

DRINKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at
Drinkstone Village Hall on
Monday 7th September 2026

Present:
Councillors: Cllr Robinson, Cllr Emery, Cllr Turner, Cllr Jones, Cllr Walton

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

1) The meeting was opened by the Clerk

2) To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Selvey (Chair)

3) To elect a chair for the meeting
Cllr Emery proposed Cllr Robinson, Cllr Jones seconded. All in Favour.
It was AGREED: Cllr Robinson would chair the meeting

4) Co-option of New Councillors
The chair elected to change the order of business to bring forward the co-option.
The Council considered the application received from Michael Walton for co-option to the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Emery that Michael Walton be co-opted to the Council. The motion was carried unanimously, and Michael Walton was duly co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

5) To receive Declarations of interest:
None had been received

6) To receive Applications for Dispensation
None had been received

7) To Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting
It was AGREED: that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th July 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

8) To receive the County Councillors Report
Cllr Bentley was not present at the meeting, his report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

9) To receive the District Councillors Report
Cllr Willshere was not present at the meeting, her report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

10) Public Participation Session

Several members of the public addressed the Council regarding the fire on the 6th September 2026. The excellent response of the Fire Service was widely appreciated, with thanks expressed for the efforts made to protect properties on Cross Street. The creation of a firebreak using a tractor was also recognised and thanks given for the efforts.

A resident proposed that the Parish Council consider developing an emergency plan for the village, including guidance on responding to and recovering from emergencies, particularly given the large areas of combustible material within the parish. Cllr Walton noted that an emergency plan had previously been considered but was not deemed necessary at that time.
Cllr Robinson agreed there may be merit in developing a plan and suggested this be brought forward for discussion at a future meeting.

Residents were reminded to remain vigilant for possible re-ignition and to report any concerns directly to the Fire Service. The Council was also asked to consider issuing a reminder to residents regarding the risks of fires and bonfires during dry periods. The possibility of introducing or applying any relevant byelaws or restrictions was raised and will be researched.

Concern was expressed regarding a possible flare-up and the circumstances surrounding the original fire. Cllr Robinson advised that the cause of the fire should not be assumed until the Fire Service report is received. The Clerk reported that the Fire Service had confirmed an inspection was undertaken at 2pm and that no further inspection was considered necessary at that time. Cllr Jones advised that anyone observing a flare-up should contact the Fire Service immediately.
Further concern was raised by a resident regarding inappropriate fires using accelerants at a property near Cross Street, reportedly undertaken by contractors. The resident was advised to contact Environmental Health regarding the matter.
It was Agreed that Cllr Selvey would speak to the owners of the property and inform them of their gardeners having inappropriate fires.

The Council unanimously recognised and thanked the Fire Service for its excellent work in responding to the incident.

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

a) Clerk's Report

The Clerks report was circulated prior to the meeting and had been noted.
The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 7th September 2026 was £27749.43.
The Insurance Premium was due for renewal; the current provider has provided quotations.
It was AGREED: That the quotation be accepted for three years. **Clerk to Action**
The clerk also reported that the NJC pay award for 2026/27 had been agreed.

b) Payments and Receipts

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

Payments	Amount	**Receipts**	Amount
ElanCity – SID	£2862.00	Resident Quiz Monies	£48.00
BMSDC Bin Emptying	£741.60	Resident Quiz Monies	£48.00
Clerk Expenses	£119.82	Resident Quiz Monies	£48.00
Clerk Salary	£117.33	Resident Quiz Monies	£48.00
Heelis & Lodge Audit	£245.00	Resident Quiz Monies	£48.00
TOPS Garden Services	£48.52	Resident Quiz Monies	£48.00
TOPS Garden Services	£145.56	Resident Quiz Monies	£96.00
TOPS Garden Services	£97.04	Precept	£5668.00
TOPS Garden Services	£97.04		
TOPS Garden Services	£97.04		
Hall Hire	£20.00		

Clerk Salary & Paye	£316.80		
TOTAL	£4907.75	TOTAL	£6052.00

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.

12) Highways

Cllr Selvey provided his report prior to the meeting.

SID Post – Woolpit Road

The application for the SID post has been submitted to Suffolk County Council (SCC). The two immediate residents appear supportive. SCC has requested agreement from the neighbouring landowner due to the proximity of a field entrance. Two emails have been sent to R & P Farms and a further follow-up will be made.

SID Battery Maintenance

Cllrs Jones and Emery volunteered to take responsibility for one SID each. Cllr Emery advised that Keith and Gill Jolly are willing to adopt the SID at the junction of Rattlesden and Gedding Roads. The fourth SID, at the Village Hall, will continue to be maintained by the current volunteer.

Training will be provided to volunteers for future battery changes. Batteries are expected to last approximately two weeks. Consideration will also be given to reimbursement of electricity costs associated with charging the batteries. No additional volunteers came forward.

Painting of Railings – Blacksmiths Corner

Volunteers will be contacted to confirm their availability. The Traffic Management (TM) signage quotation will be revalidated, and permission will be sought to use a neighbouring driveway for delivery.

Cllr Emery asked whether the railings could be cleaned prior to painting give the current hose pipe ban. **Clerk to Enquire.**

Bob Crick had offered to cut back vegetation to provide access to the railings. It was unanimously agreed to engage Bob Crick to undertake this work.

Grit Bin – Blacksmiths Corner

Suffolk County Council has confirmed that the grit bin will be replaced. A date has not yet been provided and **Cllr Selvey to follow up.**

13) Village Assets

The dog waste bin was destroyed in the recent fire. A replacement bin will be sourced. **Clerk to Action.**

14) Footpaths and Allotments

Footpaths

A large tree had fallen across Footpath 2 but has now been cleared.

A bed remains behind the church, previously associated with a rough sleeper. There is currently no indication that it is being used and it is believed the individual has moved on.

A resident requested a handrail on Footpath 4. Cllr Turner advised that an approximately 8ft handrail would be appropriate, particularly as the path can become slippery during winter.
It was Agreed: that a handrail would be installed, subject to landowner permission.

Allotments

The Council was thanked for the fencing recently installed at the allotments.
An IBC water tank has been installed at the Gedding Road allotments.

Hessett Footpath

Cllr Phil Barrett and Cllr Richard Merryfield were in attendance from Hessett Parish Council.
Cllr Barrett proposed exploring the possibility of establishing a footpath linking Drinkstone and Hessett. Cllr Robinson queried the ownership of the land.
A member of the public advised that previous attempts to establish the route, approximately 18 years ago, had been unsuccessful. It was noted that the route is included as a desired improvement in the Hessett Neighbourhood Plan.
Cllr Barrett suggested researching historical maps, including a 1920s map, as it is believed a footpath previously existed but was omitted when the current footpaths were established.

It was Agreed: that the Council would investigate the matter and report back to Hessett Parish Council. **Cllr Turner to action.**

Cllr Barrett advised that they are in the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan.

15) Community Engagement

Quiz

The Council noted that the recent quiz was a success. Cllr Emery requested reimbursement of expenses, with receipts provided to the Clerk. **Clerk to Action.**

Christmas Party

An entertainer had been booked for the Christmas party following consultation between the Clerk and Chair, exercising delegated discretion under the Financial Regulations.

16) Planning

a) Planning Applications

Ref: DC/26/03081 Householder Application -Alterations, restoration and refurbishment of detached dwelling with associated outhouses - Kingfisher, The Street, Drinkstone, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9SX
It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application**. Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/26/02960 Householder Application - Erection of an extension and a garage - Chesil Cottage, Cross Street, Drinkstone, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9TP
It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application**. Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/26/03362 Application for Listed Building Consent - Fitment of 15 solar panels on southwest and 15 solar panels on southeast facing roofs of extension built 2001 - Chestnuts, Rattlesden Road, Drinkstone, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9TN
It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application**. Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/26/03361 Householder Application - Fitment of 15 solar panels on southwest and 15 solar panels on southeast facing roofs of extension built 2001 - Chestnuts, Rattlesden Road, Drinkstone, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9TN
It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application**. Clerk to action.**

b) Planning Decisions

Ref: DC/26/03285 Application to carry out works to tree(s) protected by a tree preservation order - Home Farm, The Street, Drinkstone, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9SX It was noted that Permission had been granted.

17) Policies Documents and Procedures

It was AGREED: The Standing Orders be approved.
It was AGREED: The Financial Regulations be approved.
It was AGREED: The Scheme of Delegation be approved.
It was AGREED: The Chairs Allowance be approved.

18) Litter Picking

The current volunteer is retiring and the Council is unable to employ someone to undertake the role. It was agreed that a call for volunteers would be made, including an appeal in the Chair's report in the parish magazine. **Cllr Selvey to Action.**

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 2nd November 2026 at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 21:05

Chairman: …… Dated:……..

Angela Maloney
Drinkstone Parish Council Clerk & RFO
Telephone: 01449 403008 Email: clerk@drinkstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk