

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual parish council meeting held on 15th May 2023

Present: Councillors: Richard Edmondson, Penny Otton, Christine Emery, Nicky Wilshere, Paul Selvey.

CLLrs Turner and Robinson were co-opted during the meeting.

Clerk: Michael Walton

1. Election of the new Chair. The CLLrs voted unanimously to elect Paul Selvey as Chair, Cllr Elnaugh offered her vote by proxy.
2. Declarations and interests:
 - a. There were no members' declarations of/and Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items.
 - b. There were no requests for dispensations.
 - c. It was noted that the Register of Interests for all councillors be submitted.
 - d. Election expense forms – all NIL – were submitted by the councillors.
3. Apologies for absence from Cllr Elnaugh were noted.
4. The council voted unanimously to co-opt Malcolm Turner and Alice Robinson as councillors to fill election vacancies. It was noted that one position remains unfilled.
5. The roles of the councillors for the forthcoming year were discussed and it was agreed that the responsibilities for 23/24 would be:

Janet Elnaugh	Planning
Paul Selvey	Highways
Alice Robinson	Village assets and allotments
Malcolm Turner	Footpaths
Christine Emery	Community engagement
Peter Holborn	Tree warden (this is a voluntary role and not a role for a councillor)

Cllr Edmondson offered to assist Cllrs Robinson and Turner in their new roles to enable handover.

6. Reports were received from Penny Otton and the Clerk.
 - 6.1. Cllr Otton reported that a longstanding school governor vacancy remains unfilled at Thurston Community College and requested that we announce the vacancy in Jungle Drums
 - 6.2. Cllr Otton reported that significant increase in traffic in Beyton and Drinkstone was generated as a result of the roadworks on the A14 towards Stowmarket. Cllr Otton advised that we take this up with Highways England to attempt to ensure traffic is diverted from the village.
 - 6.3. Cllr Wilshere introduced herself - as well as her role as a district councillor Cllr Wilshere is the CEO of Ipswich Citizens Advice,
 - 6.4. The clerk delivered the annual accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023. He reported that the current bank balance stands at £21,000 with a further £2,000 due from VAT return and locality grants awarded but not received.
7. The Council approved the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 31st March 2023 are a true record.
8. Comments were invited from the public and comment was made to thank the council for the new welcome gates in the village and the planting of the daffodils.
9. The following payments were approved:

	Description	£
UT1.	Drinkstone War memorial 15 th May	20.00
UT2.	Clerk's salary	250.00

UT3.	Mid Suffolk - litter bins	366.37
UT4	Top Garden Services	84.00
UT5.	SALC subscription	293.39
UT6.	Clerk expenses	80.00
UT7.	Christine Emery – fete	147.11

10. MSDC Planning Consultation Request - DC/22/06196 – Abbots Lodge

Cllr Elnaugh's report was reviewed, and it was unanimously agreed that there were no objections. The Clerk was asked to update the portal.

11. MSDC Planning Consultation Request - DC/23/01784 – High Barn

Cllr Elnaugh's report was reviewed, and it was unanimously agreed that there were no objections. The Clerk was asked to update the portal.

12. Further public comment or questions on any matter of Council business.

The Clerk reported that there is a new campaign to limit the speed limit in villages to 20mph. It was agreed to table the discussion at the next council meeting. The Clerk was requested to see whether funding might be available to pay for changing of signs and road marking were the council to support the initiative.

It was noted that a Council plan be drawn up for the next 12 months and that this be scheduled for the next meeting.

It was noted that following a change in the council members, a new bank mandate was required to remove retiring councillors and add incoming councillors. To be agreed at the next council meeting.

New email addresses and Whatsapp membership be given to new councillors.

Richard Edmondson gave a vote of thanks, as retiring chair, to the work and commitment of the retiring councillors.

The issue of dog fouling was raised. It was agreed that the first steps towards reducing the problem would be to maintain the footpaths to remove new growth on the verges – this might reduce the amount of fouling since it would be more visible.

13. It was confirmed that the scheduled date for the next meeting will be June 5th 2023.

14. The meeting closed at 20.50 hours

Signed Paul Selvey

19th June 2023