

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th August 2025

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

Clerk: Michael Walton.

1. Apology for absence from Cllr Emery was noted and approved.
2. There were no declarations of interest:
 - 2.1. To receive any Members' Declarations of and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items.
 - 2.2. To receive requests for dispensations.
3. Development on Cross Street. Jamie Ferguson representing Stuart Nice.

The original application for a house was pre neighbourhood plan – 2017. Permission granted. The house sat within the boundary. The 2021 neighbourhood plan was agreed and submitted however the boundary was incorrectly drawn up. The error noted by the working party but Mid Suffolk Council indicated that an adopted plan cannot be adjusted.

A second application for the proposed dwelling to manage underground cabling and drainage issues was submitted. This took the application outside the boundaries and was rejected.

A third plan was submitted to avoid the underground issues however this was rejected because it is still outside the settlement boundaries, albeit they are incorrect.

It was agreed that the action is to wait for the District Council Local Plan to review the boundaries and that no action can be taken by the Drinkstone Parish Council.

The Neighbourhood Plan can only be resubmitted once the Joint Neighbourhood Plan is produced.

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4. The District and County Council Ward Members & Clerk submitted their reports.

1. Cllr Penny Otton County Councillor

New recycling depot for food waste will be set up next year.
Cllr Otton noted that fire extinguishers need checking – to be referred to the Village Hall committee.
There may be elections for the County Council for a term of only 12 months, originally deferred because of the local government review.
2. Nicky Willshere Ward Member

Local government review covered two options for devolution that has been sent to the minister for review. Decision to be taken in Q4 2025.
Two new grant fund available both supporting Rural support for local businesses and net infrastructure projects.
3. Janet Elnaugh Planning

No report
4. Paul Selvey Highways

Potholes on Park Road part of a two-part scheme to repair the roads. Culvert request had been forgotten. Cllr Selvey to request that the stream outside the Rectory to be dredged.
5. Alice Robinson Village assets and allotments

No update on the Cricket. Football nets partially replaced. Slide access being replaced and repaired.

Opportunity to offer first aid training on the defib – training to be held in the village hall. The electrical supply remains live. Cllr Selvey has approached National Power Grid to resolve.
6. Malcolm Turner Footpaths

No footpath report.
7. Christine Emery Community engagement

No update.

8. Clerk report

Correct AGAR submitted. The council unanimously agreed that the form be approved. The clerk noted that the form had been submitted in mid-July.

5. The minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2025 were received and approved.
6. There was no public comment or question from the parishioners.
7. Cllr Selvey recommended the following payments to be approved.

UT1	Poo Bin collection	705.10
UT2	Village hall hire 11/06 and 30/06	40.00

The Council unanimously approved the payments.

8. Allotment fencing

It was proposed that one-metre-high fencing be erected on the inside of the hedge at the Gedding Road site – 2 sides of the triangle. Third side is already fenced. Muntjac have devastated the plants not the vegetables so fencing is much needed. A discussion on whether the Parish Council could fund a cull - it was agreed that the council could not use general reserves to kill the muntjac. Allotment holders indicated that fencing would serve as a deterrent rather than being foolproof. The fencing has assisted acting as a deterrent on Rattlesden Road. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with a budget of £2,750.

9. Cllr Selvey requested funds for new basketball boards - £275. Unanimously agreed.
£150 requested for repairs to the slides – unanimously agreed.
10. It was unanimously agreed to pay for tree cutting on Rattlesden Road - budget £590. Clerk requested to ask for locality funding to assist with the expense.
11. The Council agreed to change the date of the next meeting is 3rd November 2025 at 8pm.
12. The meeting closed at 21.20pm.

Drinkstone Parish Clerk