

# **DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

Present: Councillors: Paul Selvey (Chair), Penny Otton, Nicky Willshere, Alice Robinson, Janet Elnaugh, Cllr Emery

Apologies: Cllr Turner

Clerk: Michael Walton.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Turner.

2. There were no declarations of interest:

2.1. There were no Members' Declarations of and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items.

2.2. Requests for dispensations.

There were no requests for dispensations

3. The District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk submitted their reports.

3.1. Cllr Penny Otton            County Councillor

No update to Cllr Otton's report. No insight as to where unitary council will be based, who will work there and who the officers will be.

Cllr Otton raised the issue over whether 20mph speed limit will be implemented across Suffolk villages.

3.2. Nicky Willshere            Ward Member

No addition to her previously submitted report.

Cllr Selvey to issue JD on the opportunity to use a thermal imaging gun to identify heat loss in properties.

3.3. Janet Elnaugh            Planning

Nothing to report

3.4. Paul Selvey                      Highways

It was noted that there is continued flooding near the church and that responsibility most likely rest with the landowners.

Cllr Selvey noted that a working party is needed to paint the railings at Blacksmith Corner and that there is an offer of safety training by Suffolk CC for volunteers working on roadside activities.

3.5. Alice Robinson                  Village assets

Nothing to report

3.6. Malcolm Turner                 Footpaths and allotments

Cllr Selvey announced that footpath posts had been repaired.

Cost of repair was circa £45.

3.7. Christine Emery                Community engagement

Children's XMAS party well attended. Easter Bunny scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026. A quiz evening is planned for late 2026.

3.8. Clerk report

No update to the papers supplied on the village website.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 were received and approved.

5. There was no public comment nor questions from the parishioners.

6. Cllr Selvey proposed that the following payments below be approved

6.1. Payments

UTI	Clerk salary	250.00
UT2	Banking service charge	6.00
UT3	Village hall hire 1/12/2025	20.00
UT4	Village hall hire 03/11/2025	10.00
UT5	Village hall hire – Xmas party	20.00
UT5	Christine Emery – Xmas party children	298.58
UT6	Christine Emery – Easter Bunny	51.80
UT7	Selvey – Hedges Direct	72.53
UT8	ICO subscription	52.00
UT9	TGS 3307	97.04
UT10	TGS 3306	97.04

The Council unanimously approved the payments.

7. The Councillors reviewed and agreed the following policies subject to:

7.1. Disciplinary procedures

7.2. Grievance procedure

Clerk to amend to note that the procedure relates to employees only.

7.3. IT and Email policy

The clerk was requested to remove the deletion clause since this conflicts with data retention policies.

7.4. Lone Worker policy

7.5. Safeguarding policy

7.6. Standard terms of reference for Drinkstone Parish Council

The Clerk was requested to amend to state that the term “working group” relates to a major activity and does not impact on basic parish activities.

7.7. Subject Access

The clerk was asked to update the policies to reflect these requests.

8. The planning request for Abbots Lodge was discussed. Cllr Elnaugh informed the council that it was merely a variation to an existing approval. The Council unanimously voted to offer no objection and the clerk was requested to show "no comment" on the planning portal.
9. The dates for next year's PC meetings were approved.
10. The Council agreed that the date of the next meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 8pm.
11. The meeting closed at 21.00pm.