

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2025

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

Clerk: Michael Walton.

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. There were no declarations of interest:
 - 2.1. To receive any Members' Declarations of and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items.
 - 2.2. To receive requests for dispensations.
3. The District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk submitted their reports.
 1. Cllr Penny Otton County Councillor

 No update on that distributed.
 There is a governance review being undertaken on local parishes.
 Grants are available to help those parishioners that need financial support.
 2. Nicky Willshere Ward Member

 Call for sites mentioned by Cllr Wilshere, deadline January 2026. The Local Government review coincides with plans for a Unitary authority. Once call for sites is completed a consultation will be held on the merits of the request. This may well then trigger new settlement boundaries however it was noted that Drinkstone has very limited facilities.

 A question was raised about the potential for large CIL monies becoming available if there is a building programme in the village. It was noted that there would be discussion between the PC and the developers as to what infrastructure may be needed and how the PC can influence the CIL spend.
 3. Janet Elnaugh Planning

 No update.
 4. Paul Selvey Highways

 Report noted. Broken drain cover on Park Road is due to be completed in financial year 2026/7. It was noted that plastic barriers have been secured to the metal white railings at Blacksmith Corner – due to be repaired within 14 weeks.

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Ref flooding at the bottom of the Rectory – Suffolk Highways referred to Environment Agency who both said that we should consult with the landowners under riparian rights.

5. Alice Robinson Village assets and allotments

Report noted. Defib pads are renewed and software is updated. Expression of interest for villagers to be trained in first aid.

6. Malcolm Turner Footpaths

Report noted. Footpaths clear but a tree has fallen down at Burt's Farm.

7. Christine Emery Community engagement

No update to report. Children's party to take place in mid December.

8. Clerk report

Noted

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2025 were received and approved.

5. There was no public comment or question from the parishioners.

6. Cllr Selvey proposed that following receipts be noted and that the payment below be approved

6.1. Receipts

UT1	Mid Suffolk precept	5,427.50
UT2	CIL receipt	187.50
UT3	Savings account interest	132.13

6.2 Payments

UT1	Sapphire Forestry – previously approved. RR	3,552.00
UT2	PJ Selvey – basketball nets – previously approved	269.21
UT3	Defib support	198.00
UT4	Sapphire Forestry RR – previously approved	3,546.00

UT5	Top Garden Services 3058	97.04
UT6	Top Garden Services 3057	145.56
UT7	Top Garden Services 3056	97.04
UT8	Top Garden Services 3055	97.04
UT9	Top Garden Services 3054	97.04
UT10	Top Garden Services 3053	48.52
UT11	PKF Oversight audit	252.00
UT12	Room hire 4 th August	20.00
UT13	Insurance CAS	510.05
UT14	SALC payroll	54.00

The Council unanimously approved the payments.

7. Review of annual budget for 2026/7.

It was agreed to review the proposal for ratification at the next PC meeting.

CIL report was noted. It was agreed that Cllr Selvey would write to Cllr Willshire to better understand the CIL allocation process. It was agreed to re-allocate the cost of the maintenance equipment to be paid from reserves.

It was agreed that there be no change to the allotment rents for 2026/7.

8. Planning review. Cllr Elnaugh offered no comment on the proposed plan. It was noted that the increased footprint is only 24sq m3 and the development cannot be seen from the road. The meeting voted unanimously to offer no comment.

9. Proposal to balance the ash tree on parish council land at Garden House entrance to the allotments. Agreed unanimously to commit to the expense.

10. Hedge maintenance on Rattlesden Road paddock discussed. It was noted that the current tenant would manage the maintenance. It was agreed that Cllr Turner would liaise with the Michael Lambert to arrange for hedge maintenance at the Rattlesden Road site.

11. Hedge infill. It was agreed to review the number of dead saplings with a view to replacing them – hornbeam had suffered. It was agreed that up to 50 whips of hazel be purchased at a maximum budget of £300.
12. The Council agreed that the date of the next meeting is 1st December 2025 at 8pm.
13. The meeting closed at 21.30pm.

Drinkstone Parish Clerk