

THE PARISH OF DRINKSTONE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish AGM held on Monday 9th May 2011 in All Saints Church

Present

Cllrs A. Clarke, S. Cousins, M. Goldstaub (Chair), L. Hannant, C. Munford, the Parish Clerk, MSDC/SCC Cllr P. Otton, PCSO Sian Uttley and nine members of the public.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sally Andrews, Val and Peter Cundy, Sue Fulsham, David Ford, Henry Riches and Daphne Youngs.

Chairman's Report by Cllr Moira Goldstaub

This is an annual report, but as it has been notionally an election year I would like to cast a backward glance over the four-year life of the Parish Council which was elected in 2007 and which came to an end last Thursday.

The Council has achieved a great deal. We have successfully implemented the parts of the Parish Plan which related to the Parish Council. We have allotments to be proud of, having accommodated all those on the waiting list at no cost to the village. This is something that villages like Great Barton would love to emulate, but can't manage. I know that the allotments have not met with universal acclaim, but the vast majority of the village approves and they provide an attractive visual aspect to both the Gedding and Rattlesden Roads. There have been some unexpected bonuses from the development of the Rattlesden Road site, in that the Parish Council has been able to establish its landholding more accurately and to compile a book listing the Council's property so that future Councils will also be aware of what they own. The children's plot has been delightful to see and it is good to have the whole range of generations involved. We must ensure that their enthusiasm for growing doesn't spill over disadvantageously onto other plots!

The Council built up a good rapport with the police and has entered the police quiz twice on your behalf although not sufficiently well to bring the trophy home to Drinkstone. On the other hand we were named Parish Council of the Year 2009 and were presented with a gavel.

We have been active in continuing the fight against the non-conforming rendering use at Rookery Farm. Last year the Council briefed counsel to fight the enforcement and lawful use appeals on behalf of the four affected villages. The Clarke family suffered two deaths within eight months, and decided not to pursue their appeals, but I have it on good authority that the fierce opposition to the appeals was a factor in their decision. It is good to be able to draw a line under this activity and to enjoy the recent good weather without dreadful smells and massive lorry movements causing a danger on the lanes and eroding the verges.

The Council threw its weight behind the development of the Cherry Tree Site and this was appreciated by the Village Hall Committee. I think it can fairly be said that the last Parish Council leaves the village better than it found it, ending with a really successfully Royal Wedding party on the Cricket which made over £300 for the village funds and continued the long tradition of providing mugs for village children. This year's mugs met general approval and we are taking orders, by request, for a further 36 at a price of £3.36.

Sadly we have to say farewell to Daphne Youngs and Roger Kemp, who will be reporting to you for the last time as Councillors. They have both brought great skill, professionalism and enthusiasm to

the Council. Councillor Kemp, as the only man on the Council for the first two years or so, took on responsibility for the play equipment and the Cricket and carried out regular inspections and ad hoc repairs. Councillor Youngs sat usefully on the Police Liaison Committee, has had much input into the finances of the Council and as an allotment holder was able to give Councillor Clarke practical advice on what was needed. We are now down to 5 members, and are seeking to co-opt 2 members before the Council holiday in August.

All of the Councillors work hard, putting in lots of time, paying for their own petrol and diesel, paper and stationary. This might seem a petty issue to raise, but it has been suggested that we join the Parish Council for personal glory. I can assure you that there is none! There's plenty of criticism and complaint and very little thanks. I think the reward for Councillors is to have a hand, for a short while, in guiding, guarding and preserving the amenities of such a lovely village and to feel part of the long list of those who have taken on the job since the Council started in 1895.

It will soon be time to renew the Parish Plan process and the Parish Council will assist with this where relevant. Another item on the agenda is to merge the village charities, so that the smaller ones which are no longer active or relevant may be absorbed into the bigger, flourishing ones: The Wrenn and The Cambourne. Meanwhile there is the village walk to look forward to on May 22nd – organized by Councillor Munford and guided by Dennis Bradley.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors who work so hard on your behalf: the Vice-Chairman and Tree Warden, Councillor Hannant, who has organized and completed the hedgerow survey in the village, and overseen the planting of whips around the village which she obtained free of charge; Councillor Cousins, who spent many hours (literally) at Lloyd's Bank trying to sort out the allotment account and who prepares the accounts for each meeting and ensures, with eagle eye, that public money is not wasted and the Parish Council stays in the black; Councillor Munford, the Footpath Warden, who, apart from ensuring that your paths are kept in good order, also cleans all our signs herself and continues to be a source of knowledge of Drinkstone which we all draw on; Councillor Clarke, who has supervised the intricacies of bringing the allotments to completion, as well as being the father of the bridegroom at our own Royal Wedding!

Last but so much the reverse of least is our Clerk, Sharon Rose, who is efficient, dedicated and a great pleasure to work with. The village is very lucky in its Clerk.

Police Report by PCSO Sian Uttley

Since the last annual meeting there have been some changes in the Safer Neighbourhood Team; PC Graham Haygreen and PCSO Claire Cox have moved on and have been replaced by CPO Annelly Miles and myself and we have been very keen to get to grips with the new area and are keen to attend Council meetings and public events in the village.

Over the year there were 14 crimes recorded in the village and these breakdown to - 1 x burglary (other building); 2 x public order offences; 2 x damage to motor vehicle; 5 x thefts; 1 x theft from vehicle; 1 x damage to vehicle and 2 x miscellaneous. Overall the crime statistics were down on the previous year, which is better than the Mid Suffolk area as a whole where the crime figures increased by 8.1%.

A big problem in recent months has been the theft of heating oil and the police have issued guidance on how to keep oil safe. Also more recently there has been an increase in the theft of BT cables; this can cause great inconvenience to telephone and internet users – police are keen that anything suspicious should be reported to them.

Cllr Ottons' Reports

Councillor Otton presented some of the highlights from another busy year as both a District and County Councillor.

Suffolk County Council

- The reputation of the County Council is at an all time low following the recent senior management resignations and the inquiry into the activities of the CEO. A new Leader – Mark Bee, has been appointed and it is hoped that when he takes up his appointment he will be able to build some bridges to restore confidence in the Council's reputation
- The Council has reviewed all aspects of its expenditure and is making cuts wherever possible across all departments. An alternative budget was put forward by the Liberal Democrats to save some services but this was defeated.
- The Council has launched e-petitioning where members of the public can create and sign petitions in order to bring an issue to the Council's attention. The system works on a basis that once a petition has received 3675 signatures the issue has to be brought to Council for full debate. The petition to save school crossing patrols and the explore travel card has already had some impact
- There is once again very little progress on the Schools Review due to the cut back in funding.
- Cllr Otton said she had been pleased during the year to be able to help out with the costs of the allotments and a new street sign in the village.

Mid Suffolk District Council

Following last Thursday's election Cllr Otton said that she was delighted to have been re-elected to represent Rattlesden and Drinkstone at MSDC. She thanked everyone for their help and support over the last four years.

- Talks with Babergh DC continue and a public poll will be held soon to ask the residents of both Councils if they would support a full merger. A new joint COE has been appointed to replace the two existing officers. The bin collections, legal service and benefit service have already started joint working.
- Cllr Otton stated that she was pleased that two of Drinkstone's long standing problems have recently come to an end with the sale of the Cherry Tree site and the end of the Rookery Farm rendering.

Open Forum – Questions from the floor

Q. When will more information be available on the merger between the two District Councils and why has a COE been appointed before the result of the poll?

A. Cllr Otton explained that more information will be sent out with the voting papers. Voting can be made by either phone, post or electronically giving most residents full opportunity to vote. Even if the no vote wins the two Councils will continue to share some services which is why the new joint COE has already been appointed. A full business case for the merger has been carried out and been independently verified. The three sections which have already merged appear to be running smoothly and no difference to services has been noticed.

Q. Why is the speed limit between Hill Farm Road and Drinkstone Green (past the sub-station) 30 mph when there is no evidence that it is necessary?

A. Cllr Goldstaub stated that she thought it was probably historical due to the fact that the school was at the church end of the village and children used to walk and cycle to school. She added that it might be quite difficult to change the limit but agreed it could be looked at. The Clerk was asked to contact the Police and the Highways to ask for their advice. **Action: Clerk**

Q. Has the Parish Council made provision to protect the allotments in the village following recent Government proposals to review the statutory duty to provide allotments for local people?

A. Cllr Goldstaub stated that it would not affect the current plots in the village however; it may have an affect on people requiring additional plots in the future. The land currently in use was given to the

village under the enclosure act and it is therefore protected. The change is more likely to affect allotments in town areas where building space is in short supply.

Finance Report – by Cllr Sue Cousins

The balance forward figure April 2010 was £3346.88 and the balance forward figure April 2011 was £4116.10 but included a cheque from Mrs Ivor Jones of £474 for the Wedding Marquee, which had not been paid for at the year end, and included £148 belonging to the allotments, therefore the real balance was ££3494.10

The accounts for the year end 2010/11 have been internally audited and after I have completed the lists of variations of over 10% will be sent of to BDO, the external auditor.

The bank interest earned this year was dreadful, £3 on the PC account and £4 on the village hall account.

As you know the village hall money was invested on behalf of the residents over several years and is kept in a separate account, currently standing at £5115.06

After last years meeting we decided to keep the allotment transactions in a separate account. All rents have been paid into this account and invoices appertaining to the allotments will now be paid from this account.

As you have read during the past year most of the payments and receipts have been for our Allotment Project. Without the generous help from Penny Otton - £500 from her locality budget; Mid Suffolk's Community Grant - £2513; £878 in the old allotment account and £500 budgeted for in last years precept totaling £4391 it would have been impossible to take this on.

Last year around £1597 was spent on the Gedding Road allotments and £2598 on the Rattlesden Road allotments; the major expense being the laying on of water at a cost of £989. On both sites we have had hedges laid, trees felled, ground cleared and fencing and gates erected.

For the past few years Mid Suffolk has cut the grass on the Cricket for a very reasonable amount of £180 a year. Last year, suddenly, with no warning, they gave us notice that they had decided to finish rather than purchase new machinery. We contacted four possible contractors and decided on one based in Elmswell. We will not know until October, the end of the season, just how the price compares with Mid Suffolk, because we now pay per cut.

Insurance this year cost £444; this is of course essential. The policy is with Zurich and we are advised by Suffolk ACRE who are their agents.

Cllr Goldstaub attended several meetings with Mid Suffolk officials discussing the way forward with Rookery Farm. We joined Beyton, Tostock and Woolpit and hired Solicitors from Stowmarket to represent us. Their fee was £1000 and was divided between the villages according to the number on the electoral roll. Our contribution was £140. All this was brought to a close when James Clarke was tragically killed in a road accident.

The RoSPA Inspection of the play area, which is not compulsory cost £52.50 this year. The PC is very careful to replace worn parts and this year spent £230 on bringing equipment back to standard.

One last thing to mention, I don't know if many of you are aware that we have to pay VAT on all our invoices, but we are able to claim all of it back from HM Revenues and Customs.

This financial year may turn out to be difficult as Mid Suffolk may start charging for services which at the moment are free. However, I can promise you that we will look carefully at all expenditure and spend your money wisely.

Parish Plan

Dave Woodward, Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Committee gave an update on the progress in implementing the Parish Plan. He highlighted the fact that the plan is now four years old and that next year the village is likely to have a substantial increase in housing due to the development of the Cherry Tree site; which will have impact on village life. The Parish Plan will have to be reviewed and updated once the building work is complete and the new residents begin to move in.

His report listed the actions which have been completed; actions that are ongoing and any that have proved impossible to achieve. The report is attached as appendix 1.

Recreation Ground (The Cricket) Report by Roger Kemp

Over the past year regular weekly inspections have been carried out on all playground equipment with formal quarterly reports on observations and remedial action being generated and filed with the Parish Clerk. These reports have also been, for the first time, placed on the Village website and a summary of the main points arising from these reports have also been included in the Parish Magazine.

These inspections have resulted in:

- The replacement of two flat swing seats and a clamber ramp on the junior multi-play equipment.
- An ongoing review into the replacement or repair of the damaged bench seats
- The replacement by contractors of the vandalized/dead saplings planted in honour of Mr P Normans 80th birthday
- Mole hills treated by pest control.

Regular weekly and quarterly inspections will be undertaken during the coming year. The annual RoSPA inspection was also undertaken. Following the unsatisfactory nature of the previous year's report, the latest report was far more comprehensive and actually reflected our own quarterly report findings. No major safety items were highlighted and in general a satisfactory picture was given.

With the impending development of the Cherry Tree site, a small sub-committee was set up to review possible uses of additional land which would become available for use as part of the Cricket. In view of the ongoing delays associated with the development, it was decided to put the committee on hold until a more appropriate time.

Finally, my thanks to Sheila Beswick and Edna Gunnett for their sterling work in continuing to undertake weekly inspections and in ensuring all bins are kept in an acceptable state.

Royal Wedding Celebration Report by Roger Kemp

A glorious and fun-filled day which started with a wedding procession by Drinkstone children and visitors down Rattlesden Road and then proceeded onto the Cricket for a parade in front of the assembled crowd ending with a Guard of Honour and cheers for the happy couple. This was followed by races for children and adults judged by the Council Chair who also presented medallions and rosettes to the winners. A traditional tea party provided by the Drinkstone Ladies for the children followed the presentation of commemorative Royal Wedding mugs. A barbecue for those who had brought their own food began and was followed by a great tug o' war competition between all comers. The day's events were concluded with a karaoke and featured a very appropriate version of Billy Joel's White Wedding.

It was an excellent day with all those attending joining in the fun and making it such a memorable occasion.

A letter detailing the day is being forwarded to the parish magazine for publication and will also be placed on the village website.

Tree Wardens Report by Cllr Lyn Hannant

We have had an interesting and productive year in Drinkstone. Last May, we had training in the techniques involved in the Hedgerow Survey. We passed on our new knowledge at a training event in the village hall, resulting in the formation of a team of hardy experts who went out in all weathers to survey their hedges.

The survey is almost complete now (we shut it down in the winter). We have managed to check all the hedges where we could gain access to the land. Our hedges consist of

hawthorn, blackthorn, crab apple, wild pear, ash, oak and maple. We have found one veteran tree – a magnificent oak in a local paddock.

What's left to do – transferring the data from the working copy to the final sheet, then handing it over to Guy Ackers, the regional co-coordinator. It was a very interesting project – many thanks to the team for all their hard work.

The hedge at The Cricket is thriving, thanks to replacement of the saplings which hadn't survived because of the very dry summer last year and, sadly, vandalism.

More hedges – we were lucky enough to be allocated 200 saplings under the Parish Tree Planting Scheme. These consisted of mixed English hedgerow trees and have now been planted around the allotments where they will be cared for by the allotment holders.

Footpath Wardens Report by Cllr Cora Munford

Once again the 17 paths in Drinkstone have been very well used over the last year. They are used by residents, neighbouring villagers and visiting ramblers from as far away as Colchester. We are also lucky that our footpaths link nicely to neighbouring villages and walkers are able to access footpaths and fields without having to use roads.

Regular walking of the footpaths helps to keep them down and the County Council have advised that they will undertake cutting twice this year on 13 of the footpaths. The usual problems of dog fouling and horse riding along the paths have continued during the year despite warning notices being put up.

This May, Drinkstone will once again be taking part in the Heart of Suffolk Walking Festival. The walk has been devised by Dennis Bradley and will start from the church on a circular route of just over 4 miles. Refreshments will be served at the church at the end of the walk. All profits made on the day will be donated to Macmillan Nurses.

Age UK (Age Concern) Report by Cllr Cora Munford

The Age UK Welcome Home packs are continuing to benefit people who are released from hospital and live alone. Recently a new befriending scheme has been launched and this is aimed at providing a friendly face to anyone who may feel lonely and isolated. New volunteers are needed to help get the scheme up and running.

Drinkstone is a very friendly village and people do watch out for each other, currently there are three residents that receive a daily call to check that they are ok and have everything they need.

VILLAGE CHARITY REPORTS

Cambourne Charity

In the absence of Henry Riches the Clerk presented a draft end of year report for the Cambourne Charity – the savings book has been sent to National Savings and not yet returned.

Balance brought forward	£1700.64
Estimated Interest	£ 3.50
Payments (one grant)	£ 125.00
Estimated balance at 31/3/11	£1579.14

Wrenn Charity

In the absence of David Ford the Clerk presented the accounts for the Wrenn Charity. Accounts have been audited by Lionel Denny of Woolpit.

Balance brought forward	£3526.62
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Income	£1244.11
Expenditure	£1547.15
Balance at 31/3/11	£3223.58

Expenditure for the year included Xmas lunch for the senior citizens; which this year was held at The Cock in Lavenham, due to the village hall fire.

Cllr Goldstaub signed off the account book on behalf of the Parish Council

Education Trust

In the absence of David Ford the Clerk presented the end of year report for the Education Trust. The accounts have been audited by Richard Chaplin of Grant Thornton.

Balance brought forward	£1394
Income	£2046
Expenditure	£2542
Balance at 31/12/10	£ 898

The value of the endowment policy at the end of the year was £60,795 against an original investment of £47,371.

Awards for the year included – paying hall fees for clubs and classes; children’s panto trip; youth club activities plus individual grants for educational materials and trips

The Trustees are keen for people to know about the charity and continue to publish application forms in the parish magazine and on the village website.

War Memorial Institute

The Clerk read a report compiled by Sally Andrews (Chairman of the War Memorial Institute)

For many years now, Drinkstone has been a lively and sociable village with the Village Hall at its centre. The fundraising and social events in the Village Hall, together with the village draw, provide a substantial income to the Charitable Trust. This was the case for the first 5 months of this accounting year. Dramatically and sadly all activity was brought to a sudden halt by the fire in the electrical circuit board in the lobby of the building, which spread to the kitchen and cloakrooms and along the roof space over the main hall, in spite of the best efforts of the fire brigade and the quick reactions of all concerned.

Since that day in September, village activities have continued as much as possible through the hard work of several committee members and the much-appreciated co-operation of everyone at All Saints Church. However, although activities have continued, the income to the Memorial Institute has been drastically reduced and this is shown on the latest draft accounts.

Copies of the most recent examined annual accounts (2009-2010) have been given to the Parish Council following approval at the AGM on the 19th July 2010.

The accounts to the year 31st March 2011 will be available for approval at the Memorial Institute AGM on 27th June. Draft figures to 31st March for the New Hall Fund show net expenditure of £1,494 after payment of professional fees of £4,947. Total funds at 31st March stand at £43,924.

The General Account, which covers the day-to-day Hall management, shows an excess of expenditure over income of £1,659. Funds at 31st March stand at £1,635.

The present situation for the Village Hall is temporary. The old building has been taken down with the relevant structure being moved to Stow Maries Museum in Essex. £60,000 + VAT will be paid by the insurance company towards the build cost of the new Village Hall and compensation has been received for loss of contents and income. Approved building plans have been sent to building companies for quotes and we shall know the definitive figure of payment from the sale of the Cherry Tree land shortly. Additional grants will be needed to build the long lasting and attractive Village Hall that people in Drinkstone want but the committee are confident that this can and will be done.

Drinkstone Green Allotments

The Clerk read a report compiled on behalf of the Allotment Trustees

The allotments continue to be a popular amenity within the village. This is the second growing season for the allotments at the Rattlesden Road site and it continues to enjoy close to full occupancy.

The original Gedding Road site was cleared of brambles, trees and rubbish in early January of this year to reclaim the derelict land and reinstate allotments.

Those parishioners on the waiting list for an allotment were consulted and the available land was divided into plots that came close to satisfying their requirements.

The net result of this was that five individuals and the youth club could be accommodated and have all begun planting for this season.

This cleared the waiting list for allotments and allowed two new applicants immediate tenancy.

There is a vacancy or two at this site due to one tenant surrendering a plot and another downsizing.

It is unlikely that these vacancies will be filled until the 2012 season.

Both sites had new hedging supplied through MSDC which were planted by allotment holders in the early spring to help reinstate the site boundaries.

This year has seen considerable development of the Gedding road site owing to delays imposed in the previous year. With the installation of replacement gates in the near future, the project will draw to a close.

The Parish Council has fully utilised the grant funding from MSDC and Councillor Otton's locality budget, which has resulted in an extremely minimal impact on the parish purse in fulfilling the Parish Council's current legal obligation for allotment provision.

Social Activities

Sheila Beswick presented the report and accounts for the various clubs and classes in the village. Despite the fire in the village hall clubs and classes in the village have continued due to the generous support of the church and the hiring out of neighbouring village halls.

Balances for the various groups (including floats) are as follows:-

History	£ 828.26
Youth Club	£ 612.41

Art Club	£ 442.59
Hut Theatre	£1706.68
Tuesday Club	£ 218.35
Photo Copy Fund	£ 262.52
Table Tennis	£ 385.94 (frozen as classes are suspended)
French and Tai Chi classes continue at Felsham Village Hall	

Other Business

Cllr Goldstaub closed the meeting by thanking all the Councillors and parishioners for attending the meeting and for their excellent reports

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:44pm

Action Plan (as reported in the Parish Plan)

Key to table: CC: County Council, CPSO: Community Police Support Officer, MP: Member of Parliament, MSDC: Mid-Suffolk District Council, PC: Parish Council, PPWG: Parish Plan Working Group, VHC: Village Hall Committee

KEY TO COLOURS: **GREEN** - Action complete, **RED** – Objective cannot be met by the Parish, **ORANGE** - Ongoing

High priority actions

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PARTNERS	PROGRESS
Continue to work to eliminate smell from Rookery Farm	MSDC	PC, Woolpit, Tostock, Beyton PCs	Plant closed.
Work with others to reduce speeding in the village and enforce speed limits	PC	Other PCs, Police, Suffolk CC	Speedwatch up and running. Reduction in number of offenders. Permanent solutions needed. Comparative trials ongoing .
Ensure parish plan is taken into account in planning decisions. Lobby for better enforcement of planning decisions Present Parish Plan to reinforce awareness of local views.	PC	MSDC	MSDC operating as a law unto themselves. Number of appeals supported by PC successful including use of redundant buildings. Parish plan distributed to MSDC
Work closer with Suffolk police to achieve more visible police presence and quick response to incidents	PC	Community Police Officer, CPSO, Suffolk CC, Police Authority, MP	Parish Council pushing hard but constant changes in police personnel and priorities and financial constraints.
Develop new Village Hall	VHC	PC, funders, Clubs and Classes, Greene King	Planning for Cherry Tree finally approved. Site sold (price not known) Some funding promises have run out of time. Start funding push again when sale price and updated estimates are known.
Press for speedy development of Cherry Tree site	VHC	PC, Greene King, MSDC	Planning for site finally approved .Sale agreed, price not yet known. Expect development to commence this year.
Investigate and set up a Youth club/drop in centre for young people	PPC	Clubs and Classes, VHC, MSDC, Suffolk CC	Well supported Senior and Junior Youth Club operating despite issue of lack of hall.
Set up a youth web	Young volunteers		Dedicated webpage on Drinkstone site. Intend to allow direct updates by the young people.

Medium priority actions

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PARTNERS	PROGRESS
Investigate feasibility of an oil cooperative	PPWG		Up and running. 124 households have joined the scheme.
Investigate options for childcare provision in the village	Clubs and Classes	VHC, Suffolk CC, providers	No facilities until new hall available.
Investigate again the possibility of lorry weight restrictions	PC	Police, Highways	Access to sugar beet lorries, delivery vehicles etc cannot be denied. No low weight bearing bridges. No case.
Ensure footpaths are kept clear and clean at all times of year	PC	Landowners, Suffolk CC	Ongoing. Current financial environment presents threat.
Provide more dog bins	PC		Extra bins in place.
Strengthen Neighbourhood watch	Current Watch coordinator	Residents, PC, Suffolk Police Coordinator	Adverts for new members in Parish Magazine. Little response. Need new initiative.
Lobby Suffolk CC for gritting of main village bus route	PC	Suffolk CC	All gritted during winter (eventually).
Increase usage of village website	Website manager	Content providers	New design complete. Up and running, including growing history archive. Wider range of user groups. Feedback from outside village increasing.
Establish better communication between Parish Council and residents.	PC	Residents	More contact details available. Suggest portfolio details added in Parish Magazine. Some parishioners feel questions are not well received. 25-45 yr olds not represented.
Expand effective liaison between PC and neighbouring PCs	PC	Other PCs	Co-operation for speed watch, Woolpit whiff. Little else obvious.
Provide better information to residents about MSDC planning decisions	MSDC	PC, Councillor MSDC and CC	Document from Moira on reclassification of village. No other progress.

Low priority actions

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PARTNERS	PROGRESS
Build on the interest in alternative sources of energy for heating and water	Conservation Group	PC	Group not yet formed. Suggest linking to environment group under auspices of Tree Warden.
Investigate feasibility of obtaining mains gas supply to village	PPWG	Centrica	Commercially unattractive. Cost contribution from each household £'000's.
Contact Highways to address problems of verge and road edge erosion	PC	PC, Highways	Cannot ban lorries. Kerbstones unacceptable to significant majority.
Establish programmes for maintenance of hedges and trees in public areas	PC	Residents, Highway authority	Hedges etc trimmed last year and reminders issued in Parish Magazine.
Investigate creating a network of bridleways	Drinkstone Riding Club	PC, neighbouring PCs, Landowners	Riding club formed. Some permissions granted. Non-village horse owners are regularly using footpaths.
Assess feasibility of environmentally friendly street lighting and/or pavements where required, and cycle paths	PC	Suffolk CC	Residents would have to cover all costs. Prohibitive and not wanted by significant majority.
Lobby MSDC for more recycling and larger black bins where needed	PC	MSDC	Not aware of progress.
Increase number of allotment plots	Allotment Trust		Complete. Village needs met.
Lobby mobile phone and TV networks to improve reception	PC	Network providers	Individuals have complained resulting in gain being turned up.
Provide more litter bins	PC		No progress.

