



# Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

## Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Vice Chair. Cllr. Mark Deaville	Cllr. Bev Reardon
Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	Cllr. Robert Birds	
Cllr. Wilkinson (District)	Cllr Alan Hulme (District)	
Also present were 5 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. Luke Emery, Cllr. Lisa Emery

### 3. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Wilkinson and Cllr. Hulme declared in interest as members of SMDC Planning Committee.  
Cllr. McLaughlin declared an interest in Planning applications for Marsh House.

### 4. Public Participation:

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

Mr. Horleston gave an update on the planning consultation with the Blythe Park working group. Several points were raised:

- The Kings Council legal representative states the reserved matters should not have been offered for an amendment as it was not a valid application.
- A meeting has been arranged with the other local Parishes who share concerns who are proposing a statement of community involvement, for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Hollington Village Hall, time to be confirmed. Posters and flyers are being produced.
- Research has shown that a Helicopter company are potentially looking at other sites as a contingency plan where planning is less challenging, and research has shown that Stoke Air Ambulance have announced land offered as a base for deployment.
- The SMDC Planning Portal has not been updated reflecting applications due to be heard in December at Planning Committee.
- New levelling up regenerations bill is now law and relevant to these applications. The lack of a 5-year housing land supply argument has now gone.
- Questions were asked to the council asking what the present status is of replies to letters sent to SMDC monitoring officer, planning officer and CEO.

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

Signed Chairman  
Councillor

Date 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

The Clerk responded that she has received responses from all three sources with notification that the complaints were being considered through the District Councils complaints procedure. Cllr Birds stated that residents want to be widely consulted and not just the immediate households adjacent to the land. The council were in agreement that a thorough public consultation has not been done. Cllr. Deaville read out his recent letter to the Planning Officer concerning this issue. Cllr Wilkinson (declared an interest as Chair of Planning) commented on the Planning process. The applications have been validated at High Peak by officers who do not know this area. The validation process should be communicated through the Ward District Councillors.

***Clerk to write to the Planning Officer to suggest direct involvement of District Councillors in the consultation process.***

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were resolved as a correct record.

***Proposed Cllr Winfield – Seconded Cllr. McLaughlin***

6. a) **Village Gateways:**

Cllr Emery has done research and the prices quoted were very good for the amount of gateways proposed. The Clerk suggested that the council are in a good position due to not having to pay for election expenses, and also due to a VAT return due, so could consider in the budget to view funding for this project. It was proposed that the council pursue this to be completed in 2024.

***Proposed Cllr. Deaville – Seconded Cllr. Birds – Motion Carried***

- b) **Highways issues:**

A resident has asked for the 30mph sign at the top of Stuart Avenue to be cleared as traffic is exceeding this speed limit on Draycott Old Road. The sign may be in Forsbrook Parish. The Clerk was asked to inform Forsbrook Clerk, but to ask our Lengthsman to cut the hedgerow around the sign.

- c) **Cresswell Environment and Natural Habitats:**

The Chairman asked for the title to be corrected to Draycott in the Moors Environment and Natural Habitats. Cllr. Luke Emery has submitted a written report with news that Staffordshire Wildlife Trust will work with us on this project.

- d) **War Memorial:**

A surrounding area and curbing has now been completed and also a set of steps to the Flagpole. The Council are pleased with the result. The contractor will also remove the dead Christmas tree.

- e) **Neighbourhood Plan:**

The Council resolved to learn from other Plans already completed like Checkley and Denstone before embarking on contracts with Planning consultants.

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.

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

Signed Chairman  
Councillor

Date

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**8. Items on Notice:**

- a) Parishes Together Meeting: Already discussed under item 4.
- b) Christmas lights – Cllr Winfield has made some alterations and improved the miniature Chapel Christmas light decoration. This year it will last three weeks. Cllr Reardon and Cllr Lisa Emery also will decorate the bus stops.
- c) Public Right of Way No 8: A resident has asked for changes to be made to a style at a junction of three paths at the far end of Brookside. The style is high and inaccessible. The Council asked the Clerk to apply to the County Council Public Rights of Way department for grant to have an accessible replacement Kissing Gate.

An issue with the closure of a right of way over the fields, over the A50 bridge was reported. Clerk to ask for information on this.

- d) A response has been received from the Monitoring Officer to the councils request for freedom of information about the Cresswell Planning Developments. The complaint is going through the SMDC complaint procedure.
- e) Correspondence has been received from the SMDC CEO secretary to acknowledge receipt of the complaint.

**10.) Planning:**

SMD/2023/0490 Marsh House, Uttoxeter Road, Draycott – Single storey extension to existing residential dwelling

**Decision – No objection**

SMD/2023/0491 Marsh House, Uttoxeter Road, Draycott – Reconstruction of historic barn building

**Decision - No objection**

SMD/2023/0267 Elan Homes, Land at Blythe Park

SMD/2023/0268 Elan Homes, Land at Blythe Park

**Both applications discussed under item 4.**

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

Signed Chairman  
Councillor

Date

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## 11) Finance:

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Oct/Nov Clerk Expenses – milage 9 miles	£208.00 £4.50	£212.50	Cheque 1795
HMRC	PAYE Oct/Nov	£52.00	£52.00	1796
Draycott Church Hall	Nov meeting 2hrs	£20.00	£20.00	1797
R Fox	Lengthsman Work 11 hrs @£15 per hr	£165.00	£203.00	1798
J Swarbrooke	Maintenance Wood Coat Bench/Bus shelters Litter picking work 13 hrs @ £10 per hr	£38.00 £130.00	£130.00	1799
A Jackson	Flagpole Steps and War Memorial work	£600.00	£600.00	1800
Parish Online	Mapping Software	£64.00 +VAT £12.80	£76.80	1801
G Winfield	Halfords Battery and Inverter Lugs	£138.98 £10.00	£148.98	1802
VAST	Website	£130.00 + VAT £26.00	£156.00	1803
		<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£1,599.28</b>	

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

BANK BALANCE		Bank	Chq. No.	Bank Statement
Current Account 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2023		<b>£28,296.86</b>		
Reserve Account		<b>£0.01</b>		
<b>Total in Bank</b>		<b>£28,296.87</b>		
<i>Solar Array Fund</i>	<b>Earmarked Funds</b>	<b>£11,648.99</b>		<b>Earmarked</b>
<i>Election Reserve</i>		£3,073.89		<b>Earmarked</b>
<i>Cherry Trees</i>		£300.00		<b>Earmarked</b>
<i>Emergency Reserve</i>	4 months of Precept	£3,162.00		<b>Reserve</b>
<i>Lengthsman</i>	<b>Budgeted Funds</b>	£577.26		<b>Budget £1800.00</b>
<i>Litter picker</i>		£1,380.00		<b>Budget £1750.00</b>
<i>Salary &amp; PAYE</i>		£1,300.00		<b>Budget £3120.00</b>
<i>Hall Hire &amp; Administration</i>		£980.00		<b>estimated</b>
<b>Uncleared Cheques</b>	<i>Broxap</i> <i>Blythe Cricket Club</i>	£837.48 £800.00		
<b>General Fund Available</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2023</b>	<b>£4,237.24</b>		

The Clerk has applied for a VAT refund for the Period 1st April 2020 to 31 Mar 23 **Total £2,129.06**

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

Signed Chairman  
Councillor

Date

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**11. b) Budget Preparation Report:**

The Clerk explained the current financial position and the reserves which are earmarked. Also, the VAT refund due, which is substantial due to being over three years. Suggestions were invited to be included in the Budget setting plan for the December meeting.

An idea to request from the HS2 travel plan for the North is to have a bus route reinstated between Uttoxeter, Beamhurst, Fole, Checkley, Lower Tean, Tean, Totmonslow, Draycott, Blythe Bridge, Meir to Longton. Peoples' independence has gone, green transport. Push to resume the service. Work with Parishes together across the District. The rural Parishes have become disconnected. Driving instructors are hard to find, lessons are expensive a driving test waiting lists are very long. It was resolved to write to the County Council to ask for Rural Transport to be re-introduced.

Other proposals to be budgeted for are new Vehicle Activated Signs

**12. District Councillors Report:**

Cllr. Wilkinson and Cllr. Hulme reported that SMDC have resolved to professionally manage defibrillators across the District so that all the defibrillators are checked regularly and monitored.

**13. County Councillors Report:**

Pedestrian Refuges on Uttoxeter Road. Cllr Deaville said capital projects for road safety issues in Draycott could be possible in the next financial year.

**14. Matters Pertaining to issues in the Parish for the next Agenda:**

Funding for legal action was suggested if needed for the Cresswell Development. The Kings Council advice is coming through the Environmental Law Foundation. It was discussed that The Parish Council would need to be careful in funding legal costs as this would set a precedent. A discussion was had about planning conditions not being discharged. If conditions are not discharged then they have not lawfully got planning permission.

**MEETING ENDED 20.48**

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

Signed Chairman  
Councillor

--

Date

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023