

**Minutes of a meeting of the Drinkstone Parish Council  
held on**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall, Gedding Road, IP30 9SZ**

1. Apologies for absence from Richard Edmondson and Nicky Willshere were noted and approved.
2. Declarations of interest:
  - 2.1. There were no Members' Declarations of and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items.
  - 2.2. There were no requests for dispensations.
3. The Council received reports from District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk.

Specific areas of interest in addition to their reports were:

- |    |                  |                               |
|----|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Cllr Penny Otton | District Member               |
| 2. | Nicky Willshere  | Ward Member                   |
| 3. | Janet Elnaugh    | Planning                      |
| 4. | Paul Selvey      | Highways                      |
| 5. | Alice Robinson   | Village assets and allotments |
| 6. | Malcom Turner    | Footpaths                     |

Cllr Otton offered her apologies for the forthcoming meeting of 7th August 2023.

Cllr Robinson reported that there was a requirement to vote for a new Chairperson of the Trustees of the allotments. Eligible trustees were Michael Lambert and Daphen Young. The clerk was requested to arrange a vote of the allotment holders to elect a new Chairperson.

It was noted the allotment holders have cleared the communal plot and the wild patch remains untouched.

The Clerk reported that Daphne Young had requested the accounts for the allotments for the previous three years and that these had been supplied.

Cllr Selvey noted that the areas around the village signs / gates had overgrown and that they were no longer visible to road users. The Clerk was requested to get a quotation from Top Garden Services to arrange for seasonal cutting of the four areas being the Rattlesde, Beyton, Woolpit and Gedding Road signs.

Cllr Turner reported that there had been a number of complaints about the height of the newly installed stile on Rattlesden Road, footpath 16. There was additional concern that the area to the side of the gate did not allow access for dogs and that, in the event of the field gate being locked, dogs would not be able to pass through. The Council requested that Cllr Turner and the Clerk meet with the owner, Mr Fiddes, to request that the gate is left open at all times or, alternatively, that the stile be reduced in height and an area be cut open to allow access for dogs.



to ensure that if any action is taken it is co-ordinated with surrounding parishes. The Clerk was to request that the concerns be shared with Suffolk CC Highways and National Highways.

A number of suggestions were made as to how it might be possible to improve traffic flow:

The deployment of signage to Woolpit Road and Beyton Road reminding drivers that they are entering a residential area. Signage to adequately cover the range of hazards that exist, our suggestions being:

- i) Slow. Pedestrians of all ages and there being no footpaths
- ii) Slow. Concealed entrances
- iii) Slow Horses and riders
- iv) Roads unsuitable for HGVs
- v) Narrow roads with limited passing places
- vi) Slow. Works access (at two new building plots on Beyton Road)
- vii) Slow. Bus stops

These suggestions to be included in the letter to Cllr Otton.

7. The Council discussed the campaign "20s plenty" to see whether its introduction would benefit the village. The Clerk noted that he had made a request for villagers to attend the debate but that to date no-one had chosen to participate in the conversations.

The general consensus of Councillors was whilst there was merit in an overall speed reduction in the village from 30mph to 20mph an inability to enforce the restrictions and an inability to police speeding through the length of the village made its adoption unlikely to reduce overall speed levels.

It was noted the impact of having a 20mph limit might change the overall mindset of drivers however any successful adoption of the scheme would require certain zones to be introduced rather than to have a mandatory limit throughout the length of the village. Significant evidence would be required to support the initiative and new SIDs and posts would be expensive. It was agreed to continue the debate at the following two parish council meetings on 7<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

Cllr Selvey agreed to explore the costs of an additional SID by the Gedding Road allotments.

8. To confirm that the scheduled date for the next meeting is agreed by Council as Monday, August 7th, 2023 at 8pm.
9. Close the meeting

Signed: Paul Selvey, Chair

7<sup>th</sup> August 2023