



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 14th November 2022

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Winfield	Vice Chairman Cllr. Holdcroft	Cllr. Deaville
Cllr. Johnson	Cllr. Plant	
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. McLaughlin

District Cllr. Wilkinson

District Cllr. Hulme

Best wishes were sent to Cllr. Hollingum who has been ill and also to Mr Horleston from the working group, who has had an operation.

3. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Winfield	Item 14d	Cheque to be authorised for Christmas lights costs
Cllr. Plant	Item 6, 7 & 14d	War Memorial & Lengthsman

4. Public Participation:

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

- Resident commented that he was pleased to see completion of the War Memorial project. A boulder was mentioned in the minutes but the memorial is more sculpted. The Clerk apologised for the misuse of the word boulder meaning block of natural stone.
- Resident asked why the Defibrillator which is situated at Draycott Moor College is covered with a black bag and out of use. The Council discussed this and as the device is privately owned, no knowledge of its deactivation was known. The Clerk was asked to contact the College to find out.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on 10th October 2022 were approved as accurate and true record following amendment of the bolder to block of natural stone:

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

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

6. **War Memorial:** The War memorial is now in position on the green at the bottom of Church Lane. The lettering now needs to be painted in to finish. Thanks were given to Cllr. Plant for getting the stone masonry done in time for Armistice Day.
7. **Lengthsman Report:** No work has been completed in October due to work on the War Memorial.
8. **Litterpicker Report:** Zara Hutson has now started work as the Parish Litterpicker. She will invoice monthly and produce a report of her activity during the month.
9. **Benches:** The Clerk circulated the designs of wrought Iron sided benches. The Council resolved to purchase three Lion design benches and to have them delivered to the Lengthsman at a total cost of £2180.00 ex. VAT
- i. New Avenue Bus Stop by the Parish Notice Board.
 - ii. Uttoxeter Road – old bus stop/ lollipop crossing point
 - iii. Cresswell sign – entrance to the Hamlet on Cresswell Lane

Proposed Cllr. Deaville – Secoded Cllr. Johnson – All in favour – Motion Carried

Previous Solar applications were also mentioned – The clerk has received correspondence from the resident who applied for bulbs and wildflowers, that she has not spent all the wildflower and bulb funds. The Council resolved that if not used any remaining funds should be returned so they can be re-allocated to a future project.

A Cresswell resident had also enquired about a grit bin for Rookery Crescent. The Council resolved to purchase this before the icy weather sets in, if the resident can order the design he had researched, and the cost was under £100.00. The Clerk was asked to request it is then filled by the County Highways Team on their Winter rounds to top up the grit bins.

Proposed Cllr. Holdcroft – Secoded Cllr. Johnson – All in favour – Motion Carried

10.Speed throughout the Parish:

- i. **Pedestrian Crossing or Pedestrian Refuges on Uttoxeter Road.** The Clerk has registered a request for pedestrian refuges along Uttoxeter Road to help resident cross the road safely. These will prevent overtaking and slow down traffic, while giving pedestrians safe refuge across the road.
- ii. **Speed Limit Reduction throughout the whole Parish.** A discussion was had about reducing speed on all entrance points and throughout the Parish. Cllr Deaville suggested he could request funding in the next financial year capital budget for the Parish.
- iii. **Community Speedwatch.** Volunteers are required to get this program reactivated. The Parish already owns the equipment required. The Clerk had trained at a recent course at Endon. Cllr. Johnson told of his experience as a Community Speedwatch volunteer. The Council resolved to continue to request volunteers. Three are needed for each session. A team of five to seven are recommended to rotate shifts.

Congestion caused by works in Blythe Bridge was discussed.

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- iv. **20 is Plenty.** 20 mph was discussed through Draycott and with all the will in the world would be very hard to achieve due to the nature of the road topography being straight, wide and flat. It was resolved to push to reduce the speed to 30mph.

Highways line painting was discussed as some parts have been done, but not all.

11. Vehicle Activated Signs: Clerk to present a data report at the next meeting if possible. The Council are still not happy with the current VAS signage. Clerk to ask Hilderstone Parish Council for some advice and find out costs of similar devices for future purchase consideration.

12. Christmas Lights. Originally Cllr. Hollingum's idea to have a plan for seasonal events. Cllr. Winfield has designed a battery system with a decorative miniature chapel to power the lights after the attempt with solar lights was unsuccessful last year due to the ambient light of the streetlamps.

13. a) Blythe Park Working Group report: No decision has been reached on the Appeal for the Cresswell Business Park entrance – roundabout/ traffic lights. The working group have commissioned a Legal specialist to assess the Reserved Planning applications 0267 and 0268. The Local press have ran reports on the issues. Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford Borough Councils have also supported the Parishioners objections. The working group have proved that the original outline should not have the right to change such fundamental elements as the roundabouts under reserved matters. SMDC Planning department have commented to say that no further action will be progressed until the case has been heard at the appeal in Bristol. Cllr. Deaville as Deputy Leader of SMDC has requested that all applications for Blythe Park to be suspended on grounds of technicality, complexity and consultation until the Appeal decision is released.

Cllr. Holdcroft reinforced the gratitude from the Parish Council for the work that the working group members had done in researching the Planning issues, and that Cllr Deaville's pledge to support the Parishioners at Parish level even though he holds the position of Deputy leader at SMDC is to be commended.

Proposed Cllr. Johnson – Secoded Cllr. Holdcroft – All in favour

b) Planning Applications: There were no applications to consider in November.

14. a) A Community Benefit Agreement by Novus (Blythe House Solar Farm). The Clerk presented the legal document to be signed by the Chairman for a 50% split with Checkley Parish Council for a community fund to be managed via the Parish Council. The Clerk witnessed the signing.

Proposed Cllr Johnson – Secoded Cllr. Deaville – All in favour – Motion carried.

b) Accounting Software – The Clerk presented a quotation from an accounting software company specialising in local government finance, to enable the Clerk to present better reports especially to separate the Solar Array Funding and to make the end of year Annual Accounting and Governance Report easier to produce. The Council resolved to purchase the software.

Proposed Cllr. Holdcroft – Secoded Cllr Winfield – All in favour – Motion carried

c) Balance of Accounts – The Clerk apologised but the accounting statement is still not up to date.

d) Payments were authorised:

It was resolved to donate £50.00 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the Parish wreath.

Proposed Cllr. Holdcroft – Secoded Cllr. Johnson – All in favour

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G Plant (Stone Mason)	War Memorial Balance	£500.00	Total £500.00
D Wheat	Clerk Salary Oct/Nov Clerk Expenses – milage 9 miles	£208.00 £4.50	£212.50
HMRC	PAYE	£52.00	£52.00
Draycott Church Hall	November meeting 2hrs	£20.00	£20.00
G Winfield	Christmas tree decoration Battery/ Accessories/ Lights	£245.78	£245.78
Poppy Appeal	Donation to for wreath	£50.00	£50.00

The above payments proposed.....GW..... and cheques duly signed.....MD
 Except for the cheque to G Winfield which was countersigned by PMCL following the meeting.

15. Correspondence:

- a) A complaint was read from a resident regarding recent removal of a tree from the border of the footway and the debris deposited on the resident's property. There is an issue where a wall is falling onto the public footway and this needs to be addressed by the resident. Clarification is needed on Highways responsibility. Residents need to keep their boundary walls in place and their borders clear. Footpath safety is a major concern on the stretch of footway from the Draycott Arms to Cresswell Old Road. The resident also complained that the footway along Cheadle Road has also not been cleared to the sharp corner. Clerk to report this to Highways and the Lengthsman to clear what he is able to do safely.

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

16. No District Councillors were present: Condolences were expressed to be sent to Cllr. Hulme on the sad passing of his wife Mary (nee. Bostock) born in Totmonslow, attended Draycott School and was a leader at Draycott Brownies in the 1960's.

17. County Councillor Report: Cllr. Deaville requested that Draycott Parish Council meetings are moved to 7pm. Standing orders will need to be amended. Item for the next Agenda

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

- a) A request has been received for support from Blythe Cricket Club via the website for support with their Annual Firework Show.
- b) Trees have been cut down behind St Margaret's Court. This work needs to be checked for Tree Preservation Orders
- c) Parkers Piece Community Project update.

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

Draycott Moor College Defibrillator

MEETING ENDED 21.00

Closing date for correspondence, written submissions, 7 days before next meeting please

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Signed Chairman Councillor		Date	12 th December 2022