

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

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall, Gedding Road, IP30 9SZ**

1. Apologies for absence from Nicky Wilshere were noted and approved.
2. Declarations of interest:
  - 2.1. Malcom Turner disclosed an interest in Agenda item 8.2 and agreed to withdraw from any debate on the matter. There were no other 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.

Areas of specific areas of interest in addition to the reports submitted for review:

1. Cllr Penny Otton                      County Councillor

Cllr Otton discussed the potential uses of the CIL grant that has been awarded to Drinkstone. She advised that capital expenditure is key. She indicated that other recipients had considered, inter alia, a jubilee wood, improvements to allotments, children's play areas etc. Cllr Otton raised the idea of asking the parishioners. It was agreed that this would be actioned.

2. Nicky Wilshere                      Mid-Suffolk District Councillor
3. Janet Elnaugh                      Planning – see Agenda item 8.
4. Paul Selvey                          Highways
5. Malcom Turner                      Footpaths

It was noted that the new numbering system on the footpaths was a material improvement

6. Christine Emery                      Community engagement

Cllr Emery reported that 8 children had accepted the invitation to the Children's Christmas Party. It was agreed to consider additional initiatives targeting older children before the party is cancelled.

The council agreed, in principle, to fund the percussionist Jordan Ashman - [Jordan Ashman – Percussion](#). It was noted that the PCC has, within its powers, the ability to support the Arts and that this was an appropriate activity.

Cllr Emery requested that permission to spend £225 on the Children's Xmas Party be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Clerk report

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 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were approved and signed by Paul Selvey.
6. Comments from the public:

Peter Holborn reported that he had been approached by Bartrum Tree Farm to donate trees to the village. A suitable area would be the corner of Garden House Lane. It was agreed that the next agenda should include a debate about other areas.

It was noted that we have yet to receive a our quota of trees from the Woodland Trust.

7. The month's bank transactions and the latest bank reconciliation were reviewed and approved by the Chair.
  - a. The following receipts were noted

	Description	£
UT1	2 <sup>nd</sup> precept	5021.00
UT2	Repayment of clerk salary	250.00

- b. The following payments were reviewed and approved for payments.

	Description	£
UT1	Village hall hire 16 <sup>th</sup> October	20.00
UT3	Top Garden Services 1789	92.40
UT4	Ansvar insurance	384.95
UT5	Suffolk election expenses	137.51
UT6	Adobe annual subscription	239.64
UT7	Payroll provision	54.00

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

DC/23/04387	no comment
DC/23/04183	no comment
DC/23/04194	no comment
DC/23/04637	no comment
DC/23/04787	it was agreed that an inspection of the trees be conducted on 21 <sup>st</sup> October with a working party of Cllrs Elnaugh, Selvey and Peter Holborn – tree warden. The clerk was instructed to update the portal with the findings of the inspection.

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

9. A discussion over the agreement to support the “20s plenty” campaign and establish a 20mph within the village was held. This was the third meeting where the matter was discussed. Cllr Otton reported that the campaign is a highly politicised area and that Suffolk CC were not particularly supportive.

It was agreed that it would be impossible to enforce and hence would have no impact on vehicle speeds – it was noted that the current SIDs act only as a marginal deterrent.

The PCC agreed that it would not support the initiative.

The council noted concerns were raised about the overall level of speed in the village, the increasing numbers of HGVs and road limits around hot spots such as Cangles Lane, the road around Clay House and lorries on Rattlesden Road. The council agreed that Cllr Selvey should write the following to Cllr Otton to request support for traffic calming:

From Cllr Selvey:

“The Parish of Drinkstone has experienced a worsening of traffic in recent years. This is as a result of the general development and increase in population in the surrounding areas of Woolpit and Rattlesden, and also Drinkstone itself. The village is significantly used as a route for commuters and has also experienced a considerable increase in home delivery services.

We would like to propose changes to speed limits as follows.

1. Rattlesden Road. The 30mph zone currently begins near Garden House Lane. The Council proposes that it be extended to just south of Southern Acre, that being the first property as one enters the village. At present 6 properties sit outside the 30mph zone and are arranged in a dense cluster. In addition to the 6 properties there are two paddocks where horse owners regularly visit to tend to their horses. Also Footpath-21 crosses Rattlesden Road in a dog leg fashion; the route towards Clopton Green joining the road some 30m north of the point at which the Gedding stretch joins. The point at

which the footpath intersects the road is quite a blind bend. Changing this stretch of road to 30mph would considerably improve the safety for the 6 residents accessing their homes, and the horse owners accessing their paddocks and many footpath walkers.

2. Gedding Road. The 30mph zone currently starts near the entrance to Drinkstone House. The Council proposes that it be extended to just south east of Hall Farm, that being the first property as one enters the village. At present 5 properties sit outside the 30mph zone and their entrances are arranged closely together. There is also a working farm that shares the same entrance to some of the properties. The entrance to properties is on a very sharp 90 degree bend which renders visibility when turning into the properties very difficult. Additionally Footpath-4 intersects Gedding Road outside the 30mph zone in a dog leg fashion requiring walkers to walk along the highway for 30m and our proposal would move this intersection to within the 30mph zone.

3. Beyton Road. The 30mph zone currently starts near Shortgate where two new houses are under construction thus eliminating what little margin there currently is between the start of the 30mph zone and the first property. The Council notes that a temporary extension of the 30mph speed limit will be put in place as far as Clay House in order to address safety concerns attributed to the increased commuter traffic avoiding the A14 roadworks. The Council proposes that either this temporary extension become permanent or it become a 40mph lead in, thus reducing average speeds in preparation for the downhill approach to the more densely populated area of the village. This proposal is combined with proposal 4 below.

4. Woolpit Road. The 30mph zone currently starts just before Rectory Cottage. The Council proposes that a 40mph lead in zone be created to assist traffic in slowing down on this downhill section as it approached the more densely populated area.

5. Gedding Road, Village Hall, Chapel Lane Corner through to Green Close. Chapel Lane corner is particularly dangerous being at the bottom of a dip, approached by downhill sections of road from both sides and being quite narrow. Chapel Lane is a particularly difficult junction to emerge from, whether it be turning left or right. The properties between Chapel Lane Corner and Cherry Tree Rise have a high proportion of on street parking. Vehicles often accelerate to 'beat' oncoming traffic, rather than give way to traffic when passing parked cars. A recent MVA (circa August 2023) involved a speeding car hitting a parked car on this stretch. Both Gedding Road, Cherry Tree Rise and Green Close are popular with young families and is a busy School Bus pick up point. Cherry Tree Rise gives access to the local recreation ground (The Cricket) which has children's play equipment, basketball and football facilities. The Village Hall is one of the most frequented venues in the village, used by villagers of all generations with events during the day and the evening. Apart from a short stretch (on just one side from Field Close to Cherry Tree Rise) the majority of this route does not benefit from a pavement. A footpath emerges onto Gedding Road directly opposite Cherry Tree Rise. This road does not benefit from street lighting. The Council proposes that this stretch of Gedding Road be reduced to 20mph to improve road safety for this narrow, unlit, yet busy stretch of road, which has high pedestrian usage.

6. Cross Street. Cross Street is a very narrow road, virtually single track, where residents use each other's driveways as unofficial passing places. The village recreation ground opens out on to Cross Street without any physical barrier. Anecdotally, residents are good at driving at a sensible speed, and typically a sensible speed would be well below 30mph, more likely 20mph. (Once again) anecdotally, delivery drivers tend to race along Cross Street to catch up on their schedules. The Council proposes to make the stretch of road that is open to the recreation ground 20mph. Alternatively it may be easier to make the whole length of the road 20mph.

10. The Gigaclear Ultrafast broadband network proposal was discussed.

Gigaclear is tasked with delivering ultrafast broadband in rural areas. It was noted that broadband varied around the village with good delivery in Gedding Road but poor service near the church.

No planning permission would be required and existing infrastructure would be used. Gigaclear plan to be ready to start the process in Q2 2024 or within six months of that. Gigaclear pay all costs and the consumer pays Gigaclear once delivered. Concerns were raised that Gigaclear might have monopoly pricing and that they might price the product at the low end to gain traction but then raise prices once delivered.

It was noted that the Government has a commitment to remove ISDN by 2025 and that the Gigaclear initiative might be redundant.

Cllr Turner was asked to hold a meeting with Gigaclear in 2024.

11. The receipt of the CIL grant of £11,782 was noted. It was agreed that use of these funds be discussed at the next meeting.

12. To confirm that the scheduled date for the next meeting is agreed by Council as Monday, December 4th, 2023 at 8pm.

13. Close the meeting.

Signed: Paul Selvey, Chair

4<sup>th</sup> December 2023