

# **DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

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

Apologies: Cllr Turner

Clerk: Michael Walton.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Turner.
2. There were no declarations of interest:
  - 2.1. There were no Members' Declarations of and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items.
  - 2.2. Requests for dispensations.  
There were no requests for dispensations
3. It was noted that Cllr Elnaugh resigned from the Parish Council after 6 years of service. The Chair offered his thanks on behalf of the Council for her significant contribution to the parish and particularly her efforts on planning matters.
4. The District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk submitted their reports.
  - 4.1. Cllr Penny Otton            County Councillor  
No addition to her submitted report.
  - 4.2. Nicky Willshere            Ward Member  
Budgets are set in January/February at Mid Suffolk. This is after the parish councils have had their precept agreed.
  - 4.3. Janet Elnaugh            Planning  
No planning matters have arisen.
  - 4.4. Paul Selvey                Highways  
Cllr Selvey has put out a call for a painting team to work at Blacksmith's Corner. 2 responses to date. A volunteer to go on the National Highways course to understand traffic management and safety for public works. Cllr Selvey raised the matter of working with volunteers and local contractors to resolve the situation of flooding near the Church.

It was agreed to prepare a report for the next Parish Council meeting to discuss a plan of action.

4.5. Alice Robinson Village assets

No update other than issues over dog fouling at the Cricket. Cllr Robinson indicated that she was planning to prepare a Lottery Fund application to enable further development of the children's play equipment at the Cricket.

4.6. Malcolm Turner Footpaths and allotments

No update other than it was noted that an electric fence was essential to protect the cattle from dog fouling on the fields between Woolpit and Drinkstone.

Allotments update – Leon Bishop has employed a contractor to cut back the hedging on his field.

4.7. Christine Emery Community engagement

No update.

4.8. Clerk report

The clerk's report was noted.

The issues of rewilding the land on Rattlesden Road was discussed and the clerk was asked to contact Richard Parmee to ask whether it was a call for re-wilding sites.

5. The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 were received and approved.

6. There was no public comment nor questions from the parishioners.

7. Cllr Selvey proposed that the following payments below be approved

7.1. Payments

UTI	Expenses – Paul Selvey	52.56
UT2	Microsoft subscription	84.99
UT3	Clerk's expenses	50.00
UT4	Peter Holborn expenses	21.95

The Council unanimously approved the payments.

8. Call for sites

It was noted that three sites had been offered by parishioners for potential development.

8.1. Field adjacent to village hall

8.2. Corner of Cross Street

8.3. Plot behind Street Farm

It was noted that all these sites are outside the settlement boundary.

No action agreed at this stage however the PC would monitor any updates.

9. The Council agreed that the date of the next meeting is 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 8pm.

10. The meeting closed at 21.00pm.

Signed

Paul Selvey

13<sup>th</sup> April 2026