr Bland reported that the drain outside The Old Rectory was causing problems. Water has been running across The Street because the ditch is blocked with sludge and the gully and pipe work is also blocked. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Highways to ask them to arrange for the contractor to carry out a clearance.

## **8 – Finance**

The current account stands at £578.28; deposit account at £3623.49 and VAT owing at £40, giving a total balance of £4241.77. The village hall account stands at £5121.89 and the allotment account at £462.91.

Only one invoice to pay this month £200.16 – Clerks Salary for Oct – Dec 2011 (£40.00 to be paid to Inland Revenue)

Cllr Cousins handed out spreadsheets with a breakdown of the expenditure to date and estimated figures to the end of the year (31<sup>st</sup> March). A lengthy discussion was held on the ways to save money over the coming year and the impact that the cut backs at the County and District Council will have on the parish. There is currently very little spare capacity should any extra costs be incurred. Cllr Cousins said she was concerned about the possibility that the footpaths may not be cut by the County Council and she had spoken to our current grass cutting contractor about the cost of footpath cutting. He has said that the going rate would be £30 a mile depending on the width of the path. The District Council will be making charges this year for emptying the dog and litter bins in the village. It was generally agreed that it was preferable to make a small increase in the precept this year rather than wait and have to make a more substantial increase in later years. Having kept the precept at a fixed rate for the last two years it was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Goldstaub that the precept for 12/13 be increased by 2.5%. All were in agreement at this proposal.

A further proposal by Cllr Goldstaub to cut the donations to charities was carried. Instead of donating £30 to four separate charities a single donation of £50 will be made to the CAB.

## **9 – Planning**

- 4360/11 Ambers, Park Road, Drinkstone. Proposal – Works to various diseased and dead trees. Councillors raised no objections to the works providing David Mitchell the Tree Officer was satisfied that the work is necessary.
- Mr Ollett has lost his appeal to the Planning Inspector against the enforcement notice issued by Mid Suffolk DC. The appeal was dismissed and the enforcement notice upheld; although he has been given more time to vacate the site.
- 4650/11 MSDC has approved the application for two new external doors to Elm Tree Cottage, Gedding Road, Drinkstone

## **10 – New Land/Cherry Tree Site**

Three parishioners have put forward ideas on what to do with the new piece of land next to the Cricket. They include - 1. Selling the land and using the money within the village. 2. Selling the land and donating the cash to the village hall and 3. Turning the site into a mountain bike track. Councillors agreed that if the land is kept it could prove costly to maintain as it needs tidying up before any work can be done on it. It does not appeal to have a dense wooded area next to the playing field. It could prove a sensible option to sell the land unless anyone has a sensible alternative. It was felt however, that there was no need to make a hasty decision about selling the site immediately and further thought would be given to its future over the coming months.

## **11 – Queens Jubilee Celebration**

The Church and the Village Hall Committee have said that they would like to take part in organising a celebration to mark the Queens Jubilee. It was agreed that a small sub committee should be formed to get things started. The Clerk to contact the Church, the V/Hall and the Youth Club to arrange an initial meeting. Cllrs Goldstaub and Hannant agreed to represent the PC. The Clerk reported that she had received a brochure with lots of Jubilee Mementoes and regalia; this will be circulated in the correspondence file.

## **12 – Correspondence**

SCC – Gedding Road Closure Notice  
SCC – Consultation on Archaeology and Archives Services  
Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service – Annual Report  
Suffolk ACRE – Community Buying  
Clerks and Councils Direct  
MSDC – Leisure Brochures (John Peel Centre/Discovery Project)  
Suffolk Foundation – Annual Report  
Suffolk View  
MALC – Planning Explained  
Council Suppliers Guide  
Diamond Jubilee Mementoes

## **13 Other Business**

- Cllr Munford reported that there had been further incidents of vehicles driving onto the Cricket.
- It was reported that there has been a number of incidents where dog owners have thrown plastic bags of dog mess into the hedge beside the footpaths. It was agreed that this behaviour was unacceptable. It was suggested that another dog bin was needed in the Woolpit Road area.
- The family that own the land at Doiley Water has started to clear the overgrown hedge back and it is hoped that they will continue with the work. Cllr Cousins said she would thank the lady for the excellent start they had made.
- Mr Ollet reported that he was very concerned about the sewage pipe that runs across his land. He has challenged Anglian Water on several occasions to say that the pipe is inadequate to take the flow and his concern is that with the extra housing that is planned the problem will only get worse. The existing pipe has already blown on several occasions leaving raw sewerage on the land. Cllr Goldstaub reported that the issue was raised with Gipping Homes and they have said that drainage engineers will review the drainage to the site. When the detailed planning is submitted it is something that the PC will make sure has been addressed by Anglian Water and the developer.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:30pm

**Date of next meeting – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012**