



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 11th December 2023

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Vice Chair. Cllr. Mark Deaville	Cllr. Bev Reardon
Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	Cllr. Robert Birds	Cllr. Luke Emery,
Cllr. Wilkinson (District)	Cllr Alan Hulme (District)	Cllr. Lisa Emery
Also present were 2 members of the public		

Minutes recorded by	Start Time	Location
Clerk Mrs D Wheat	7.07pm	Draycott Church Hall, Church Lane, Draycott, ST11 9AG

1. Chairman's Welcome:

Chairman, Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies: all present

3. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Wilkinson and Cllr. Hulme declared in interest as members of SMDC Planning Committee.

4. Public Participation:

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to address the meeting.

a) Public Consultation on planning applications was raised as a problem.

Clerk to write to the Planning Officer to suggest direct involvement of District Councillors in the consultation process as the local knowledge of who needs to be consulted would improve to outcomes.

b) An issue with the closure of a right of way over the fields, over the A50 bridge was reported.

Clerk to check for information on this.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2023 were resolved as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr Winfield – Seconded Cllr. McLaughlin

6. Matters Arising:

a) **Village Gateways:** It was suggested to ask if the company will come out to look at the locations to give advice and an accurate quotation.

Cllr. Lisa Emery will contact the company to arrange this in the New Year.

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Signed Chairman
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b) Highways issues:

i. **Flooding in Cresswell:** Cllr. Birds reported that flooding has occurred on Sandon Road in Cresswell. The gullies are blocked. ***Clerk to report (close to the river on Sandon Road) what three words (highbrow- estimate- reacting).***

ii. **Two lorries have overturned at the Blythe Roundabout on the A50.**

Cllr. Deaville arrived at 19.20.

iii. **Footway pavement clearance from Totmonslow on Draycott Road has now been completed.** Residents have responded to thank the County Council. Using local contractors to maintain the footways was discussed. How to get on the County Council contractors recommended list was discussed and examples were given of local contractors known as ‘Hill’ workers who used to clear snow.

Clerk to find out how to apply to be a registered contractor.

iv. **Cresswell Lane along the left side towards the Queensway and A50 footpath** needs to be cleared.

c) Public Right of Way No.8 change of style: The Clerk is researching how to get this changed.

7. Lengthsman Report:

Breach Lane and the layby at Draycott Cross are hotspots for litter – alcohol debris in the laybys, wine and spirit bottles are being found. Reports to be logged to the police if more are found so they can keep an eye on the locations. Litter bins are due for collection and will be installed soon. A volunteer litter picker from Tean was also commended for his work in the Breach Lane area.

The Clerk was asked to write to the volunteer.

8. Items on Notice:

Christmas lights.

The Council resolved that the miniature Chapel will be installed by Cllr. Winfield with help from a resident, on the green adjacent to Church Lane and Cllr. Lisa Emery and Cllr. Reardon will fit the decorations to the bus stops.

9. Correspondence:

Dog Fouling has been reported in Draycott by a resident.

The Clerk showed the Councillors the new bin locations as recommended by the Highways Officer. The Council approved the Draycott Old Road corner but asked for the location to be changed on Uttoxeter Road to be closer to the houses.

10. Planning:

a) Blythe Park Working Report: Cllr. Luke Emery reported that the applications will go to the SMDC Planning Committee on 25th January. A date for the Parishes Together meeting has not yet been set. Cllr Luke Emery will confirm this when known.

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b) SMD/2023/0594 - Innova Renewable Developments Ltd.

Land at Blythe House Farm, south of the A50.

The Council had objections at the last application stage, which were then rectified, and the plans were passed. The Council would like more information about the location of these changes.

Questions were raised:

What will be the long-term public benefit to Draycott and Checkley residents from this application?

Will they return the land back to agricultural land after the solar farm is removed?

Do these changes impact the residents in the vicinity of the site?

The applications are complicated as they span three Boroughs: Staffordshire Moorlands, East Staffordshire and Stafford Borough.

The amount of solar developments is overbearing within the three parishes.

11. Finance & Governance: Payments were authorised from November for the following:

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Nov/Dec	£208.00		Cheque
	Clerk Expenses – milage 4.5 miles	£2.25	£330.25	1804
	Broadband/phone expenses @£10 p/m	£120.00		
HMRC	PAYE Nov/Dec	£52.00	£52.00	1805
Draycott Church Hall	Dec meeting 2hrs	£25.00	£25.00	1806
R Fox	Lengthsman Work 10 hrs @£15 per hr	£150.00	£150.00	1807
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work 13 hrs @ £10 per hr	£130.00	£130.00	1808
Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Accounting Software	£228.00+	£273.60	1809
		VAT £45.60		
The Poppy Appeal	Wreath donation	£50.00	£50.00	1810 1811
		TOTAL	£1,010.85	
		PAYMENTS		

The above payments proposed Cllr. Deaville and cheques duly signed Cllr. Winfield

BANK BALANCE		Bank	Chq. No.	Bank Statement
Current Account 1 st Dec 2023		£27,415.96		
Reserve Account		£0.01		
Total in Bank		£27,415.97		
<i>Solar Array Fund</i>	Earmarked Funds	£11,648.99		Earmarked
<i>Election Reserve</i>		£3,073.89		Earmarked
<i>Cherry Trees</i>		£300.00		Earmarked
<i>Emergency Reserve</i>	4 months of Precept	£3,162.00		Reserve
<i>Lengthsman</i>	Budgeted Funds	£374.26		Budget £1800.00
<i>Litter picker</i>		£1,250.00		Budget £1750.00

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Salary & PAYE		£1,040.00		Budget £3120.00
Hall Hire & Administration		£940.00		estimated
Uncleared Cheques	Parish Online	£76.80		
	J Swarbrooke	£130.00		
	Draycott Church Hall	£20.00		
	Draycott Church Hall	£20.00		
General Fund Available	1 st Dec 2023	£5,550.02		

b) Budget Report:

The Clerk explained the current financial position from the table above. The remaining balances of the various budget headings were checked and possible increases and decreases were discussed. The Council agreed to earmark funds in 2024 to complete the proposed Village Gateways. It was clarified that no Precept needs to be set aside for Election costs as this reserve is adequate. Lengthsman budget may need to be increased although the work is seasonal. The cost of hiring Draycott Church Hall has increased to £25 per session. The Clerk asked that her salary is considered alongside the recent NALC recommendations for Council staff. It was discussed to move to the NALC Pay structure to monitor the Clerks Salary. The Precept will be set at the January meeting.

c) The Chairman asked that the council consider planting one of the Cherry Trees in Memory of local Draycott resident Brian Blackwood who passed away recently. Brian always attended Parish Council Meetings and was interested in his community. He was a valued volunteer helping with Parish Council projects and also volunteered with Moorlands Voluntary Community Transport. The cost of licences to dig to plant the trees was discussed. Cllr. Deaville suggested he could help with these fees from his County DHP fund.

The Council resolved to plant a Cherry Tree and mount a plaque adjacent in memory of Brian. Proposed Cllr. Lisa Emery, Seconded Cllr. Deaville – All in Favour

12. County Councillor report: Cllr. Deaville

- i. **Sandon Road:** A good road surface has been laid by the Highways team.
- ii. **The JCB Pothole Pro** is booked to do the work on the pothole on Cheadle Road.
- iii. **The annual ‘Community Fund’ opens in April.** Please bring any ideas to the January meeting and Cllr. Deaville can consider these for the application.

13. District Councillors Reports: Cllr. Wilkinson:

- i. **SMDC Full Council** recently approved members allowances to be raised. The Allowances have been the same since 2010 and were the lowest in Staffordshire. An independent remuneration panel found that Members have been undervalued. It is important to encourage younger people become councillors. Cllr Wilkinson explained that young Councillors would need to give up half a day to sit on a committee so potentially would need to work part time if fully involved with the District Councils’ meeting schedule. Retired people have more spare time. It was a barrier. In all the years of conservative administration there have been little increase. The new Labour and Independent administration have voted to raise allowances by 44%. The total expenses per member of £4638 has increased by £1736.00. Mileage allowance was raised to 50p per mile. The additional expenses could be used in the community if the member wishes to use for other causes. The process was given due diligence.

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Cllr. Reardon raised the potential for flexibility of employers to give people more opportunities to have time off paid work to fulfil other roles in the community.

Cllr. Deaville and Cllr. Wilkinson have been colleagues for many years and agreed to disagree.

14. Matters pertaining:

a) **Neighbourhood Plan:**

Cllr. Luke Emery has been researching the legislation on policy writing.

b) **Uttoxeter Road Traffic Calming:**

- When the A50 is closed the volume and speed of traffic is needs to be monitored. Every time the A50 is closed it causes massive disruption to the village.
- HGV's coming through Draycott, Tean & Checkley must be damaging the roads.
- Speed checks need to be put in.
- New Vehicle Activated signage.
- The number of fatalities on the road were discussed.
- Pedestrian crossing points are needed for residents.
- Cllr Deaville is earmarking the pedestrian refuge on the County capital plan.
- Use of lanes is damaging property and verges when drivers avoid the traffic.
- Lobby Highways England as the Parishes Together was discussed.

c) Clerk was asked to remind the PCSOs to attend the Parish Council meetings if possible.

Meeting ended 20.46

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