

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st July 2013 in All Saints' Church

Present

Cllrs A. Clarke, S. Cousins, M. Goldstaub (Chair) C. Harbutt, C. Munford, P. Nolan, the Clerk, SCC/MSDC Cllr P. Otton, Richard Syrett (Gipping Homes) and seven members of the public.

1 – Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from the Police

2 – Declarations of Interest

None

3 – Cllr Otton's Reports

Suffolk County Council

- Following the elections in May a new cabinet has been formed. Cllr Mark Bee remains Leader as well as port-folio holder for Resource Management.
- A report on the recent investigation into education standards is expected to recommend that some Suffolk schools link with an East London Borough where changes have resulted in a vast improvement in results achieved by students.
- The Cabinet has approved an increase to school bus fees. Some schools are offering discretionary bursary awards to those most in need. Anyone who has any concerns should contact – transport.service@suffolk.gov.uk
- Cllr Otton has held a meeting with John Simpson the Area Highways Manager. He stated that there were no outstanding issues in Drinkstone. This was disputed by the Parish Council and the Clerk agreed to let Cllr Otton have a list of the outstanding problems. .
- Some Councils in Suffolk have indicated that they will not support any future plans to toll the A14. Cllr Otton said she felt full and wider consultation should take place before the Government makes any changes.
- The planned presentation by the Fire Service to owners of thatched properties is now likely to take place in September.

Mid Suffolk District Council

- Mid Suffolk and Babergh have won a Municipal Journal award for their joint working; seeing off top Councils like Westminster in London. The Council is now planning a joint bid with other Suffolk Councils which will involve more joint working across the whole county.
- The Council is looking at ways to save money to fill the funding gap. If anyone has any ideas they should let Cllr Otton have the details.
- The contract to complete the Council houses in Woolpit has been taken over by Persimmon Homes
- Judging will take place during June/July for Council House Gardens Competition.

- Building Control have been shortlisted for an Excellence Award for their work on the barn conversion at Garden House Farm

4 – Police Report

The Clerk read a written report received from PC A. Miles and PCSO C. Denny

- No crimes have been recorded over the last month
- Speed checks were conducted outside the Church on the 3rd and 5th June
- Following an increase in the number of daytime burglaries the Police have stepped up their response to any suspicious activity. This action has resulted in a huge reduction in offences and there have been a number of arrests and vehicle seizures with offenders currently on bail or remanded in custody. Cllr Goldstaub said she had first hand knowledge of this action as the police called in to her property when they saw a white van parked in her driveway; the man had been called out to repair a window.
- Collette and Annelly both attended the Drinkstone Open Gardens and were happy to report there were no issues with the parking. Colette will be attending the opening ceremony of the new hall.
- A reminder was sent about the Annual Police Quiz on the 10th July. It was agreed that a small team from Drinkstone would attend.

5 – Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

6 – Matters Arising

- The Highways have ordered a new 30mph sign to replace the missing roundel in Rattlesden Road
- The Clerk reported that she is still waiting for a response from Anglian Water; their Customer Relations Manager is awaiting further information on the problems and has agreed to report back.
- The PC vacancy has been advertised on the notice board and in the parish magazine.
- Cllr Goldstaub reported that she had not had any luck at the records office or West Suffolk House in locating any old footpath maps which would show evidence of a path from Hessematt to Drinkstone. She said she would try to get to the Ipswich Office before September to see if the Rights of Way Team could provide any further details.

7 – Parish Council Vacancy

The Clerk reported that she had not received any inquiries regarding the vacancy. The Chairman said it would be nice to get another gentleman on board to balance the members.

8 – Finance

The current account stands @ £2565.09; deposit account 1 @ £2651.96; deposit account 2 @ £5.27 and VAT owing is £61.60 giving a total balance of £5283.92

The separate allotment account stands @ £679.01 – all the allotments rents (totalling £115) have now been collected and paid in to the account.

The following invoices were approved for payment - £62.50 Old Parsonage Garden Services; £62.00 Church Hire Fees (Apr – July) and £250.20 Clerks Fees (April – June)

BDO have completed the external audit and there were no issues raised. There is no fee this year as our turnover is below £10,000. A notice will be displayed on the notice board inviting residents to inspect the accounts by arrangement with Cllr Cousins.

The form to change the bank signatories has been completed and sent off with a covering letter. The Wrenn Charity has returned the cheque for £43.22. David Ford has written to say that they have enough funds to complete their commitments and feels that the Cambourne Charity should have the money as their income is very limited. It was agreed that the cheque should be forwarded on to the Cambourne Charity.

9 – Planning and Open Forum

Planning Application 3780/12

Gipping Homes has applied for a non-material amendment to 0810/12 Cherry Tree Rise. The changes are to windows and doors to plots 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108 and 109.

A full list of changes and layout plans were provided by Richard Syrett of Gipping Homes.

The meeting opened to the public and Richard went through each house explaining where and why the changes were required. The changes are mainly cosmetic and involve re-positioning windows and changing door styles. Councillors raised no objections to the modifications.

The Chairman raised the issue of the bin presentation areas on the site again. Mr Blemings had previously said that this would have to be a subject for a non-material change and had previously not been prepared to take this up. However, Mr Syrett said that this was now been looked at and he was in discussion with Mid Suffolk and SERCO with regard to the best place for bins to be emptied from.

Cllr Munford reported that she had received complaints from residents about the noise coming from the site and Mr Syrett agreed to take this up with the site supervisor.

Gipping Homes are planning to erect a fence along the boundary later this week and the site supervisor has marked out a red line where he intends to erect the fence. Cllr Clarke has visited the site and measured the area and confirmed that he believes the marking is in the right place. Mr Syrett said he would pass on the Councils approval to the site supervisor so that the work can go ahead.

Cllr Goldstaub said that the land on the playing field side of the fence would be re-visited in September when clearance and future use would be discussed again. Cllr Clarke said some debris had been left on the area and Mr Syrett offered to get this cleared away.

There was further discussion about whether a TPO should be put on the Walnut Tree. It was agreed to ask one of the Tree Wardens to look into this. Richard Syrett said that if a TPO could not be placed on the tree a covenant could be put on the sale conditions so that the owner has to retain the tree.

No further questions were raised and Richard Syrett left the meeting.

MSDC Decisions and Update

3780/12 – The application to vary the landscaping and the site working hours on the Cherry Tree Development is to go before the planning committee on Wednesday 3rd July

0909/13 – Erection of double bay cart lodge at Argyle House, Cross Street – Approved

1116/13 – Erection of single storey side extension at Toppers, 12 Green Close – Approved

10 – Allotments

The tenants at Gedding Road allotments have requested that the water tanks are plumbed in to automatic feed from the mains. At the moment the tanks have to be filled by hose and if there is a hose pipe ban this presents a problem. Cllr Clarke said he would price the job up over the summer with a view to the work being carried out in September.

11 – Playing Field

There have been complaints about the rabbit holes which have appeared on the Cricket. The situation is believed to have worsened since the builders moved on site destroying some of their habitat. The whole Cross Street area is plagued by rabbits. Various measures were discussed on dealing with the problem however, it was agreed that short term Cllr Cousins would have a word with the grass cutting contractor to see if he could fill in the holes when he next visits the site.

12 – Correspondence

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the church thanking them for their hospitality over the last three years while the new village hall has been re-built

Letter from resident regarding speed signs – It was agreed that the points raised by the resident should be referred to the Police Commissioner, the Highways and the local SNT Clerks and Councils Direct

Coffee Caravan – 23rd July

St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Vision 2031

13 – Other Business

- Cllr Munford reported a pot hole in Deadmans Lane in need of repair.
- Cllr Munford reported that she had received complaints about the state of the footpath which runs from Rattlesden Road to Gedding Road. The Clerk agreed to write to the landowner. Some dog walkers are still throwing dog bags into the hedge and this is not acceptable. Residents are asked to please use the dog bins provided.
- A number of residents raised issues with the general running of the Cherry Tree site. Inconsiderate parking is still a problem; vehicles arriving before the site opens and leaving their engines running; abusing the working hours; and the general noise were all points raised by residents. The Chairman said it would have been useful if these items were addressed to Richard Syrett before he left the meeting. The School Bus is still picking children up from the site entrance despite being asked twice if the bus stop can be moved. The Clerk agreed to write to the authority once more to ask for something to be done. Cllr Goldstaub said she would try to get to the planning committee meeting on Wednesday 3rd July when the extension to working hours is being discussed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:20pm

Theses minutes will be verified at the next meeting

Date of next meeting Monday 2nd September 2013 (No meeting in August)

Note - new venue from September – New Village Hall

