

Registration of Drinkstone Parish Lands

At its August meeting, Cllrs considered a report **DPC.20.08.08** on progress towards registering Parish Lands.

The documents have now been signed and witnessed (there had been a delay due to the onset of restrictions on meeting arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on business, and have been returned to the solicitors acting for the parish to lodge with HM Land Registry. Greene & Greene have advised that that the matter had not been progressed over the summer due to the solicitor handling the case having been on furlough due to COVID-19. The solicitor handling the case was awaiting one final search to be completed prior to the documentation being submitted to HM Land Registry.

Correspondence has been received from a resident of the parish (attached as Appendix A) enquiring as to whether the Parish has considered whether or not the land owned by the Wren Charity should be registered.

As the land is not owned by the Parish Council, it does not have the power to register this land, although should the Wren Charity, as landowner, decide to do so, the parish council could consider any application for a grant towards the costs of such a registration under s.137 of the LGA1972.

20.08.21

20.03.15

20.01.15

19.10.15

19.09.15

19.08.E05

19.04.17

19.02.17.2 & 17.3

18.11.15 Original Plan prepared based on 1848 Inclosure award

Hilary Workman

Clerk & RFO

September 2020

From: Giles Youngs <giles.youngs@gmail.com>
Sent: 28 September 2020 11:06
To: Drinkstone Clerk
Cc: drinkstoneschofieldH@gmail.com
Subject: Registering Parish Lands

Appendix A

Dear Mrs Workman

I would be grateful if the parish council could update me on the progress, or lack of it, on registering Drinkstone's parish lands.

This matter has been ongoing for at least two years. If there is a hold-up at surveyor or solicitor level may I ask if a letter of complaint or other action has been taken?

The importance of such registration has always been dear to me. About two years ago I sought advice from the Charity Commission on the advisability of registering charity lands, for example the Drinkstone allotments. They said that it is 'recommended practice'.

When the intention to register was first suggested two or more years ago I mentioned informally to one of the two trustees of the Wren Charity that they may wish to include their 13 acres, the Bread Close opposite Drinkstone Mills. The trustee declined, explaining that the charity is independent of the PC and that any management decisions are advised by a local estate agent.

The Wren Charity is currently managed by excellent trustees but but the worst-case scenario in the future could be a sweetheart deal between the trustees and the estate agent/property developer. Of course, registering the Wren Charity land does not give complete protection but it does at least provide proof in the public domain of the land boundaries.

The Wren Charity might be independent of the PC but it is an asset of the parish and I feel it should be registered - but not at the risk of delaying the current initiative!

Old OS maps show that the parish lands (for the labouring poor) were once quite extensive. I've not been able to find out what happened to them - I published in Drinkstone parish magazine (April 2016) 'The Vanished Charities of the Reverend Richard Moseley'.

Yours sincerely

Giles Youngs