



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 12th December 2022

Attendees:

| | | |
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| Chairman Cllr. Winfield | Vice Chairman Cllr. Holdcroft | Cllr. Deaville |
| Cllr. McLaughlin | Dist. Cllr Wilkinson | Dist. Cllr. Hulme |
| Also present were 5 members of the public | | |

| Minutes recorded by | Start Time | Location |
|---------------------|------------|---|
| Clerk Mrs D Wheat | 7.30pm | Draycott Church Hall, Church Lane, Draycott, ST11 9AG |

1. Chairman's Welcome:

Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Cllr. Hollingum - the Council resolved to extend dispensation for a further 6 months.

Cllr. Johnson

Cllr. Plant

3. Declaration of Interests:

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| Cllr. Wilkinson | Planning Committee |
|-----------------|--------------------|

4. Public Participation:

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

- A resident asked about the Tree Protection Orders on the trees behind St Margarets' Court as some have recently been removed and cut down.
- The Clerk read out correspondence from a Draycott resident about the overgrown footway from Brookside upwards on Cheadle Road. The grass and debris from the road is covering the pavement. It was confirmed that the Lengthsman cannot clear this because of safety due to speed and proximity to the road. The problem must be reported to County Highways for proper provision to be made for traffic management to ensure safety of staff or contractors clearing the footway.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on 14th November 2022 were approved as an accurate and true record.

Proposed: Cllr. Holdcroft – Seconded: Cllr. Deaville – Signed by the Chairman

6. Tree Preservation Orders:

I declare that this is an accurate account of the meeting held by Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council.

Signed Chairman
Councillor

Date 12th December 2022

A discussion was had about the houses on St Margaret's Court being owned by Your Housing Group and that Steve Massey the SMDC Tree Officer should be contacted by the clerk to find out about the work that has been done.

7. Lengthsman report: not present

8. Litterpicker report:

Routes and hours worked in November were presented using Strava. The Council were very pleased with the litterpicking report. Thank you to Zara for producing this. (Appendix 2)

9. Benches:

The Clerk has ordered three lion benches. The ends are wrought iron with hardwood seat slats.

10. Reducing Speed throughout the Parish:

It was discussed for the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Highways Officer to look at the issues in the whole Parish including the road surface under the A50 bridge, footway clearance, reducing the speed limit and installing pedestrian refuges to aid crossing. An additional grit bin at Rookery Crescent was also added to this list. A discussion was had about County Highways procedures, it was suggested that the person inspecting and marking with white lines should also rectify the faults.

11. Christmas lights:

Cllr. Winfield reported that the Christmas lights for area at bottom of Church Lane will be installed by the weekend of 16th December. The members of the public that have put up the bus stop decorations throughout Draycott were thanked for an excellent addition to the Parish. Community spirit in the villages was commended by the Council.

12. Items on Notice:

Cllr. Deaville moved to amend standing orders so the start time of the meetings could be at 7pm.

The Council discussed that start time and agreed to amend the Standing Orders for 7pm start times from January 2023. Clerk to publicise the new start time.

Proposed Cllr. Deaville – Seconded Cllr. Holdcroft – Motion Carried

13. Planning Applications:

a) Blythe Park Working group report:

Members of the committee reported that the Environmental Law Foundation have been consulted to study the legal and lawfulness of the Blythe Park applications. There is a cost of £5000 if the case is lost in a Judicial Review. Residents feel they would lose this amount if the site is developed from their house valuations. The council thanked the residents for there thorough research into the application in order to help inform other residents and the Council members.

Cllr Deaville explained that from his position of Deputy Leader at SMDC, this application is a very complex and controversial situation as it involves so many other Parishes, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Stafford Borough Council. The Clerk was asked to contact Ben Haywood to ask that all documents are published on the Planning Portal for transparency to the community.

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- b) **SMD/2022/0394** Mr D Shelton Dray Cottage, Cheadle Rd. – Proposed Ground Floor Extension
The council resolved to have no objection to this application. (Appendix 3)

14. Solar Array Application – Mr J Clarke – Parkers Piece project

An application was considered for funding of a Wildlife Garden. The project is community led, not involved solely with St Margaret’s Church. The land on which Parkers Piece is situated was originally gifted by Mr. Ken Shelley as an asset for the community. The volunteers would like to commission a wood carved sculpture of a Bee by local artist Anthony Hammond. Mr Levison Wood local historian is involved and the children and staff of Forsbrook Primary School. It was discussed that the council would support the project in principal subject to the voluntary group supplying bank details to the Clerk.

15. Finance & Governance:

a) Balance of Accounts: On 1st December 2022

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|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Current Account Balance is | £ 26,957.06 |
| Reserve Account has a Balance of | £ 0.01 |
| Total | £ 26,957.07 |

The Clerk apologised for not producing a full breakdown of earmarked reserves, but will do this for the January budget and precept meeting.

b) Payments to be Authorised:

| | | | Total | Cheque No. |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|
| D Wheat | Clerk Salary Nov/Dec | £208.00 | | 1741 |
| | Clerk Expenses – milage 9 miles | £4.50 | £329.05 | |
| | Toner for Printer | £116.55 | | |
| HMRC | PAYE | £52.00 | £52.00 | 1742 |
| Draycott Church Hall | December meeting 2hrs | £20.00 | £20.00 | 1743 |
| Z Hutson | Litterpicking | £105.00 | £105.00 | 1744 |

The above payments proposed.....GW..... and cheques duly signed.....RH.....

c) Blythe Cricket Club:

A request has been received for support from Blythe Cricket Club (via the website) for support with an Annual Community Firework Show. Clerk to forward Solar Fund application form to the club.

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16. Correspondence:

a) Correspondence from a resident has been received to ask about the following issues:

i. War Memorial:

Details of the design and installation. The council commissioned the war memorial from George Plant stone mason for a total of £1000.00 following gathering two other quotations from other stone mason suppliers. The cost included purchase of stone, time engraving, delivery and installation into position on site. The design was approved in council following a study of the memorial inside St Margaret's Church. The memorial was in place and engraved in time for Remembrance Sunday but the lettering is yet to be completed.

ii. Floral planter management. The planters (except Brookside) are now officially a Council project. Who is overseeing the management of the planters? Draycott Nurseries have generously taken over the management of the planters throughout the Parish at no cost to the council. Brookside has also been maintained by Draycott Nurseries, but the volunteer residents may have made special arrangements to continue to look after that planter. Other volunteers have also added a few additions to planters near to their properties which is welcomed by the council if they are willing to maintain and water the Planters. A letter of thanks is to be sent to Draycott Nurseries for their commitment to making the village floral displays beautiful.

iii. Lengthsman monthly tasks listing on the website and the Lengthsman co-ordination. The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman had not submitted any invoices recently and that there have been no jobs completed to report or publish on the website. The clerk will load any information in the coming months as the Spring makes working in the Parish on Lengthsman duties more favourable. The Lengthsman does have a contract and his duties are instructed by any councillor who notices something which needs to be done due to councillors living in different areas of the Parish. The Chairman is still the overall Lengthsman Co-ordinator.

iv. Publication of minutes of meetings – Ordinary and Parishes Together

The Clerk apologised as some minutes had not been published in a timely manner. The Parishes Together minutes are also now available on the website. The new website is live but the Clerk now needs to populate this with all the documents before publishing it as the main accessible website. When complete the old website can be discontinued.

v. Milestones – heritage monument management. The maintenance of the milestones is in the Lengthsmans contract. The council used paint which is specific for metalwork. The Clerk will research scheduled monument checks, but as far as she was aware it is the Parish Councils responsibility to maintain these features.

vi. Cresswell bench – Who gave authorisation to remove the bench?

The Cresswell Bench was removed by the Lengthsman following consultation with the Chairman that the bench was unsafe and potentially could cause harm to anyone sitting on it due to the condition of the wooden panels being rotten. The WI. were informed and they agreed to the bench being removed on a safety issue. They have also confirmed that they do not have funds to replace the bench at this time. It was discussed by the council that the

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Chairman had the power to make this decision in communication with the Clerk due to public safety.

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

17. To receive oral reports from our District Councillors:

Cllr Wilkinson reported that SMDC are preparing for the Budget, Councillors are also preparing for the May elections.

Cllr. Hulme reported that more staff are now working back in the offices at SMDC after a period of working from home following Covid. More staff have been recruited to be point of call customer services to help residents with any issues they may have.

18. To receive oral report from our County Councillor:

Cllr. Deaville reported that Draycott in the Moors, following the Boundary review is now in the Parliamentary Boundary of Stoke South and will have a new MP Jack Brereton.

Cllr Deaville then encouraged any community groups to apply for the County Community Fund. The application forms can be accessed through the county website.

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

Cllr. Holdcroft reported an electricity/phone pole on Cheadle Road which appears to be broken near to Grange Farm. The Clerk will report this to Western Power urgently.

20. To note items raised in public participation to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

MEETING ENDED 20.50

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