

5. Alice Robinson Allotments and village assets

Cllr Robinson reported that the village defibrillator had been serviced and repaired. Repairs to the playground equipment are being budgeted once a report is received from the inspection team.

6. Malcom Turner Footpaths

No additional comments but new dog pin post requested on Chapel Lane. Discussed a new trench near Duncan Hannant's property. It was agreed that this matter be raised with Peter Holborn, tree warden. Tree work on Rattlesden Road can be used from Cedar Cottage.

7. Christine Emery Community engagement

Adult Christmas Party has been cancelled. 14 children and 13 adults will attend the Children's Christmas Party. April 7th agreed for the percussionist. No immediate plans for a party for older children.

8. Clerk report

Budget of £10,000 agreed for financial year 2024/2025.

Cllr Selvey and the clerk signed the precept form.

It was noted that Drinkstone has 5 years to spend its CIL allocation of £11,700.

Purchase of a new laptop – budget £700 inc VAT – was agreed.

4. There was no support to assume the role of Vice-Chair. It was agreed to step up the recruitment of additional councillors.

5. The minutes of the meeting held 16th October 2023 were reviewed and three changes requested. Revised minutes were agreed were approved and signed by Paul Selvey.

6. Comments from the public:

Louise Sharp informed the council that the A14 traffic is now both morning and evening – this is a change to previous traffic flow where the problems have largely been an evening rush hour issue. Speed is not the primary concern but rather the sheer volume of traffic.

It was suggested to invite someone from National Highways to review the state of the verges. Cllr Selvey to ask Penny Otton on how to progress.

7. The month's bank transactions and the latest bank reconciliation were reviewed and approved by the Chair.

a. The following payments were reviewed and approved for payments.

	Description	£
UT1	Village Hall hire 4 th December 2023	20.00

8. The planning matters were reviewed, and Cllr Elnaugh gave her report. It was agreed that there were no issues with the consultations:

DC/23/3599	Brookside – bungalow extension. Agreed to post no comment on planning portal.
DC/23/02296	Holm House, Garden Lane. Agreed to post no comment on planning portal.

The Clerk was requested to update the portal with “no comment”.

9. To confirm that the scheduled date for the next meeting is agreed by Council as Monday, February 5th, 2023, at 8pm.

10. Close the meeting.

Signed: Paul Selvey, Chair

4th February 2024