

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of ordinary meeting held on 6th March 2023

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

Clerk: Michael Walton

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Elnaugh.
2. Declarations and interests:
 - a. No pecuniary interests were noted.
 - b. Cllr Emery indicated that she had an interest in the request for pruning of trees at The Ambers, Park Road, the matter covered in AOB and Cllr Holborn indicated that he had offered support in the application to prune the trees. There were no other 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 noted that Drinkstone had been allocated an additional £500 for daffodils for the village. Cllr Otton informed the council of the newly available Community Grant Pot and suggested that this funding route is explored if new projects are planned.

It was noted that there was significant disappointment in the Council's views on the developments in Cross Street being overruled by the County and Cllr Edmondson stated that it was seriously demotivating for the Council's strongly held views to be overruled.

2. Cllr Peter Holborn Neighbourhood Plan Officer and Tree Warden – no report

3. Cllr Tim Moss Parish Assets Officer

Cllr Moss indicated that whilst we had had a satisfactory playground inspection he believed there was a requirement to maintain the picnic benches on the Cricket.

4. Cllr Paul Selvey Highways officer

All pot holes have been reported to Suffolk Highways.

5. Cllr Elnaugh Planning Officer – covered by Agenda points 9

6. Cllr Edmondson Allotment Trustee

Cllr Edmondson reported that there is one person on the waiting list for an allotment.

7. Cllr Emery Community engagement – covered by agenda item 7.

8. Cllr Lambert Footpath warden – nothing to state in additional to filed report

9. Clerk report noted

4. The Council agreed that the Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th February 2023 are a true record.
5. There were no public comment or questions from the public.
6. It was noted that Laura Pooley had tendered her resignation as the new Parish Clerk and would not take up office. Michael Walton indicated that he would withdraw his resignation and remain in post. The Council unanimously approved his re-appointment.
7. Cllr Emery announced that there was no update on the planned Coronation plans.
8. There was no update on the Children's Christmas Party which will be held in December 2023. Cllr Elnaugh has taken responsibility for overseeing this event.

9. The following payments were approved:

	Description	£
UT1.	Drinkstone War memorial	20.00
UT2.	ABC - Village gates	3378.00
UT3.	Annual play inspection	62.47

10. MSDC Planning Consultation Request - DC/23/00646

Cllr Elnaugh report was noted. Clerk to offer no comment on the planning portal.

11. MSDC Planning Consultation Request - DC/23/01088

It was noted that this is routine maintenance and the Clerk to offer no comment on the planning portal

12. MSDC Planning Consultation Request - DC/23/01065

This relates to a discharge notice – no comment.

13. The village memorial policy was discussed. The requirement for a village policy has been triggered by a request from a parishioner to plant a tree in memory of their father. Cllr Edmondson reflected that there may be a number of such requests in the years to come and that the council needed a policy against which it can evaluate future requests. It was agreed that Cllr Selvey would draft a proposal for discussion and agreement at the next parish meeting. Once agreed it would then be possible to assess the specific request from the parishioner. The Clerk was ordered to inform the parishioner of the Council's plans.

14. The election process was noted and the Clerk was instructed to put the formal notice of forthcoming elections on the Parish Notice Board.

15. Cllr Edmondson invited any public comments or questions on any matters of Council business. A request was made from an allotment holder to be granted a long-term lease on the allotment plot adjacent to their property. The current allotment policy is to have an annual renewable policy. The request was made because of difficulties in maintaining the strip of land and the parishioner noted that it was difficult to maintain. Cllr Edmondson advised that garden machinery was available to all allotment holders and that any extension of a lease beyond 12 months would not be appropriate.

16. It was confirmed that the scheduled date for the next meeting will be Monday 15th May 2023.

17. The meeting closed at 20.35 hours

Signed Richard Edmondson

6th March 2023