

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of ordinary meeting held on 5th December 2022

Present: Councillors: Richard Edmondson (Chair), Tim Moss, Michael Lambert, Janet Elnaugh, Christine Emery, Penny Otton and Peter Holborn

Clerk: Michael Walton

1. There were no apologies for absence
2. Declarations and interests:
 - a. Richard Edmondson recorded a pecuniary interest in payment UT3, Michael Walton for payment UT1 and Tim Moss UT4.
 - b. There were no declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda their nature, including gifts of hospitality exceeding £25.
 - c. There were no requests for dispensations.
 - d. There were no additions and/or deletions to the Council's Register of Interests.
3. The reports from District and County Council Ward Member and Portfolio Holders were received.

1. Cllr Penny Otton District and Council Ward Member

Cllr Otton indicated that the bus service plan had been voted down for west Suffolk. A consultancy group now looking into needs of the community to determine timing and frequency.

It was noted that an appointment of a new Mayor was being discussed but little was currently known about the appointment.

Suffolk is making money available for electric charging points.

2. Cllr Peter Holborn Neighbourhood Plan Officer and Tree Warden
3. Cllr Tim Moss Parish Assets Officer
4. Cllr Paul Selvey Highways officer
5. Cllr Elnaugh Planning Officer
6. Cllr Edmondson Allotment Trustee
7. Cllr Emery Community engagement
8. Cllr Lambert Footpath warden
9. Clerk report

4. The Council agreed that the Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2022 are a true record.
5. There were no public comment or questions from the public.

6. Richard Edmondson updated the council on the Café Hub / Free for all stand. It was determined that there is currently no need for a warm space but that this would be reviewed in January. The free for all stand has a constantly changing stock of food to be collected.
7. The following payments were approved:

	Description	£
UT1.	Licence fee gates Michael Walton	135.60
UT2.	Drinkstone War memorial	20.00
UT3.	Richard Edmondson – footpath signs	20.97
UT4.	Tim Moss – playground repairs	177.74

8. Allotment management policy

The new policy was agreed with immediate effect

9. Application for listed building consent - DC/22/05706

Proposal: Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/21/01524 dated 11/05/2021 for Erection of domestic cart lodge / garage with new resin bound gravel finish to hardstanding area

Clr Elnaugh gave her report on the proposed application and comments were invited from the public. The public's observations were:

- The planned development is so materially different to the original application that it should be considered as a new application
- Conversations with the owner / developer indicate a plan to use the cart lodge as a commercial workshop. This activity has already commenced and heavy cutting equipment is used daily within the cart lodge.
- Conversations with the developer indicate that it is a long-term intention of the owners to convert the site into living accommodation and not a cart lodge as previously authorised
- Request for windows to the apex and rooflights to the rear are inconsistent with the requirements of a cart lodge and indicate a plan to use the property as accommodation
- Adjustments to the front, including the addition of a garage door are a material change to the application. The width of the door is now too narrow to allow a vehicle to be parked in the lodge which defeats the original intention of the cart lodge.
- Original drawings submitted are illegible and it is not possible to accurately see the proposed dimensions of fenestration and doors

CLlr Penny Otton attended and offered comment:

- The Heritage officer should be informed because of concerns over the development close to grade 11 listed building
- Planning enforcement officer should be informed because of existing breaches to the original planned development
- Recommended to members of the public to contact Environmental Health to report noise nuisance

The council voted unanimously to object to the proposed variation and the Clerk was instructed to record this objection with public comment on the planning portal.

10. Fire contingency plan

It was noted that there were no volunteers to assist in the production of a plan.

11. The council was informed that the current clerk was seeking to resign from the post because of personal reasons. Cllr Edmondson informed the council that he had approached Hessematt PC (who are currently recruiting) as to whether there might be an opportunity to share a clerk to offer a more meaningful role. It was agreed that the new salary level of £14-£16 per hour be offered once the role is advertised.

12. The proposed budget was submitted for discussion. It was noted that the clerk's salary accounted for 55% of the precept and that given that there would be a higher salary requirement that in previous year's the budget would rise by 9%. It was agreed that the budget be approved and the Clerk was instructed to submit the budget request to Suffolk.

13. It was agreed that the allotment and charity land rents for Chapel Lane be held at 2022 levels and that the Rattlesden Road allotments be increased to £100.

14. The Clerk was instructed to complete the MSDC Locality Awards application for 2022/3 and that a budget of £500 be requested to fund the additional spend on the village gates.

15. It was noted that the Drinkstone village sign was in need of refurbishment and that Bill Smith would complete this activity during the winter months.

16. It was agreed to move the January meeting to February with a new meeting date of Monday 6th February 2023.
17. The council agreed to set aside Monday 8th June 2023 as the proposed date for the village celebration of the coronation of King Charles.
18. The meeting closed at 21.15 hours

Drinkstone Parish Clerk

DRAFT