

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at
Drinkstone Village Hall on
Monday 2nd November 2026

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Selvey, Cllr Walton, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Emery, Cllr Turner, Cllr Jones Cllr Willshere, Cllr Bentley

In Attendance: Clerk: Mrs Angela Maloney
Two Members of the Public

1) **To receive apologies for absence**
None had been received

2) **To receive Declarations of interest:**
None had been received

3) **To receive Applications for Dispensation**
None had been received

4) **To Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting**
It was AGREED: that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th September 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5) **To receive the County Councillors Report**
Cllr Bentley was present at the meeting, his report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.
Cllr Bentley advised that the chief of the Fire and Rescue Service is due to retire. West Middleton was noted as having a good example of an emergency plan, if other parishes were looking to introduce an emergency plan.
Cllr Selvey reported no guidance had been received from the Fire and Rescue Service since the September fire. Cllr Bentley agreed to follow this up on behalf of the council.
Cllr Bentley also reported that Locality budget funding is available to parishes.

6) **To receive the District Councillors Report**
Cllr Willshere was present at the meeting, her report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.
Cllr Willshere reported that Local government reorganisation was back on. District Council Elections are scheduled for May 2027, followed by Unitary Authority Elections in May 2028.
Cllr Willshere provided an update on the joint local plan. The call for sites had been completed and the SHELAA report identifying available land had been distributed.
Cllr Willshere also reported that Locality budget funding is available to parishes.

7) Public Participation Session

A member of the public (MoP) asked what the proposed planning reforms would mean for the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Selvey advised that no changes would be made to the Neighbourhood Plan until the Local Plan had been agreed.
MoP raised concerns about a farmer spraying a field with white dust on a windy day, asking what chemical was being used, whether there were any associated health risks and whether advance notice should be given when spraying fields adjacent to residential properties.
MoP also asked whether the Parish Council could designate fields or footpaths where advance notification of spraying should be required.
Cllr Selvey noted that no other residents had raised similar concerns.
Action: The Council agreed to contact local farmers to raise residents' concerns regarding agricultural spraying.

A member of the public (MoP) asked whether the Parish Council could consider fundraising for a replacement footbridge if Suffolk County Council (SCC) were likely to take several months or years to deliver a replacement.
Cllr Selvey advised that the site had been surveyed, but SCC had not provided a timescale for replacement.
It was noted that the Parish Council could not install a replacement bridge without engagement from SCC.
Cllr Bentley agreed to follow up on the outstanding Highways issues.
Cllr Bentley advised that a small Highways budget was available which could potentially contribute towards the cost of a replacement bridge.

8) To receive the Clerks Report including the following Financial Matters

a) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting.
It was reported that the balances on the accounts on 2nd November 2026 were as follows:

Current Account	£4,580.59
Savings Account	£26,271.86
Total	**£30,852.45**
General Reserves	£ 24,674.91
CIL Reserves	£4,146.54

b) Payments and Receipts

It was AGREED: That the following payments and receipts be approved:

Payments	Amount	Receipts	Amount
Glasdons Dog Waste Bin	£295.80	Quiz Night Income	£40.00
PKF Littlejohn External Audit Fee	£252.00	Unity Bank Interest	£131.04
Drinkstone War Memorial Quiz Night Hall Hire	£75.00	BMSDC CIL Payment	£225.00
SALC Payroll Fees	£122.40		
Unity Bank Charges	£7.00		
Clerk Salary and PAYE September	£336.00		
Jewson Road Sign Hire	£406.80		
Screwfix – Supplies for Blacksmith Corner Railings Works	£240.53		
Norton Internet Security	£24.99		

Clarkes of Walsham	£55.70		
Clerk Salary and PAYE October	£326.40		
TOTAL	**£2142.62**	**TOTAL**	**£396.04**

c) Finance Report
It was AGREED: That the finance report be approved.

d) Bank Reconciliation
It was AGREED: That the bank reconciliation be approved.

e) Budget Monitoring Report
The budget monitoring report was received.

f) 2027/2028 Draft Budget
The draft budget was discussed. It was suggested that some of the general reserves be allocated to the play area.

It was AGREED: That the draft budget be approved.

g) External Auditors Report

The Council noted receipt of the External Auditor's Report and Certificate (AGAR Section 3) from PKF Littlejohn LLP for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.
The Council noted the recommendations and matters raised by the external auditor.
The Notice of Conclusion of Audit and relevant audit documents had been published in accordance with statutory requirements.
The Council acknowledged that the AGAR had not been completed accurately prior to submission and agreed that the necessary corrections must be made ahead of the next AGAR submission. **Clerk to Action.**

9) Highways

Installation of the traffic speed awareness mount is pending receipt of the underground services report.
SID batteries are now being maintained by volunteers.

10) Village Assets

An email had been circulated via the Drinkstone Information Service regarding fly-tipping in the defibrillator call box.
Dog fouling on the Cricket was raised as a concern.
It was agreed that reminders would be issued through the village newsletter and Drinkstone Information Service.
Action: Cllr Selvey to arrange circulation of the notices.

11) Footpaths and Allotments

Footpaths

Three damaged/missing footpath signposts have been reported via the online reporting map. However, the reports have since disappeared from the map and the signposts remain outstanding.
Action: Matt Bentley to follow up on the outstanding signpost repairs.
Footpath 4: Materials for the handrail have been delivered and installation is scheduled.

Allotments

The Chair of the Allotment Trustees requested details of water usage and copies of the account statements for the previous 12 months.
Action: Cllr Walton to make contact and arrange for the requested information to be provided.

Hessett Footpath

It was noted that historical maps dating back 100 years do not show a connecting footpath between Hessett and Drinkstone.
Action: The landowner to be contacted to clarify the position regarding the footpath.

12) Community Engagement

Nothing to report.

13) Planning

a) Planning Applications

None had been received.

b) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were received and noted.

Ref: DC/26/03081 Alterations, restoration and refurbishment of detached dwelling with associated outhouses at Kingfisher, The Street - Granted

Ref: DC/26/02960 Erection of an extension and a garage at Chesil Cottage, Cross Street - Granted

Ref: DC/26/03361 Fitment of 15 solar panels at Chestnuts, Rattlesden Road – Granted

Ref: DC/26/03362 Listed Building consent for Fitment of 15 solar panels at Chestnuts, Rattlesden Road – Granted

14) Drinkstone Information Funding Request

Drinkstone Information Service is considered an invaluable service and has been proven to be the best method of contacting residents.

It was AGREED: that the council would meet half the cost of the Drinkstone Information Service under S137 Power to spend money on community projects for which there is no other statutory power.

15) Policies Documents and Procedures

It was AGREED: The Reserves Policy be approved.
It was AGREED: The Privacy Notice be approved.
It was AGREED: The Councillor Code of Conduct be approved.

16) Litter Picking

Councillors discussed the possibility of introducing a volunteer scheme.
The Clerk advised that BMSDC would provide the necessary tools.
Action: The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Emery to discuss how the initiative will be taken forward.

17) Fire Service Report

The Fire and Rescue Service report was received and noted. Members commented that the report did not include any practical guidance.

18) Emergency Planning

Cllr Jones presented his report, highlighting fire as the greatest identified risk to Drinkstone.
The Joint Emergency Services Information Protocol (JESIP) app was discussed. Members agreed that a formal emergency plan was not required.
Action: Cllr Jones to produce a shortened version of his report for inclusion in the village newsletter.
It was Agreed: That establishing an emergency WhatsApp group would be beneficial.

19) Matters to be bought to the attention of the Council

None

20) Date of the next meeting

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held on Monday 4th January 2027 at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 21:50pm

Chairman: ..... Dated:.....

DRAFT

Angela Maloney
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