

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th February 2025 at 8.00pm

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

Apologies Cllr Nicky Willshire

Clerk: Michael Walton.

1. Apologies for absence for Nicky Willshire were noted and approved.
2. Cllrs Robinson and Youngs declared an interest in item 12 of the agenda and Cllr Emery declared an interest in item 8 of the agenda
3. Declarations of interest:
 - 3.1. To receive any Members' Declarations of and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items.
 - 3.2. There were no requests for dispensations.
4. Reports from District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk.

4.1. Cllr Penny Otton County Councillor

The major area of discussion regards devolution within Suffolk Councils. It is planned to abolish districts and boroughs with a view to form unitary councils. A directly elected mayor would be elected for Suffolk and Norfolk. Cllr Otton reported that there is a general disaffection from boroughs and districts. In light of these discussions there has been a cancellation of election for County councillors this year.

There is currently no established vision as to the future of parish councils however it is possible that parish councils may be asked to take on other services.

Cllr Otton acknowledged that Ken White's complaint to planning was under review.

4.2. Nicky Willshire Ward Member

No update

4.3. Janet Elnaugh/Daphne Youngs Planning

No update other than to note potential building changes following a review of settlement boundaries.

4.4. Paul Selvey Highways

Criticism received from a parishioner on the quality of pot hole repairs. Suffolk CC have been contacted re the work and we await a response.

Dog waste bins repaired.

The give way sign at Park Road, Beyton Road has been damaged in an accident – Suffolk have denied liability but it was agreed that Cllr Selvey would follow this up.

4.5. Alice Robinson Village assets and allotments

Reports covered elsewhere

4.6. Malcolm Turner Footpaths

No material update. All paths wet and muddy – some posts need replacing but Suffolk CC liable for repair.

4.7. Christine Emery Community engagement

Nothing to report.

4.8. Clerk report

Clerk reported on previous distributed documents.

5. The minutes of the meeting held 2nd December 2024 were agreed.

6. Public comment or question was invited by the Chair.

Concern was raised over the junction at Beyton/Park Road. Can the junction be improved?

Suggestions as to the removal of the hedge however it was noted that the hedge is on private property. Chair suggested that we approach Suffolk Highways if it is a danger spot.

Ken White reported on the planning breach in Chapel Lane and offered a summary of his complaint ref the removal of the hedge. Suffolk Planning are reviewing the complaint.

7. Receipts were noted:

	Description	£
UT1	Locality grant – the Cricket	750.00

8. Payments for authorisation were agreed:

	Description	£
UT1	Adobe subscriptions – clerk	299.55
UT2	Microsoft licence – clerk	59.99
UT3	ICO registration – clerk	40.00
UT4	Village hall 2 nd December 2024	20.00
UT5	SALC – payroll	54.00
UT6	Childrens’ Xmas party	323.23
UT7	NY day refreshments	45.39
UT8	Village hall 4 th November 2024	20.00
UT9	Selvey expenses	293.66
UT10	Suffolk Cloud	230.00

Cllr Selvey noted that the UT9 payment is incorrect and that £35.41 should be paid – the £293.66 invoice included personal items for Cllr Selvey.

9. Planning requests

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/25/00411

Proposal: Householder application - Erection of porch extension, and orangey (following demolition of conservatory)

Location: Holly Tree House, Drinkstone, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9TL.

No objections were noted and the Clerk was requested to update the planning portal to offer no comment

10. New SID for the village discussed – Council approved the purchase of a new SID. Clerk authorised to contact Elan to issue an order.

11. The Clerk gave an update on the discussions over the development of the playground. Currently reviewing budgets with a view to returning with a proposal to the Council in March. Children had been consulted over their needs and both companies have been requested to offer quotes.

12. CIL review

The many suggestions on appropriate use of CIL monies was discussed. A quad bike for moving assisting the maintenance of the village footpaths was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Turner would produce a list of equipment needed for footpath maintenance. The Clerk discussed the £25,000 quote for the culvert near All Saints. It was agreed that the cost was prohibitive but the cost demonstrated that no road / drainage repairs were appropriate given the quantum of CIL monies held.

It was agreed that CIL monies were only suitable for the support of the Council's two assets – its allotment sites and the Cricket and that as such only development of these areas was suitable for CIL funds.

13. Update on fencing of parish allotments

Cllr Youngs gave her report on the desire for fencing to be installed at Rattlesden. Council agreed that appropriate consultations with residents showed no objections to the erection of fencing at Rattlesden Road. Suggested budget is £3,000.

Cllr Selvey requested a vote to approve that the PC moves to the next stage and applies for planning permission for the erection of the fencing on the Rattlesden Road allotment site. Cllrs Elnaugh and Emery voted against, Cllr Robinson abstained as an allotment holder on Gedding Road and Cllr Youngs declared an interest and was ineligible to vote. Cllrs Turner and the Chair voted in favour – the Chair's vote in favour as a casting vote carried the motion and it was agreed to apply to Mid-Suffolk for planning consent. Cllr Selvey reminded the councillors that the PC would look foolish proceeding to planning and incurring planning fees if we were later not to agree to finance the fencing.

It was agreed that the Council would seek planning permission and that the Allotments Charity would fund the cost. Total planning cost is £146.50.

It was noted that the proposed fencing on Gedding Road not a foregone conclusion and that appropriate consultation and planning consent would be required before the Council could vote on use of CIL monies.

Cllrs Elnaugh and Robinson complained about the behaviour of certain members of the allotment steering committee in that they believed their conduct was underhand and that the manner in which the committee conducted its affairs was neither visible nor inclusive. They requested that their concerns be minuted.

14. Public comment or questions on any matter of Council business.

There were no questions raised.

15. It was confirmed that the scheduled date for the next meeting is agreed by Council as Monday, March 3rd at 8pm.

16. Close the meeting

Drinkstone Parish Clerk

Signed Chair

3rd March 2025