



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, 11th March 2024

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Robert Birds	Cllr. Bev Reardon
Cllr. Luke Emery	Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	Cllr. Lisa Emery
Cllr Alan Hulme (District)	Cllr. Deaville (Parish, District & County)	
Also present were 3 members of the public		

Minutes recorded by	Start Time	Location
Clerk Mrs D Wheat	7.00pm	Draycott Church Hall, Church Lane, Draycott, ST11 9AG

1. Chairman's Welcome:

Chairman, Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Cllr. Pete Wilkinson (District)

3. Declaration of Interests: Cllr. Hulme – SMDC Planning Committee

4. Public Participation: No questions were asked.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2024 were resolved as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr. Winfield – Seconded Cllr. Lisa Emery

6. Matters Arising:

a) Village Gateways:

A quotation of £7,550.00 has been received which is for the gates and the fitting.

Cllr. Deaville will speak to James Bailey, officer at the County Council to find out about gate features which other Staffordshire villages may have used.

b) Highways Issues:

i. Vehicle Activated Signs:

Locations were discussed throughout the Parish for additional signage. A location before Sandon Road was suggested on the entrance to Cresswell. Cllr. Luke Emery has downloaded three months' worth of data from the current devices. The memory will store three months record. The current VAS signs are configured in low power mode. There are features like a flashing beacon which are not enabled. The council resolved to switch on these features where possible. The desired outcome is to try to slow vehicles down. Cllr. Reardon suggested the new sign is located halfway along Draycott level to target vehicles which have increased speed along the flat stretch. There is a temporary location which was used by the mobile speed camera team on Draycott level which might be a good location as there will be

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8th April 2024

a hole already approved by Highways. Cllr. Reardon will research with Woodseaves Parish Council to find out how they got their speed equipment and have successfully lowered the speed through their village.

ii. Potholes:

Potholes are the worst they have ever been due to the excessive wet weather. Cllr. Deaville advised that the County Council need dry weather to get the repair teams out. There are currently 16,000 potholes throughout Staffordshire that are logged for attention. The JCB Pothole Pro has been purchased and is ready to use as soon as drier weather comes. For 15 years funding has been reduced for the County Council to make Highway Repairs. Quality of workmanship was discussed on the new road at Blythe Fields which is already deteriorating. A New Highways manager 'Henna' at Staffordshire County Council has been appointed and she is making headway through the issues.

iii. Pavement Clearance and Flooding:

The Clerk will put in a request for street cleaning to the District Council. It was suggested that the Lengthsman could be asked to clear the pavements. This was agreed.

iv. Blocked Gullies:

The Lengthsman has been reporting any sightings of blocked Gullies to the Clerk with a photo to be reported.

v. Cheadle Road Railings:

It was suggested to put a tunnel in to take the brook. This would widen the road and then there would be no further need for bollards. Traffic will only get worse on Cheadle Road due to the industrial estate at Cheadle and the access route to the A50.

vi. The Highways Officer

It was requested that the officer visits the Parish so that all these issues can be addressed to her for attention and advice.

c) Public Right of Way No8.

Style/Gate progress. The Clerk is awaiting to hear from the Public Rights of Way officer to see if the application for a Gate has been successful.

d) Litter Bins:

One bin will be fitted soon on the corner of Draycott Old Road. It was agreed that Dog Pooh bag dispensers will also be fitted.

e) Website:

Parish Online have quoted £350.00 per annum to take over the hosting and includes.gov domain and email addresses for Councillors. The Council approved the change.

Proposed Cllr. Birds – Seconded Cllr. Reardon- all in favour

f) War Memorial:

The name spelling amendment can be done with granules and resin by Mr Plant. The Clerk to instruct the completion of the repair.

g) Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr. Luke Emery explained that a Neighbourhood Plan would allow the Parish Council to protect biodiversity and habitats and help direct the Local Planning Authority to follow guidance of what the local residents want for the area. If outline permission is already given, nothing can be done. Green belt was discussed. Cllr. McLaughlin mentioned that part of the St. Modwen application has already been converted over to industrial.

Proposed Gordon Winfield – Seconded Cllr. Lisa Emery

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8th April 2024

7. Lengthsman/Litter picker report: February

Work has been done to all the Bus Shelters. Many bags of litter have been collected. It was discussed whether the litter picker should pick litter on private lanes. It was agreed this should not be litter picked.

8. Items on Notice:

a) Road Safety:

A plan to improve Road Safety working with Staffordshire Highways is needed. Pedestrian Refuges are needed urgently on Draycott Level. Item to be put on the Agenda for the meeting with the Highways Officer.

b) Dog Fouling:

Actions to be taken to tackle the problem in the Parish. There is a problem all over the village. Posters need to be put up reminding people of the £1000 fine. Cllr. Lisa Emery mentioned how devastating the effects can be of the effects of contamination. The stencil could be sprayed on the pavements. A member of the public asked for the log sheets to give out to residents who are complaining to record the incidents so that data can be passed to the District enforcement team. The Clerk will put up posters to encourage dog owners to pick up fouling and dispose responsibly. Cllr. Reardon will make records online to document any complaints.

9. Correspondence: No items received

10. Planning Applications: (Please see SMDC Planning Portal for the documents)

SMD/2022/0267				
SMD/2022/0268	Blythe Park	Application Amendments		

Cllr. Luke Emery reported on the current situation with the Blythe Park applications:

- Both residential Consultation periods have been extended.
- There is a New Case Officer
- 0267 application has now been made invalid as there is a departure from the original application.
- 10 more homes on the new development and reduction in the green space
- homes proposed closer to the river which is in the flood zone.
- The design of the three-storey entrance has been changed to be featureless.

11. Finance & Governance:

- Payments were Authorised for February as follows:

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Feb/Mar	£208.00		Chq. No.
	Clerk Expenses – milage 4.5 miles	£2.25	£210.25	1822
HMRC	PAYE Feb/Mar	£52.00	£52.00	1823
Draycott Church Hall	Mar meeting 2hrs	£25.00	£25.00	1824
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work 13.15hrs @ £10 per hr	£132.50	£132.50	1825
R Fox	Lengthsman work 6 hrs @ £15 per hr	£90.00	£131.48	1826
	materials	£41.48		

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Staffordshire Parish Councils Association	Councillor Training	£108.00	£108.00	1827
		TOTAL	£659.23	

The above payments proposed Cllr G. Winfield and cheques duly signed Cllr. P McLaughlin

12. District and County Councillor Reports:

a) County Councillor Mark Deaville:

- Some UK councils are going bankrupt, but Staffordshire are making decisions to focus funding in the priority areas.
- Staffordshire has a high volume of need for Childrens Services. There are currently over 1300 children in care. A new director of Childrens Services has been appointed.
- Adult Social Care is also a large part of the Counties expenditure.

b) District Councillor Alan Hulme:

- SMDC Budget has been set at 2.99% for 2024/25.
- A Defibrillator maintenance programme has been approved.
- Local authorities should be encouraging people to source local food. A discussion was had about honey additives and the addition of water to products like ham. Local organic farming should be supported.

c) Parish Assembly: A written report was received by Cllr. Birds

- **Complaint to West Midlands Ambulance service:** Midlands Today filmed the news in Ipstones.
- **Defibrillators:** AED are going to support all the District Defibrillators for two years. They will visit every defibrillator site and report any defects, fix or replace with loan equipment. They are going to take responsibility for the updating of the Circuit website and replace any worn batteries and expired pads. AED Donate have just won the Kings Award for Voluntary Service.
- **Leisure and Tourism:** update about the Levelling Up Funding
Biddulph Leisure Centre is nearly completed, Leek Leisure Centre is due to be renovated imminently, £150,000 is ringfenced for the refurbishment of Cheadle Leisure Centre.

13. Matters pertaining to issues in the Parish for the next Agenda:

Solar Applications:

Cllr Birds has worked through the Planning Portal and picked out all the Solar projects and looked at the Mega Watt limits. There are 4 separate applications currently in progress in close proximity or in the Parish - Blythe House Farm, Totmonslow Farm and Leys Farm at Lower Tean and New Buildings Farm and the application at Fulford.

Bagnall Parish Council have also raised points about Solar as they have an application pending Proposed battery storage at Brook Houses, Cheadle, Cellarhead and Werrington was also discussed. Applications are covering three Boroughs/ Districts – contentious developments are being spread over borders.

MEETING ENDED 20.42

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