

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022

Present: Councillors: Richard Edmondson (Chair), Peter Holborn (Vice Chair), Janet Elnaugh, Emily Elnaugh, Tim Moss, Paul Selvey and Christine Emery. Five members of the public. Clerk: Jane Hill.

1. No apologies and all Councillors were present.
2. Cllr Moss highlighted that he had expenses to claim otherwise there were no declarations and interests to note.
3. Resolved, the Council agreed that the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022 were a true record.
4. The reports from District and County Council Ward Member and Portfolio Holders were received, discussed and actions agreed.

4.1 Cllr Penny Otton District and Council Ward Member

Cllr Otton's report was submitted prior to the meeting but mistakenly was not circulated to the Councillors, the error and apologies were noted. As a consequence Cllr Otton provided a verbal update to the Council, and it was agreed the Clerk would send the report to the Councillors after the meeting. A summary of Cllr Otton's update is as follows:

- Biodiversity: Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the County's natural environment, as it confirms plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030.
- Highway code update: Several new changes to the Highway Code are now in force as of the 29th of January, details can be found online.
- Devolution: The Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation.
- Budget: County Councillors met to debate and vote on the Council's budget for 2022- 23. Suffolk GLI Group highlighted the need to invest more in adult social care, as well as an innovative project to reduce the energy bills of those most vulnerable. Both ideas were rejected.
- Welcome gates grant: The bid will be considered in the next financial year.
- Avian Flu: There is now a case in Mid Suffolk so all rules have to apply.
- 5 year land supply: There is now adequate land available so the Council will be able to resist applications.
- Judicial review in Thurston: The judgement made much of the use of neighbourhood plans.
- Land at Greyfriars still on the inspectors list of appeals. Cllr Holborn recalled that this appeal had been dismissed and agreed to investigate further after the meeting.

4.2 Cllr Peter Holborn Neighbourhood Plan Officer and Tree Warden

- Following the storm Cllr Holborn has inspected all the trees on Parish Council land and All Saints churchyard and no significant damage was found.
- A branch that had fallen onto the power lines at the Rattlesden Road allotments was reported to UK Power Networks, they have subsequently removed the branch.

4.3 Cllr Tim Moss Parish Assets Officer

- There was an issue with the defibrillator earlier this week, the number was called to obtain the code for the box, which unfortunately was incorrect. The ambulance service did not have the code for the new box. Cllr Moss have contacted them to update their records and the IT person is investigating how this happened. Fortunately, the defibrillator was not required to be used in this instance and no harm caused.
- Cllr Moss also highlighted that there was a mole hill on the cricket.

4.4 Cllr C Emery Community engagement inc. Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations

- Cllr Emery confirmed that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration plans are going well and that additional budget has been secured from the PCC and the Educational Trust to fund the event.
- Resolved, The Parish Council agreed to provide up to £500 (ex. VAT) for the Queen's platinum Jubilee celebrations

4.5 Cllr Emily Elnaugh Footpaths

Signed: Richard Edmondson

Date: 3rd May 2022

- Cllr E Elnaugh has filled in the large hole on the footpath and is sourcing wood chip to put on the paths which are particularly muddy.
- Cllr Moss agreed to ask a contact of his whether they had any spare woodchips.

4.6 Cllr Paul Selvey Highways officer

- Cllr Selvey has been approached by a parishioner about changing the speed limit on Hill Farm Lane to 30mph. The Council discussed the issue and agreed that Cllr Selvey speak to highways to understand how any amendments to speed limit areas are made and who incurs the cost of change the signage etc. The Clerk agreed to find any e-mails from a similar request on Rattlesden Road a few years ago.

4.7 Cllr Edmondson Allotment Trustee

- New gates have been made and are to be fitted to the Gedding Road allotments.
- Resolved, the council agreed the purchase of 6 x heavy duty hinges at a cost of £40 ex. vat to complete this project.
- Resolved, the council agreed the purchase of some 100 x 60 to 90 cm bare root hawthorn whips at £120 ex. VAT for the Gedding Road allotments.

5. There was no public comment or question when invited by the Chair.

6. The Clerk's report was received.

- The Council discussed who to nominate to carry the torch in the Drinkstone section of the Festival of Suffolk Torch relay. The Council agreed to ask an individual in the village who would represent both the NHS workers and all the volunteers and carers who worked to support our community during covid. Cllr Edmondson agreed to ask the nominated individual.
- The Allotment Association Lloyds bank account was discussed regarding the need for dual signatory functionality and the phasing out of cheques. As the frequency and value of payments is low it was agreed that rather than change bank it would be simpler to provide online authority to the Clerk. As a consequence, it was resolved that the bank account's authorisation levels would be changed to enable the Clerk to have online access to the Lloyds bank account and be able to make BACs payments.

7. Payments authorised by the Council.

Resolved: The Council agreed that the expenses listed in the table below be authorised for payment.

| | Description | £ |
|-----|---------------------|---------|
| UT1 | Anglia Pest Control | £120.00 |
| UT2 | T. Moss expenses | £208.30 |

8. Two new planning applications were considered by the Council, this section was supported by Cllr J Elnaugh's Planning Portfolio report which was circulated prior to the meeting:

1. Application under Section 73a of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of planning permission DC/17/03975 dated: 25/10/17 - Erection of replacement dwelling (following demolition of existing dwelling); Alterations to existing property to include erection of pitched roof, front facing gable and two storey rear and side extensions; Erection of 1 no. garage with store, and 1 no. garage with living accommodation over first floor. To allow repositioning of dwelling and garages.

Yew Tree Farm Cottage Cross Street Drinkstone Suffolk IP30 9TP

- Cllr Elnaugh read through the Parish Councils comments documented in the Planning Portfolio report. In summary, the Council would like this application to be considered as a new application and not as an amendment to an old application. The Council want the application to be considered and reviewed against the Drinkstone Neighbourhood plan (DNP) to ensure it complies with the latest planning policies in the village, to achieve this the proposal would have to be considered as a new application

- The chair opened the discussion up to the public. One member of the public questioned why the Council want the application to be considered as a new application. Cllr Elnaugh explained that for the application to adhere to the policies laid out in the DNP it would need to be a new application as the old application, to which this is an amendment, was approved prior to DNPs existence. As such, if this remains an amendment the development could go ahead and the policies outlined in the DNP may not be followed. The policies in the DNP clearly set out best practice for development (including construction management conditions, design, materials etc.) and the Parish Council want these policies to be followed in all developments in the village.
- Following this, a second member of the public stated that they had commented on the application and felt that it should be refused as it is outside the settlement boundary shown in the DNP. Cllr Holborn and Cllr Elnaugh explained that the Mid Suffolk local plan was in development and the settlement boundary in this document superseded the settlement boundary shown in the DNP because as it was more up to date. It was noted that since the DNP was made in May 21 Mid Suffolk changed the settlement boundary to include the Yew Tree Farm development; as the settlement boundary in the DNP cannot be changed to match that in the Mid Suffolk plan without another referendum there is a disparity in the settlement boundaries shown in both plans. As a consequence, the development which is the subject of this application is inside the settlement boundary shown in the Mid Suffolk plan but is outside in the settlement boundary shown in the DNP, that is, the proposed development is not outside the most recent settlement boundary and the development cannot be refused on these grounds. It was noted that the Council are working to overlay the settlement boundary shown in the Mid Suffolk plan with that shown in the DNP to confirm this is the only area in the village where this difference in the settlement boundary has occurred.

2. Householder Application - Erection of single storey front extension, Bellrod Chapel Lane Drinkstone Suffolk IP30 9TA,

- The Council had no comment on this application.

Resolved, that the Clerk makes known the Council's comments on Planning Applications on this agenda to the Corporate Manager, Growth & Sustainable Planning at Mid Suffolk District Council.

9. Discuss the church bells project

- Cllr Edmondson gave an update on the project to raise budget to re cast and repair the bells at the church. It was noted there was a questionnaire and funding request in the recent Parish magazine.

10. Any other Council business for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda.

- Cllr Edmondson noted that there was to be a coffee morning at the village hall on the following Saturday to raise funds for Ukraine. Donations could be given on the day and yellow GiftAid envelopes would be given out or directly to DEC via their website.

11. The next meeting is Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm