



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 13th February 2023

Attendees:

Vice Chairman Cllr. Holdcroft	Cllr. Johnson	Cllr. Deaville
Dist. Cllr. Hulme		
Also present were 10 members of the public (including 3 guest speakers from REPD Solar)		

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

1. Chairman's Welcome:

Cllr. Holdcroft welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Cllr. Hollingum – dispensation granted.
Cllr. Winfield - Chairman
Cllr. McLaughlin
Cllr. Plant
Dist. Cllr. Wilkinson

3. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Hulme	Planning Committee
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4. Public Participation:

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

- a) A resident asked why he had not been notified by post regarding the Hill Helicopters Planning application, as he does not have the capacity to use the internet. The resident felt that this is synonymous of a trend of lack of proper consultation and communication.

Cllr. Deaville responded that the Clerk had researched back to find all the communication that Cllr. Deaville had sent to the Planning department regarding the issues of communication to the Cresswell residents and to Draycot-in-the-Moors Parish Council.

b) REPD – Solar Array application for Totmonslow Farm

Totmonslow Farm Solar Application – Three representatives from REPD: Swara, Chris and Frances gave an overview of the application and answered questions from the council.

- Highfields Barn and Farm are concerned that the solar farm will encroach onto their properties. REPD said there will be a 50m buffer from those properties plus a buffer hedge. Hedge rows will be 10' or 2.5 M high.
- A glint and glare survey has been done. There will be no impacts of noise.

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Councillor

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- Cllr Holdcroft commented that most people are aware of the green agenda in the UK. In principle Draycott in the Moors Parish are in favour of the solar power as we already have a farm in operation. But Draycott has been selected again. There are concerns that it is using up good agricultural land. Over the next 40 years that land could be used for feeding people. Are any companies talking to the cities to get roof top solar installed? This would then save valuable agricultural land.
- REPD replied that Draycott has been chosen because there is capacity on the national grid that goes through our Parish. There is a loss of power through transmission. Draycott is a very good location with immediate access to the grid.
- The agricultural farms will benefit from Solar investment on Grade 3 & 4 agricultural land. The land is mainly currently used for grazing sheep which can still go on when the panels are in place. The panels will be decommissioned after 40 years. The company would then convert the land back to its original state.
- REPD stated that there will be a 40-year index linked Community benefit fund. The council argued that this should have been consulted on weeks ago. The Council can't enter into an agreement at this short notice, it would need to be in writing and approved by full council after careful consideration.
- The size of the solar farm was discussed. REPD did not have the information for the exact number of panels.
- REPD will work with the Parish to agree terms of an agreement. The original online consultation was not well responded to by the public.

5. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings** 12th December, 9th January and Extraordinary Meeting 2nd February were approved as correct records:

Proposed Mark Deaville, Seconded Cllr. Johnson – Motion Carried

6. **Matters Arising:**

a) **Highways:**

A joint meeting with the Highways Officer and Checkley Parish has been arranged for 10am on Thursday 16th March at Great Wood Hall, Tean, ST10 4JY. The Clerk has registered the previous issues on the County Council Report it app. and encouraged anyone who sees highways issues, to go on the app themselves to speed up the reporting process.

Standing orders were suspended so members of the public could ask questions on the items below:

b) **Fly Tipping at Railway Cottages, Cresswell Old Road:** The Clerk has had a response from SMDC regarding this. A member of the public was allowed to speak to tell the council about the issues residents are facing. The Clerk will keep the residents informed of any information gathered.

c) **Planning Applications:** The Vice Chairman moved Planning to this point so the Blythe Park Working Group could report.

Blythe Park working group – The committee reported that the appeal for the road junction in Cresswell had been decided in the Developers favour.

SMD/2022/0577 – Hill Helicopters – Land at Blythe Park, Sandon Road, Cresswell.

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Change of use of land provision of hardstanding, helipads, balancing pond, visitor car park, security fencing, landscaping, and additional tree planting in connection with adjacent helicopter manufacturing plant currently being determined.

- **Report from Correspondence with SMDC:**

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr. Deaville for writing the letter to SMDC regarding the Blythe Park applications. Cllr. Deaville had a meeting with SMDC officers to ask if the application could be withdrawn. Cllr Deaville responded that the application is not SMDC's to withdraw, it is Hill Helicopters application. The Parish Council are working to defend the residents on this matter. The Parish Council do have the right to oppose the application and the residents and Parish opinions are considered in the Planning Committee meeting which will be in May. The Parish Council are on the side of the residents. Cllr. Deaville read out his letter of 1st February to Head of Planning - Ben Haywood, Leader of SMDC.- Cllr Paul Roberts and SMDC Executive Director - Neil Rogers:

"Following our detailed and frank discussions recently on the Blythe Park Planning Applications, you will be in no doubt whatsoever about my feelings around these applications.

In all my years as a Parish, a District and a County Councillor I have never known such a level of local opposition to these plans. I agree with ALL of the points that our local residents make, and I emphasize that I shall continue to oppose these plans totally – I am in total support of our local residents and our Parish Council on this matter. The on-going controversy around these proposals are adversely affecting people's lives in this area – I personally will steadfastly continue support our local community in their opposition to these proposals.

There are many reasons to oppose these plans – all of these issues have been detailed in letters and emails to yourselves. The issues are of a technical nature, are around very poor communication and consultation and are around the detriment to the quality of lives of our local residents. They are all of massive importance and should be taken very seriously.

Firstly, I have written to you on numerous occasions complaining of the poor communication and consultation. My complaints have been both general and specific. Indeed, the latest application was ratified and processed just before Christmas at the time of a National Postal Strike and a time when people are rightly taking a break from reading emails etc. This I feel is synonymous to the poor communications over a long period of time.

As I stated at our recent meeting, I have a major issue with the validation of recent applications.

I say again, that with these important communication issues, on top of the level of complexity of the applications and the constant flow of applications at Blythe Park we need a reset on this situation in my opinion.

British Democracy is a wonderful and valuable thing. At ALL elected democratic levels there is total opposition – Parish Councillors, District Councillors, County Councillor and Member of Parliament. There is also a level of opposition from neighbouring authorities. This is rare indeed.

I request again that due to the controversy, the complexity and the level of local opposition detailed above you contact the applicants and request the withdrawal of current applications and reserved matters.

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Any plans and proposals that the applicants have should be contained in new full application which would then go through the accepted and recognised planning process including full and comprehensive communication and consultation. I again emphasise that I feel that this is the best way forward for everyone. I am born and bred in this area, I am passionate about this area – I want the very best for this area in all aspects – local economy, best education for our young people, safe and high quality of life for everyone. In the meantime, during our recent meeting I requested a further deferral of these applications into the Spring/Summer. I would be grateful if you could confirm this and then adjust the planning portal accordingly. This situation is crystal clear, and I await your positive comments accordingly. These major issues can be resolved in a positive manner”.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Deaville.

- **Air Ambulance:**

The Council then discussed reports that Hill Helicopters may be proposing to have an air ambulance base stationed at Blythe Park. The names and terminology of different air ambulance groups were debated as was the source of this information. It needs to be proved to be factual. It may be a publicity exercise to gain support.

Mr B. Horleston was allowed to speak concerning research on the Helicopter emergency services.

Midlands Air Ambulance currently have 7 helicopters this is where normal donations to Air Ambulance go. Hills are proposing an independent group. The noise impact assessment doesn't mention air ambulance.

- **Environmental impact:**

Each Blythe Park application has done an environmental impact assessment. The Planning officers should be asking for an environmental impact assessment for the whole area covering all the applications. The report from Environmental health identifies that there are holes in the application.

In relation to the reserved matters Mr B Horleston reported that the Kings Council have written letters to Elan Homes regarding the validation of the applications. There will be a legal challenge from the residents. Formal impact assessments need to be undertaken in the following areas: environmental, noise, fuel, and residential. No works should be undertaken until the situation with the access to the site is complete and in operation.

- **The Greenhouse People** proposal was discussed as it was passed that they can use the temporary bridge. There was no information available on this.

The Council thanked the members of the Blythe Park working group.

The Vice-Chairman re-instated Standing Orders and the meeting re-commenced

7. Lengthsman report: No report for January has been submitted.

8. Litterpicker report: A report using the mapping system was again submitted by the Litterpicker. The Council are pleased with progress so far. The Parish is looking clean and many blue bin bags have been seen. Cllr. Deaville also thanked the volunteer litterpicker's who also walk the Parish footpaths and

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public rights of way. The care of the local environment is evident and keeping the Parish tidy is to be commended to all involved.

Vice-Chairman Holdcroft then brought forward the Item ‘Payments to be authorised’ as Cllr. Deaville asked permission to leave for a work commitment.

9. Finance & Governance:

a) Payments were authorised for the following:

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Jan/Feb Clerk Expenses – milage 9 miles	£208.00 £4.50	£212.50	Cheque no. 1751
HMRC	PAYE	£52.00	£52.00	1752
Draycott Church Hall	January meeting 2hrs February EO meeting 1 hr	£30.00	£30.00	1753
Z Hutson	Litterpicking	£136.50	£136.50	1754

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

Cllr. Deaville then left the meeting. Vice Chairman Holdcroft then announced that the meeting will continue but no further decisions would be made due to the council not being quorate. Items will be adjourned to the next March Meeting for a decision.

- b) Parkers Piece: A new part of this application has been received with an accurate quotation for a Community Bench for the Garden of £299.00. The item was moved to the March agenda.
- c) Draycott Village Hall Committee have applied for various improvements to the community facility.
- d) The item was moved to the March agenda.

10. Items on Notice:

- a) A member of the public had asked for the Council to consider that St Margaret’s Fayre Committee have announced that the annual village fayre in July will not happen this year. The Vice Chairman suspended the meeting to allow Mr J Clarke, one of the main organisers, to speak on the matter:
 - ***Mr Clarke clarified that it was the St. Margaret’s Church PCC who had decided they could no longer support the organisation of the fayre due to the capacity of members. Mr Clarke is seeking to form an independent group of Community volunteers and also to gain some commercial sponsorship to still continue the Annual Draycott Summer Fayre. He explained the need for continuity due to attractions like the fairground which if not booked early will just find another event. This would then be difficult to get back.***
 - Cllr Holdcroft on behalf of the council, thanked Mr Clarke and showed the Parish Councils appreciation over the years for his contribution to the community.
 - Volunteers should contact John Clarke direct to discuss this community opportunity. Thanks was also expressed by Mr Clarke to Parish Council Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield for all his work over the years to help the Summer Fayre.

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- Cllr Hulme mentioned his work in the Community of Checkley to run the events committee. He agreed that the momentum of volunteers is needed to keep the events running year after year at the same standard.
- b) His Majesty King Charles III Coronation** – SMDC have announced that a grant is available to Parish Councils of £435 to support events in the Community.

11. Planning Applications: Discussed earlier on the Agenda.

12. Correspondence: A complaint has been received by SMDC concerning the village flagpole. The Clerk read the responses from the District Council monitoring officer regarding the rules of flying flags.

13. District Council report: Cllr. Hulme, mainly the budget discussions and preparing for the election has begun.

14. County Council report: Not available as Cllr. Deaville had to leave the meeting early.

15. Cllr Holdcroft mentioned the dreadful earthquake incident recently in Turkey. He asked for the item to be on the March Agenda for the Parish Council to consider a donation to the Disaster committee to aid their work.

16. Items raised in Public Participation for the next Council Agenda:

- i. Hill Helicopters Planning Application
- ii. Totmonslow Solar Farm
- iii. Railway Cottages issues
- iv. Draycott Summer Fayre
- v. Solar Array Application: Draycott Village Hall
- vi. Solar Array Application Parkers Piece
- vii. Coronation Grant ideas for Community events

The Vice Chairman then concluded the meeting with a statement about the current Parish Council coming to the end of the four-year term of office. The constitution of the new Parish Council is yet unknown. During March and April, the Parish Council should consider the legacy being left to the newly elected Parish Council on May 4th.

- **Projects need to be completed where possible.**
- **Finance – Annual audit reports need to be prepared.**
- **Website – the new website needs to be launched and complete with documents for transparency.**
- **Policy documents need to be reviewed in preparation for the Annual Meeting.**

MEETING ENDED 20.35

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[Signature Box]

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