

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd August 2021

Drinkstone Village Hall

Present: Chair Richard Edmondson, Vice Chair Peter Holborn and Councillors: Janet Elnaugh, Emily Elnaugh, Tim Moss, Paul Selvey, and Sonia Slattery, Clerk Jane Hill, Councillor Penny Otton.

Meeting started at 8pm

1. There were no apologies for absence to be noted or approved.
2. Two Councillors had a declaration of interest; it was noted that Cllr Edmondson and Cllr Holborn were claiming expenses from the Parish Council in agenda item 10. Otherwise there were no other declarations of interest noted.
3. Resolved: The Councillors agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th June 2021 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair on behalf of the Council.
4. Discussion and implementation update of 5 year plan workstreams.
 - a. Painting the railings – Cllr Selvey
 - Painting the railings was a great success, many volunteers joined the working party and initial feedback from members of the Parish has been positive.
 - Both sets of railings (Chapel Lane and Blacksmith Corner) have received one coat of paint and this has been agreed sufficient for this year.
 - The painting of the railings on the bridge outside the Old Rectory will be completed by the owners of the Old Rectory when they paint their fence. Two of the wooden railings on the bridge need replacing and it was agreed the Parish Council will purchase and fit the new rails.
 - b. Queen’s Canopy – Cllr Holborn
 - A potential site identified for tree planting is the Parish land next to the Rattlesden Road allotments. Cllr Holborn met with the tenant who has indicated they would like to cease their tenancy in the near future.
 - It was noted that any change to the income generated from the rental of this land would affect the allotment accounts; the Chair asked the Clerk to undertake a review and advise the Council at the next Ordinary meeting of the potential impact.
 - The next step is for Parish Council and the current tenant to agree future tenancy arrangements. Follow this the Council will need to consider and agree the best use of the land.
 - Cllr Holborn had productive meetings with Robert Baker (Tostock Hall Farms) and Paul Francis (Clopton Green Farm) regarding boundary planting on the land they own or manage. Cllr Holborn to continue discussions and work up details for them prior to submitting applications to The Suffolk Tree Wardens Network under their free trees scheme.
 - c. Bulb planting and bee corridor – Cllr Edmondson and Cllr J Elnaugh
 - The intention of this project is to plant daffodil bulbs on the roadside from Drinkstone Green to Drinkstone.
 - Cllr Edmondson noted that he had applied for a National Lottery Grant to support this bulb planting project and is awaiting a decision.
 - Cllr Edmondson has reviewed suppliers of bulbs and found a supplier who can provide 5,000 bulbs for £300. It was noted that these daffodils were a standard long stem variety as these were the most cost effective option.
 - Cllr J Elnaugh highlighted the opportunity to plant wild flowers to create a bee corridor at the same time as planting bulbs. Cllr J Elnaugh has already investigated whether there was any free seed available but found there was none. Furthermore, it was recognised that it would be

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- difficult to establish wildflowers without removing the grass on the verges. As a consequence it was agreed to that this project should focus on planting daffodil bulbs only.
- The Council agreed that, ideally, the bulb planting project would be funded by the Lottery grant however if this is unsuccessful then they will request donations from the village. To achieve this Cllr Edmondson agreed to publish a JD e-mail and write a piece for the Parish Magazine requesting donations. The clerk will manage and document the donations.
- d. Website redesign – Cllr Slattery
- Cllr Slattery has reviewed the Parish Council website and has proposed a set of changes to make the flow better and make the home page more impactful.
 - It was agreed by all Councillors that a photograph of the Council could be included if required.
 - The next step is for Cllr Slattery to discuss workability of the new proposal with Liz and Tony Schmitt who run and manage the village website, which includes the Parish Council website.
- e. Benches on footpaths – Cllr Moss
- Cllr Moss proposed potential sites for benches on footpaths to the Council. The criteria for potential sites included one or more of the following; near a large tree, have a good view, on a long stretch of path, and on a path wide enough to accommodate a bench without blocking the path. Several sites were proposed by Cllr Moss, for example, one on footpath 8 (near pond and large oak) and one on footpath 9 (near large tree and half way down a long open stretch of path). Following a discussion the other Councillors proposed potential sites for consideration too.
 - The next step is to agree and map the exact location of potential benches for the Council review and then to gain permission from land owners.
5. No Public comment or questions when invited by the Chair.
6. Actions and notes from the reports received from the District and County Council Ward Member and the Parish Council portfolio holders are as follows:.
- a. Cllr Penny Otton District and Council Ward Member
- Cllr Otton highlighted that the paper recycling bins were to be removed but the Council were actively looking for another contractor.
 - The Councillor highlighted that the bin collection routine was improving but highlighted if there were any problems to let her know.
 - Cllr Otton stated that the Council were aware that they had to cut the grass at the end of Cross Street by hand however not sure when it would be done. She is expecting that this issue will not happen again next year.
- b. Cllr Emily Elnaugh Footpath Officer
- As the summer has evolved and the farmers have started cutting the grass the early summer issues with overgrown grass blocking footpaths has subsided.
 - To assist with the footpath management in the future Cllr E Elnaugh is planning to create a map of the footpaths and label each path with the person who has kindly agreed to adopt/ manage it.
 - To improve the Parish Councils ability to manage the footpaths Cllr E Elnaugh has proposed looking into the cost of blades for the Parish Council brush mower, it was agreed this can be reviewed at the next meeting.
 - Cllr Holborn/Cllr E Elnaugh agreed to contact the Council regarding the broken footpath bridge.
- c. Cllr Peter Holborn Neighbourhood Plan Officer and Tree Warden
- Cllr Holborn highlighted that there was a dead Elm tree near the village hall that needs attention before it falls. The Council will follow up with land owner.
- d. Cllr Tim Moss Parish Assets Officer

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- Cllr Moss highlighted that there is a piece of matting lifted on the aerial runway which is a trip hazard. Cllr J Elnaugh has contacted PalyDale who installed the play equipment and is awaiting a response from their customer service team.
 - It was noted that the external inspection of the play equipment has been booked but the date is pending.
- e. Cllr Paul Selvey Highways officer
- Cllr Selvey agreed to send the results from the SID to the community policing team to see whether they would take action or not regarding levels of speeding through the village.
 - The 30mph sign has been vandalised but is not a priority for highways to repair. Cllr Selvey proposed the Parish Council repair the sign and the Council agreed to pay the expenses incurred.
 - Cllr Selvey agreed to take a photo of the pothole at the end of footpath 4 and submit it to highways in order to try and get it repaired. Cllr Selvey highlighted that he had done this in the past but highways had concluded it was not a fault with the road itself.
- f. Cllr Richard Edmondson Allotment Trustee
- Cllr Edmondson has successfully completed and submitted the allotment annual return to the Charity Commission.
- g. Cllr Slattery Community Engagement
- Cllr Slattery has had introductory meetings with the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Church Committee.
 - In the near future she will be meeting members of the Drinkstone Educational Trust.
7. The Clerk's report highlighted that the public's right to inspect the 2020/21 accounts was over, the internal audit complete, and confirmation that an external audit was not required was received. The next deadline is to prepare the draft budget in readiness of the 4th October Parish Council meeting.
8. There was no correspondence to this meeting not dealt with as an Agenda item or in the Clerk's report.
9. There was no public comment or question invited when invited by the Chair.
10. Resolved: The following expenses were authorised for payment.

	Description	£
UT 1	Clerk pay (Jane Hill) June 21	£200.00
UT 2	Clerk pay (Jane Hill) July 21	£200.00
UT 3	Reimburse P Holborn - Dulux decorator centre	£188.62
Lloyds 1	Reimburse R Edmondson – Tap spend	£17.02

11. It was noted there have been no planning results since the last Parish Council meeting.
12. The planning application DC/21/03646 (Deverills IP30 9SX) was considered by the Council and it the Council agreed there was no objection to this planning application.
13. There was no public comment or questions on any matter of Council business.
14. There was no other Council business for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda.
15. It was confirmed that the scheduled date for the next meeting is Monday 4th October 2021 at the village hall.
16. The meeting was closed 9.07pm

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