

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2024

Present: Councillors: Paul Selvey (Chair), Janet Elnaugh, Christine Emery, Daphne Youngs, Malcolm Turner, Nicky Willshere

Clerk: Michael Walton.

1. Penny Otton and Alice Robinson offered their apologies for non-attendance.
2. There were no declarations of interest:
 - 2.1. There were no Members' Declarations of and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items other than Cllrs Selvey/Turner expressing an interest in Item 6.2 ref payments.
 - 2.2. There were no requests for dispensations.
3. To receive any report from District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk.
 1. Cllr Penny Otton County Councillor
No update to submitted report
 2. Nicky Willshere Mid Suffolk District Councillor
Cllr Willshere updated the Council on potential changes to refuse collection, increased numbers of bins to allow for the collection of glass to replace communal glass bins.
The rollout is proposed for 2026/7.
Cllr Youngs raised a question ref clarity on whether the building targets in the 2019 Neighbourhood Plan were a minimum or a maximum and also whether the views of parishioners were taken into account at planning committees. Cllr Willshere said this would be taken up with Tom Barker, Head of Planning. Cllr Barker contacted the

Council on 17th June 2024 to inform us of the reasons behind the Cross Street development. The clerk was requested to include this in the next parish meeting.

3. Janet Elnaugh/Daphne Youngs Planning
No comment

4. Paul Selvey Highways
Reported that Suffolk Highways are avoiding any contact with the Parish Council.

5. Alice Robinson Allotments and village assets
No comment

6. Malcolm Turner Footpaths
Report noted. The Dog bin by the telephone box needs replacing, as done the one in Chapel Lane. Recommended that two new posts to be purchased.

7. Christine Emery Community engagement
Children's Christmas party to be organised.
New Year's walk to be arranged on an informal basis.

8. Clerk report
Noted.
The Council agreed to defer decisions on the following matters until the next Council meeting:
 - Website development
 - Maintenance of the Cricket
 - Changes to playground equipment
 - Defibrillator

The Clerk was requested to put all the above discussion points as separate items for the next meeting and to source, where possible, two quotations for each budget expense. It was agreed that this was in line with Council policy on seeking competing tenders.

It was agreed that the Clerk distribute a draft 2025/6 budget to councillors for their review and that there would be no requirement for a separate budget meeting as has been held in previous years.

4. Approval of minutes of meeting held Monday 7th August 2024.

The minutes were approved and agreed.

5. Public comment or questions invited by the Chair. There were no comments from the public.

6. The month's bank transactions were received and the latest bank reconciliation signed and approved.

6.1. Receipts

UT11	Precept and Chapel Lane contribution	6000.00
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6.2. Payments for authorisation by the Council:

	Description	£
UT1	Village hall 5 th August 2024	20.00
UT2	Top Garden Services 2500	92.40
UT3	Top Garden Services 2499	92.40
UT4	Top Garden Services 2498	92.40
UT5	Paul Selvey expenses	62.45
UT6	Malcolm Turner expenses	6.00
UT7	Tony Schmitt website contribution	34.31
UT8	Payroll service`	54.00
UT9	Insurance renewal	410.00
UT10	Contribution to Chapel Lane works	1000.00

The Council agreed that the expenses listed above be authorised for payment.

7. The councillors discussed what actions can be taken with reference to ditch management and flood defences in the village.

It was agreed that the Council was limited in its ability to manage the problem and that the core problem was that no adequate funding is accessible to resolve the problems. Previous discussions around arranging meeting with local farmers to discuss the problem was unlikely to yield any benefits.

It was agreed that there was no merit in arranging further meetings and that the discussion be removed from further meeting.

8. Cllr Selvey requested that an agenda item be added at the next meeting to discuss establishing a 1st responder team in the village.

9. To confirm that the scheduled date for the next meeting is agreed by Council as Monday, November 2nd, 2024 at 8pm

12. The meeting closed at 21.35 pm.

Signed

Drinkstone Parish Chair

Paul Selvey

4th November 2024