

Draft until signed
Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting
Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7.00pm, at Dry Drayton Village Hall, High Street, Dry Drayton
CB23 8BS

Present: Cllr S Aldersley (Chair), Cllr J Granger (Councillor), Cllr T Houlihane (Vice-Chair), Cllr E Pyle (Councillor), Cllr C Wright (Councillor)

Clerk: S Etherington-Meech CiLCA (Parish Clerk/RFO)

Attending: Cllr C Garvie (District Councillor), 3 members of the public

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apology accepted from Cllr Al-Baqir, absent due to work commitments. Cllr Murphy (County Councillor) and Cllr Stobart (District Councillor) sent their apologies.

2. To Accept Parish Councillors Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda

No declarations of interests were declared.

3. To Agree to hold a Public Forum

Cllr Aldersley (Chair) opened the public forum at 7.02pm and brought forward **Item 8.14** in order for a member of the public to speak. It was explained that Edwards Woodland management team have requested a letter of support from DDPC for a water testing kit application. The kit would monitor health etc in the water at Callow Brook, the application is being made with other groups in order to obtain better testing equipment. **RESOLVED** ^(Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) that DDPC will provide a letter of support for the application.

The public forum was closed at 7.08pm.

4. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2026

RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Pyle, 2nd Cllr Granger, unanimous) that the minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2026 be approved and signed by the chair as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes, Report of any actions, Resolutions from last meeting & ongoing matters

5.1 Update on outstanding Highways issues (EM) including:

5.1.1 Highways quotes for further works of broken handrail and steps on footpath

Cllr Aldersley explained that he is incredibly unhappy and appalled with how the Public Rights of Way Officer (PRWO) has treated this project. After chasing this matter on several occasions Cllr Aldersley has been informed by the PRWO that it is no longer his responsibility, and he has to now report it on M. Cllr Aldersley has done this and also advised that he has asked a private contractor for a quote for replacing the broken handrail as this is a safety issue. He will forward this to the parish council for consideration of them funding this.

5.1.2 Explanation why Report IT log for condition of the dangerous and narrow footpath on Oakington Road has been flagged as closed

Cllr Aldersley advised that there is still no answer from Cllr Murphy as to what will be done. However, there is a note in her report that advises that there is a meeting next week to discuss **Item 8.1** in relation to a traffic incident involving a resident's arm being broken. Cllr Aldersley has also requested an explanation as to why the Report IT log has been closed.

5.2 Update on traffic modelling for Scotland Rd travel hub and proposed link for an NMU (RS/EM)

No update.

5.3 Update on resident concerns over carcinogenic weed spraying by CCC (RS/EM)

No update.

5.4 Investigate with SCDC names on housing list for Dry Drayton (RS)

Update from Cllr Stobart was as follows:

‘.....the PC is not obliged to act on the outcome of a housing needs survey. However, SCDC’s housing team will react. If numbers are sufficient, they will proceed to check on possible Rural Exception sites. A decision to proceed from that point would still rest with the Parish Council. Eleven families were identified in the last housing needs survey - and this was sufficient to trigger a review of sites, although I understand the PC didn’t wish to proceed.’

5.5 Send letters of support for grant funding requests from St Giles Cricket Club (SEM)

The clerk confirmed that the letters have been sent to St Giles Cricket Club.

5.6 Update on adding the Black Horse pub to SCDC Asset of Community Value Register (SEM)

The clerk advised that the tenant and landowner are still considering their position.

Action – Cllr Garvie to seek clarification from SCDC as to whether permission from the landowner and tenant is required in order to add the Black Horse pub to the Asset of Community Value Register.

5.7 Update on commencement date for 2024/25 LHI application (SCA)

Cllr Aldersley confirmed that the works for the 2024/25 LHI project have now been completed.

5.8 Contact the village hall to enquire whether they can take over checking and maintenance of the defibrillator from the current designated person (SEM)

The clerk confirmed that there is no one at the village hall who can take over this role. Therefore, the clerk asked for this request to be circulated on the village email circulation list. The clerk has been contacted by a resident who may be interested in taking over the role so she will liaise with the current designated person and request they contact the resident to explain what the role would involve.

5.9 Update on frequency of emptying of new dog waste bin on Park Lane by SCDC and invoice

The clerk advised that she is currently waiting for a response from SCDC.

5.10 Update in relation to streetlighting for ‘The Drift’ and grant funding sources (RS & EM)

No update.

5.11 Update on ZCC application for solar powered streetlighting including obtaining a quote from Suffolk Streetlighting for completing the admin work for a Section 171 licence (JG)

Cllr Granger advised that she has chased this matter with Adrian Last at Suffolk Streetlighting (SSL) again yesterday, but no response has yet been received. In previous communication it appears that the surveyor at SCDC who briefed SSL for installation had not understood about the licence. Therefore, this matter is stuck at present. Cllr Stobart confirmed by email that he will communicate with the councillors in Bassingbourn as they have been in a similar situation to see what actions they have taken. He requested we keep this project open for the moment.

6. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors

A report from the County and District Councillors was accepted and can be viewed at www.drydraytonpc.org.uk.

7. To Discuss Planning Matters

a. Applications received for consideration

- i. **26/01107/PRIOR - Scotland Farm Scotland Road Dry Drayton - Partial change of use of an existing agricultural building to a Storage or Distribution (Class B8) – extension for comments requested – extension for comments granted to 17th April 2026**

RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Granger, unanimous) that the councillors were in support of this application.

- ii. **26/01095/PRIOR - Rectory Farm Scotland Road Dry Drayton - Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to 4 No. Dwellinghouses (Class C3) – extension for comments requested - extension for comments granted to 17th April 2026**

RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Granger, unanimous) that the councillors were in support of this application with a caveat that there is a traffic management plan in place as this site has to exit onto a busy road.

b. Decisions received from South Cambs District Council

- i. For information only - 26/00923/CL2PD Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for the siting of a twin mobile home in the residential garden for use as additional accommodation to the existing dwellinghouse. Site address: Greenacres 1 Park Lane Dry Drayton Cambridgeshire – Certificate granted**

8. Matters for discussion/correspondence received

8.1 To discuss resident email in relation to pedestrian safety concerns for the footpath on Oakington Road highlighting recent serious incidents resulting in injuries to residents

Cllr Aldersley explained that he received an email that detailed an incident that occurred with a resident walking along Oakington Road on the wider part of the pavement opposite Crafts Hill Farm. They were struck on the elbow by a passing vehicle and broke their arm and the driver did not stop. Cllr Aldersley has been in contact with the injured resident but not yet received a reply. Cllr Murphy has the details of the incident, and it will be discussed as mentioned in **Item 5.1.2** and answers should be provided as to how the path will be made safer. Cllr Granger highlighted how narrow the pavement is in places where trees hedges are not trimmed, and it makes it considerably dangerous for walking.

8.2 Cambridgeshire County Council – Active Travel – Close Pass Campaign - location suggestions for temporary road signage, ideally in locations with a 30mph speed limit, high cycle usage and a higher risk of close passes – to be submitted by the end of June 2026

The councillors advised that anywhere between the two 30mph limits in the village from Oakington Road to Scotland Farm Road. **Action – Clerk to submit location suggestion.**

8.3 To discuss email received in relation to exploring parish feedback for a local mobile grocery service

Cllr Aldersley read out a memo received in relation to this matter. The councillors agreed that it seems a good idea but would like to provide some feedback. **Action – Cllr Aldersley to respond to the email with feedback from the parish council.**

8.4 SDCD Licensing - New Club Premises Certificate application - Cambridge St Giles Cricket Club, Dry Drayton, Cambs, CB23 8BX – comments by 23rd April 2026

RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Houlihane, unanimous) in favour to support this application.

8.5 SDCD Licensing - Request for Comments – Street Trading Consented Premises Application - Black Horse, Dry Drayton, Cambs – comments by 22nd April 2026

RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Granger, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) in favour to support this application.

8.6 To consider email from Speedwatch team in relation to special offers for purchase of a MVAS

Cllr Aldersley advised that he received an email from a member of the Speedwatch team with details of a deal ending in August for 2 x of the latest models of solar powered MVAS. Cllr Aldersley raised that there is a speeding problem in the village and if DDPC can find the money to purchase the MVAS the Speedwatch team can then liaise with Cambridgeshire County Council with locations to consider for them to be permanently erected. RESOLVED ^(Prop Cllr Granger, 2nd Cllr Aldersley, unanimous) in principle to purchase 2 x MVAS once the following are actioned.

Action - Clerk to check with Speedwatch in relation to approval for permanent MVAS locations. As spending is not in 2026/27 budget for MVAS clerk to check with CAPALC for rules for spending outside the budget for these items.

8.7 To discuss email received in relation to concerns over Community Speedwatch – referred to Cambridgeshire Constabulary who oversee Speedwatch

A resident raised concerns in relation to members of the Speedwatch team not being as visible as they should be. The clerk responded to that they contact Cambridgeshire Constabulary in relation to this matter as they oversee Speedwatch.

8.8 For information – Community Speedwatch email sent to Highways in relation to posts for MVAS removal of old speed sign and consideration of other posts for MVAS mounting

8.9 Update from councillors - Notification of 1 x pre-application developer briefing going to 8th April 2026 SCDC Planning Committee - Land to the south of Cambridge Services, A14 (Jaynic Site)

Cllr Aldersley attended this meeting and advised that Jaynic and Cambridge 25 are the preferred options for development.

8.10 For information - Cambs Acre, Nature Recovery 'From the Ground Up' – 15th April 2026 online

8.11 To discuss the proposed Cambridge 25 development and also Tritax Big Box Developments' proposal for a logistics and advanced manufacturing park north of Bar Hill, close to the A14 (Junction 25)

Cambridge 25 have sent the clerk dates of when they can come to Dry Drayton and present their proposal. The councillors agreed the best date for this would be Thursday 30th April 2026. **Action** – Clerk to check with the Business Manager at Dry Drayton Primary School if they can book the school hall for this meeting on Thursday 30th April 2026.

8.12 To discuss tree planting on A1307 roundabout

As discussed previously a licence is required to plant a tree on the roundabout. Therefore, the tree has now to be planted in the grounds of the village church.

8.13 To discuss arranging a village spring clean for a weekend in May 2026

Cllr Aldersley suggested Saturday 23rd May 2026 for the village spring clean. Cllr Aldersley will publicise this date and anyone interested in participating can contact him via email on cldr.aldersley@drydraytonpc.org.uk.

8.14 To discuss providing a letter of support for the application by the Management Team of the Edwards Woodlands for water testing of Callow Brook

This item was covered under **Item 3 (Public Forum)**

9. Allotments

9.1 Update on erection of pest control fencing with allotment improvement grant monies

Cllr Wright confirmed that erection of the fencing has been postponed to September due to it currently being nesting season.

9.2 Update on management of the allotments and any matters raised by plot holders to Cllr Wright on 18th March 2026

Cllr Wright confirmed that he had a meeting with the majority of allotment plot holders and the following was raised:

- Plot holders do not wish to have an association as they feel it is too formal.
- Plot holders like the idea of having a steward and there are plot holders willing to take on this role.
- Plot holders would like to reach a compromise with the content of the rental agreement as it is believed that the NAS model agreement document is too excessive and it should revert to a simpler agreement.

Action – Cllr Wright to redraft the rental agreement for 2026/27 and have it checked by NAS before circulating to the councillors for their comments.

9.3 To discuss whether to continue with Brookfield Groundcare cutting the grass at the allotment entrance

Cllr Wright advised that the allotment holders have agreed that they would cut the grass at the allotment entrance moving forward. **Action** – Clerk to cancel the allotment entrance cut with Brookfield Groundcare.

10. Consultations

10.1 East West Rail – Spring Consultation 2026 – Final route-wide consultation from 14th April 26 - 9th June 26

The councillors agreed to collate their comments for the next parish council meeting.

11. Finance and Policy

a. To accept account review to date and bank reconciliation

RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Aldersley, 2nd Cllr Granger, unanimous) to accept the bank reconciliation (See Appendix 1) and accounts.

b. To advise of payments received between 1st March 2026 and 31st March 2026

- i. HMRC – VAT Reclaim for 2024/25 - £934.67
- ii. Unity Trust Bank – Savings Account Interest for Jan 26-March 26 - £234.92

c. Payments made between 1st March 2026 and 31st March 2026

- i. Pennon Water Services – Allotment water rates – July 25 to Jan 2026 - £68.19
- ii. CAPALC – Allotment Training for Cllr Wright - £70.00
- iii. Dry Drayton Village Hall – Hall Hire for Allotment Meeting - £18.00
- iv. CAPALC - New Councillor Training for Cllr Wright - £75.00
- v. Staff Costs for Period 11 & 12 - £952.95
- vi. HMRC – Staff Tax and NI for Period 12 - £77.47
- vii. Unity Trust – Bank Service Charge for February 2026 - £7.00

d. Payments to hand and scheduled payments

RESOLVED (Prop Cllr Granger, 2nd Cllr Pyle, unanimous) that all payments to hand are paid.

- i. CAPALC – Affiliation Fee for 2026-27 with DPO Scheme - £408.73
- ii. Brookfield Groundcare – Grass Cutting 1 of 10 - £390.00
- iii. Geosphere – Annual subscription for mapping software - £45.00
- iv. VisionICT – Website and Email Hosting and Support – Amount to be confirmed – the clerk confirmed to the councillors that the original invoice had 8 email accounts invoiced, but it should have been 7, she has requested an amended invoice and will process the payment when received.

e. For info - Email from PKF Littlejohn with dates for audit – AGAR and audit documentation to be completed by 1st July 2025

12. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda

Please note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item. LGA 1972 s12 10(2) (b) states that business must be specified; therefore, the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for discussion.

13. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 6pm at Dry Drayton Village Hall for Annual Parish Meeting and 7pm for Annual Parish Council Meeting

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw, Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

14. To discuss clerk's appraisal carried out on 17th March 2026

In confidential minutes.

Meeting closed at 8.54pm

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

