

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st December 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 however Nicky Wilshere did not attend.
2. There were no declarations of interest subject to Cllr Selvey:
 - 2.1. There were no Members' Declarations of and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items.
 - 2.2. Requests for dispensations.

Cllr Selvey announced that he is now a trustee of the Wrenn Charity which renders a conflict of interest when the accounts need to be signed off. It was agreed that the Clerk would sign the accounts on behalf of the Council.
3. The District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk submitted their reports.

1. Cllr Penny Otton County Councillor

Dept of Education has confirmed that the Beyton College for 16+ will move to Thurston. Remaining land must be used for education. Timescale is not known, Mid Suffolk planners need to oversee the consent.

Cllr Otton informed the Council that money is available for helping people suffering with poor heating - please tell villagers.

2. Nicky Willshere Ward Member
Report noted
3. Janet Elnaugh Planning
No planning activity
4. Paul Selvey Highways

The Cllrs discussed the proposed repair to the white railings at Blackthorn Corner. It is not clear as to whether Suffolk will pay for the traffic management systems. The clerk was asked to identify who would pay for traffic management systems. It was agreed that Clerk should search for the previous risk assessment. It was agreed that Cllr Selvey contact Matthew Fox to ask what traffic management systems would be required.

5. Alice Robinson Village assets

Cllr Robinson liaising with defib charity to action spider infestation.
50 field maple saplings have been purchased by Cllr Selvey for the Cricket infill.

6. Malcolm Turner Footpaths and allotments

Tree has fallen on Footpath no2 – it is expected that the local farmer will remove. Cllr Selvey has sourced new source of wood chippings from UK Power Networks.

7. Christine Emery Community engagement

19 children are attending the Children's Christmas party.

8. Clerk report

The clerk's report was noted. Drinkstone PC has £24,000 within reserves.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2025 were received and approved.
5. There was no public comment nor questions from the parishioners.
6. Cllr Selvey proposed that following receipts be noted and that the payment below be approved

6.1. Receipts

UT1	Allotment gate contribution and UK Power	251.15
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6.2 Payments

UTI	Clerk salary	250.00
UT2	Banking service charge	6.00
UT3	Stuart Bradnam – tree surgeon	1044.00

The Council unanimously approved the payments.

7. Review of annual budget for 2026/7.

Cllr Selvey proposed that the precept for 2026/27 of £11,336 be approved. The Cllrs unanimously approved the budget and the clerk was asked to submit the approval to Babergh and Mid-Suffolk.

8. The Council agreed that the date of the next meeting is 2nd February 2026 at 8pm.

9. The meeting closed at 21.00pm.

Drinkstone Parish Clerk