

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 8.00pm

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

Clerk: Michael Walton.

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of interest:
 - 2.1. There were no Members' Declarations of and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items other than payments to Janet Elnaugh and the Clerk.
 - 2.2. There were no requests for dispensations.
3. Reports from District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk.

3.1. Cllr Penny Otton County Councillor

Cllr Otton referenced the abolishment of the three-tier system with a plan for Suffolk to have one unitary council. It was expected that larger boroughs such as Ipswich would counter the proposal.

Cllr Otton referred to planned changes to the management of libraries -County Cllrs were not informed of the plans prior to press announcements. Commitment made that no mobile nor other libraries would be closed.

3.2. Nicky Willshire Ward Member

Cllr Willshire referenced the devolution debate and the many varied opinions from different councils. She reported that building targets may be cascaded from areas where they cannot develop to adjoining councils to pick up any building shortfall. Significant building expectations on Suffolk. Expected timeline for conclusion is August 2025 – the minister will have the final say. Cllr Willshire recommended that the PC review its neighbourhood plan which was issued in May 2021. There remains a need for “call for

sites” to hit the government’s building targets. Cllr Willshire reported on changes to planning notifications where pressure would be put on parish councils to report planning applications to parishioners.

3.3. Janet Elnaugh/Daphne Youngs Planning

No report

3.4. Paul Selvey Highways

No update to the report. Cllr Selvey reported on the state of potholes where Suffolk have amended their processes of repairing “embryonic” potholes – the policy is clearly failing and the material used is not fit for purpose.

3.5. Alice Robinson Village assets and allotments

No development on Gedding Road plans for fencing.

3.6. Malcolm Turner Footpaths

No update. Cllr Turner reported that he had researched new equipment for management of the footpaths – costs were approximately £300 per device.

3.7. Christine Emery Community engagement

No update. Easter trail will be managed by Cllrs Elnaugh and Robinson. “Drinkstone’s got talent” cancelled and there may be a Halloween disco.

3.8. Clerk report

Clerk reported on previous distributed documents. No update.

4. The minutes of the meeting held 10th February 2025 were agreed.

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

There were no questions raised by the parishioners.

6. Payments for authorisation were agreed:

	Description	£
UT1	Suffolk Cloud	420.00
UT2	Clerk planning application fee	146.50
UT3	Clerk postage fee	5.20
UT4	Phil Graves Cricket works	175.00
UT4	Parkers Pitches	1044.00
UT5	Defibrillator	2,695.00
UT6	Elnaugh – compost for the Cricket	110.88
UT6	Elan SID	3,503.62

Cllr Selvey requested approval for the above and they were unanimously approved.

7. Planning requests

Planning application - DC/25/00593 - The Old Rectory, The Street, Drinkstone, Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP30 9SR

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

8. The CIL request for play equipment was discussed. Cllr Robinson explained the merits of the two quotations and recommended that Playdale be appointed. Playdale have previously supplied play equipment which was of excellent quality.

The Councillors unanimously voted that Playdale be appointed to develop the playground and the Clerk was instructed to inform them of the contract.

9. The erection of muntjac fencing was discussed. It was agreed that the Council apply to MSDC for planning permission. It was agreed that the Council pay the cost of the application and that the Allotment charity reimburse the Council. Two quotations for the work were reviewed and the Council voted unanimously to appoint Sapphire to complete the works at a cost of £2,960. It was agreed to inform Sapphire of the decision and the order be given once planning permission is

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received.

10. The Council discussed the setting of rents for the allotments. Cllr Youngs informed the Council that the Allotment Policy stated that rate setting be conducted at the same time as the annual budget is set i.e December. It was agreed to defer this discussion until December 2025.

Cllr Selvey requested that all policies be reviewed at the next council meeting and the clerk was instructed to distribute all council policies.

review all policies.

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

There were no questions raised.

12. It was confirmed that the scheduled date for the next meeting is agreed by Council as Wednesday, May 7th at 8pm.

13. Close the meeting

Drinkstone Parish Clerk

Signed Chair

7th May 2025