

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th February 2012 in All Saints Church, Drinkstone

Present

Cllrs A. Clarke, S. Cousins, M. Goldstaub (Chair), L. Hannant, C. Munford, P. Nolan, the Clerk, PCSO S. Uttley and two members of the public.

1 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A. Johnson and SCC/MSDC Cllr P. Otton

2 – Declaration of Interest

None

3 – Police Report

Community Police Support Officer Sian Uttley presented a short report –

- No crimes were recorded in the village over the last month
- Following discussions at the latest meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Team the Police have agreed to give priority to rural thefts and the speed at which HGV's are travelling through the village of Elmswell. Annelly and Sian will be visiting all the villages in the area with advice on crime prevention.
- The latest figures released by Suffolk Police show that for a fifth year running crime in Suffolk has reduced. The Constabulary has consulted with communities and agreed to concentrate on a three year programme to reduce crime; improve satisfaction and confidence of the public and sustain the financial stability of Suffolk Police.

4 – Cllr Ottons Report

The Clerk read a written report from Cllr Otton

Suffolk County Council

- The Cabinet met on 24th February and approved the recommendations regarding the changes to the schools organisation.
- The County Council has agreed to freeze the Council Tax for the year 2012/13.
- The next meeting of the Full Council is on 9th February when a number of important issues will be discussed, including a proposal by the Lib Dems to re-instate the Bury Road Park and Ride.
- Cllr Otton has made donation from her Locality Budget to the Village Hall Committee. This is to help with the extra costs of legal fees. She has also indicated that she is willing to contribute towards Jubilee celebrations.
- The campaign for better broadband for Suffolk continues with a launch of a survey for residents. Details can be found at <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband>
- The Council has introduced a number of initiatives to help those who are struggling to meet the costs of winter fuel. The campaign is called Warm Homes/Healthy People and more details can be found at <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk>

Mid Suffolk District Council

- Due to the bad weather no bin collections were made today, 6th February. It was considered too dangerous for the refuse freighters to make any collections. Residents have been advised to put bins out on the normal day and the Council will do their best to clear all collections by the end of the week; with the exception of brown bins. All brown bin collections for week commencing 6th February have been cancelled. Brown bins will not be emptied until the next scheduled collection day; this will enable the council to catch up with the rubbish and re-cycling collections. There is a refuse collection hotline – 0845 606 6045. This information has been posted on the village website.
- The new senior management team for the new joint council has now been appointed.
- The Council is still considering its options on whether to increase the Council Tax.
- There is a proposal to charge village halls and playgroups for their extra large refuse bins.
- The Council has agreed to sign over a piece of land at The Orchard, Felsham to Orwell Housing for the development of affordable homes.

5 – Open Forum

No question were asked from the floor

6 – Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th January were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7 – Matters Arising

- The Police have supplied Farm Security Packs to those who showed an interest at the last meeting.
- Cllr Munford has been in touch with the young lady who is interested in voluntary work in the village and together they will clean the village signs when the weather improves.
- The Highways have cleared the blocked pipes outside The Old Rectory, The Street. However, it was reported that there is also a drainage problem outside Church Pightle. The Clerk agreed to contact the Highways and ask them to revisit.

8 – Finance

The current account stands at £352.47; deposit account at £3623.74 and VAT owing is £40.00 giving a total balance of £4016.21. The village hall account stands at £5122.24 and the allotment account at £462.91

The following invoices were approved and paid - £184.00 (hire of church for meetings) and £9.04 (Stationery). Two further invoices from Anglian Water were agreed to be paid from the allotment account - £55.44 (Gedding Rd) and £20.91 (Rattlesden Road).

The Chairman reported that the ditch beside the allotments in Chapel Lane has been partially filled in. Some of the material left for wildlife habitat and an old carpet has been piled up in the ditch. It was agreed that this could be a potential flood risk and Cllr Clarke agreed to investigate and report back.

9 – Planning

- MSDC has approved an alteration to the planning permission for the new village hall. The rear elevation is to be altered to have a pair of fully glazed doors and the window and ramp repositioned for disabled access.
- The Clerk reported that a new set of preliminary plans for the Cherry Tree site had been received. It was agreed to circulate the plans for Councillors to study and to discuss and display at the next meeting.

10 – Playground – New Land (Cherry Tree)

- The transfer of the strip of land from MSDC to the PC is still not complete. The Solicitor appears to be having difficulty getting the right documents from Mid Suffolk. There was some confusion by the builder over the fact that he thought he had bought the land with a proviso to transfer the land to the PC; however, Mid Suffolk confirm that this is not so. The builder is keen to get the issue of the land sorted as he is in the process of compiling the planning application. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to get the land valued to ensure that the PC gets best value if it did agree to sell. There was no further news on the situation regarding the new power cables; Cllr Goldstaub agreed to speak to Mr and Mrs Ridsdill-Smith to see if they have resolved the issues.
- The Parish Council noted the contents of a letter from Mr Bradley which was published in the Parish Magazine regarding the footpath leading the playing field to the Cherry Tree. The PC agreed that if Mr Bradley feels strongly about the route of the path and can provide the required evidence that it has been in use for 20 years; he could apply to keep it open. The PC will remain content to keep the definitive path open and will not get involved in any costs to open up a second route. It was agreed to notify Patrick Scrivens at Highways that there could be an application to open up a second route.

11 – Housing Needs Survey

Deferred to next meeting

12 – Localism Bill

The implementation of the Localism Bill has been postponed until July. SALC has advised that as soon as the information is available updates will be issued so that Standing Orders can be revised.

13 – Queens Jubilee

An initial meeting of the Jubilee Committee has been held and plans are coming together for a village celebration to take place on Saturday June 2nd. The Rev Ruth Farrell has kindly offered the use of the church and the field beside the church will be opened up and made available for games. Another meeting will be held on the 8th February to discuss progress.

14 – Correspondence

A Guide to Neighbourhood Planning

Letter from Forest Heath/St Edmundsbury re Joint Management Policies

MSDC – Mid Suffolk Core Strategy Update

CAB Newsletter

SCC – Warm Homes/Healthy People Fund

Glasdon – Products for Local Councils

Email from Mr Prior, Holly House. The footpath behind Holly House has recently been the subject of disturbance due to Mr Prior creating an access through into the field behind his house. The Footpath Officer had been asked for advice and had visited the site. The disruption was only temporary and the path has now been restored. Cllrs agreed that a notice warning people of the disturbance would have been useful as it is a very well used path.

15 – Other Business

- Cllr Munford reported that the missing/broken footpath signs had been repaired but that the old posts with the “no horses” signs on them had been removed. The Clerk agreed to obtain a further supply from the Footpath Officer.
- Further vehicle tracks have been seen on the playing field.
- Mr Baker has now erected a gate across the Old Tostock Lane to prevent any vehicles getting through. As it was thought that this was still a public right of way; albeit a dead end, it was agreed to ask Highways for further advice on the legality of the gate.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:50pm

Date of next meeting Monday 5th March 2012