

**DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held on 31st March 2023**

**Present: Councillors: Richard Edmondson (Chair), Penny Otton, Michael Lambert, Janet Elnaugh and Peter Holborn**

**Clerk: Michael Walton**

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Moss and Emery.
2. Declarations and interests:
  - a. No pecuniary interests were noted.
  - b. There were no other declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda their nature, including gifts of hospitality exceeding £25.
  - c. There were no requests for dispensations.
  - d. There were no additions and/or deletions to the Council's Register of Interests.
3. The Council agreed that the Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 are a true record.
4. There were no public comment or questions from the public.
5. The following payments were approved:

	Description	£
UT1.	Drinkstone War memorial	20.00
UT2.	Clerk's salary	500.00

## 6. Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Joint Local Plan Modifications Consultation

Cllr Holborn reported that the modifications were incorrect and that the settlement boundaries as recorded on the Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan are not shown on the Mid-Suffolk plan.

It was agreed that Cllr Holborn and the clerk would respond on the Suffolk online portal to record the fact that the boundaries had been incorrectly excluded.

## 7. MSDC Planning Consultation Request - DC/23/01136 – The Old Rectory, The Street.

Cllr Elnaugh submitted her report. It was noted that the application had strong merits in terms of design, natural materials, use of solar to enhance sustainability. The applicant had engaged in significant consultation with the appropriate bodies. Cllr Elnaugh reported that at a site visit with Cllr Holborn to review the proposed development the applicant informed the councillors that the siting of the building was specifically at the request of Historic England.

Cllr Elnaugh reported that additional maps had been received from the applicant which clearly showed that the siting of the proposed extension would be outside the settlement boundary.

The applicant was in attendance and reported that:

Historic England had made a positive pre-application response, that they were comfortable with the proposed siting and scale of the building, that the suggested use of materials was appropriate and that they had no objection to the application.

The applicants, when asked, stated the settlement boundary had not come up in previous discussions with the various bodies.

The Chair reported that any decision had to ensure a consistent response to previous applications to and to avoid any future precedents if this application was not considered within the existing planning rules.

The application was put to a vote. Three councillors objected to the consultation request and two councillors abstained.

The clerk was instructed to object to the request on the planning portal.

8. The village memorial policy was discussed. Cllr Selvey submitted his proposed policy. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the policy for all future memorial requests.

Cllr Edmondson indicated that, given the age profile of Drinkstone residents, it was probable that a number of memorial requests would be forthcoming in the next few years and that rigid adherence to this policy would be required.

9. The memorial request of Ms Beverley Cunningham, tabled at the previous meeting, was discussed. The view of the parish council was that this specific request did not satisfy the criteria and voted unanimously to reject the request.

The Clerk was instructed to inform the applicant of the council's decision.

10. Cllr Edmondson offered his sincere thanks to Cllr Penny Otton who has retired from MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL but will continue as Drinkstone's Suffolk county councillor. The clerk was requested to send flowers as a mark of the Council's gratitude for her support for Drinkstone in the many years that she has represented the parish.

11. There was no further public comment or questions on any matter of Council business.

12. It was confirmed that the scheduled date for the next meeting will be Monday 15th May 2023.

13. The meeting closed at 20.40 hours

Signed Paul Selvey

15<sup>th</sup> May 2023