## **DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

## Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2024

Present: Councillors: Paul Selvey (Chair), Janet Elnaugh, Christine Emery, Malcolm Turner,

Alice Robinson, Penny Otton (Suffolk)

Clerk: Michael Walton.

- 1. There were no apologies for absence to be noted and approved.
- 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. There were no requests for dispensations.
- 3. To receive any report from District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk.
  - Cllr Penny Otton County Councillor
    Cllr asked for an update on flooding issues. It was noted that Park Road (culvert)
    Chapel Lane, Drinkstone House and Blacksmith's Corner were discussed.
    Park Road will be repaired by Suffolk Highways, Chapel Lane is being dealt with by the flood relief programme. The pipe under Gedding Road needs to be cleared.
    Cllr Otton discussed the new proposal for a Suffolk Mayor (vote May 2025) for a leader of Suffolk. The leader will be directly elected by the voters of Suffolk will lead the Council but no be a councillor. The County leader will select the cabinet membership. Current councils are green lib, green lib dems in this scenario the leader will be a political appointment. There will be a consultation period. The council will then determine next steps however this is a government led initiative.
  - Nicky Willshere Mid Suffolk District Councillor
    Nothing to add.

3. Janet Elnaugh Planning

No report on new applications. Holm House and Abbots Lodge approved. No update on Threeways.

4. Paul Selvey Highways

No additional comments to Cllr Selvey's written submission.

5. Alice Robinson Village assets and allotments

Cllr Robinson reported on the playground report and its recommendations. Climbing frames need review, timbers need replacing and a full clean is required. Anti slip grips are being considered. Chains need replacing in certain parts. Rotten timbers on low level slides. Noted that Top Garden Services would need to be informed NOT to strim close to the wooden infrastructure.

Next steps were discussed as to who might repair the site:

- Specialist repairer
- 2. Local handyman
- 3. Volunteers

It was agreed to revert to Jade Yeo for a recommendation for a specialist repairer. Action: clerk.

6. Malcolm Turner Footpaths

No additional comment. Additional wood chippings are being placed on the very muddy paths. Two poo bins already installed, two more to be placed, Gedding Road and Cross Street. It was agreed that another bin should be purchased for Rattlesden Road. Footpath 21, 16 and 14.

- 7. Christine Emery Community engagement Nine confirmed attendees for the Easter Bunny Hunt but this may increase. Agreed to move the SID to opposite the Village Hall to comply with a risk assessment. Agreed to promote the percussionist concert into neighbouring villages.
- Clerk report Nothing to add.

4. Approval of minutes of meeting held Monday 4th February 2024.

Agreed

5. Public comment or questions invited by the Chair.

A question was asked about whether the speed cameras are working. Cllr Selvey reported the batteries need recharging on a fortnightly basis and this is being done this week.

- 6. The proposed bank transactions for the month were agreed and the Chair received the latest bank reconciliation.
  - a. To review proposed payments:

	Description	£
UT1	Village hall hire 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	20.00
UT2	Village hall hire 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	10.00
UT3	Glasdon poo bins	1251.12
UT4	Jordan Ashman percussionist	500.00

b. To review receipts

UT1 UK Power Networks	1.15
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**Proposal: Clir Selvey** Council agreed that the expenses listed above be authorised for payment and receipts were noted. The bank reconciliation was approved.

8. AOB - Hedgehog gates for fences. It was agreed that we would not pursue the request to buy a stock of hedgehog doors.

9.	To confirm that the scheduled date for the next meeting is agreed by Council as Monday, May
	13th, 2024 at 8pm.
	10. Close the meeting.

Signed

Drinkstone Parish Chair

Paul Selvey 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024