

Draycott-in-the-Moors ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes - Monday, 15th May 2023

Minutes recorded by	Start Time	Location
Clerk Mrs D Wheat	7.45pm	Draycott Church Hall, Church Lane, Draycott, ST11 9AG

- 1. Chairman's Welcome: Parish Council Chairman Gordon Winfield opened the meeting of the Parish.**
- 2. 15 attendees were present.**

3. Parish Council ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Welcome to the new (uncontested) elected Councillors: 6 in total leaving one seat vacant.

Parish Councillors:

Cllr. Gordon Winfield, Cllr. Mark Deaville, Cllr. Luke Emery, Cllr. Lisa Emery, Cllr. Robert Birds
Cllr. Mark Hall was not present. Clerk to contact him via post to see if he wishes to accept his council role.

District Councillors for Checkley Ward re-elected:

Cllr. Mark Deaville, Cllr. Pete Wilkinson, Cllr. Alan Hulme

County Councillor:

Cllr. Mark Deaville

Sincere best wishes to retiring Councillors: Holdcroft, McLaughlin for all their years' service for the Community of Draycott in the Moors. Also, thanks to the contribution over the past year from Co-opted Councillors Plant and Johnson and Hollingum.

Parish Council Report 2022-23:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield

Clerk Mrs. Denise Wheat

Vice Chairman Cllr. Roger Holdcroft

Cllr. Pat McLaughlin,

Cllr. Mark Deaville

Cllr. George Plant

Cllr. Glyn Johnson

Cllr. Sabrina Hollingum

Meetings:

- A new start time was approved in January 2023 to 7pm at Draycott Church Hall, ST11 9AG.
- Letter from Cllr. Holdcroft (attached):
- Public attendance and engagement have been excellent throughout the year at meetings.
- Thanks to the Blythe Park working group for all their dedicated research and commitment to the issues of the Parish caused by current Planning applications.

National British Events:

- The late Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations were celebrated in the villages.
- The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022 was marked in the Parish with the flag protocol as a mark of respect.

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Signed Chairman
Councillor

Date

13th May 2024

- The recent Coronation of King Charles III was also celebrated throughout the Parish.

Governance:

- The Precept was set at 0% for the forthcoming financial year.
- A new website has now been completed which is accessible and easier to use.
<https://draycottparishcouncil.uk/>
- The council have invested in new accounting software to improve administration processes for the Clerk.

Community Engagement and Volunteer activity in the Parish:

- Izzy from Brookside, a Duke of Edinburgh student from Painsley Catholic College undertook litter picking in the Parish as her voluntary sector of the award. She completed 6 months of litter picking at least 1-2 hours every week. Thanks also to other individuals who litter pick, including on the Public Rights of Way and the Cresswell and Totmonslow Railway track.
- Draycott Nurseries continue to support the Parish by supplying plants and maintaining the Planters. Thanks to the volunteers who weed and water these planters throughout the year.
- Thanks to the volunteers who help put up bunting and poppies in the Parish each year to mark Remembrance and the Royal events.
- Christmas decorations were also improved by the design of a battery powered lights system. Thanks also to the community members who decorated the bus shelters throughout the festive period as these were visually effective.
- The Council have pledged to support a new Parish community group which is forming to build an active working team in the Parish to raise funds for the upkeep of the historic building of St Margarets Church, but also with the intention building teamwork to put on small community events and to enable the continuation of the larger event Draycott Summer Fayre.

Contract work:

- Lengthsman work has been done by George Plant.
- Litter picking work by Zara Hutson

War Memorial:

- Completed in November 2022 by local stone mason George Plant made from Hollington Stone.

Street furniture:

- Three benches will soon be fitted from the Solar Array Community fund - one in Cresswell and two in Draycott.
- More wildflowers are to be planted soon.
- Research is currently underway to possibly have more litterbins in the Parish to help reduce dog fouling in the area.

Planning Applications:

- Blythe Vale development is progressing. Draycott Racquet and Sports Centre has been successful in gaining S106 funding for pitch provision which will see a renovation of the centre over the coming year to improve the Community sports facility.

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- Blythe Park Applications at Cresswell including a road and junction restructure, a large housing development and industrial factory site proposals are still at the Planning consultation and appeals stages.
- Large Solar Farm applications are also emerging in the Parish, some approved and some pending.

A discussion was then had regarding Highways issues in the Parish. The Parish Council will add the items to the June Agenda and liaise with the Highways officer.

Highways Issues:

- Reduction of speed throughout the Parish.
- Pedestrian Refuges to help residents cross the busy roads.
- Potholes and road surface repair reporting.
- Pooling on Pavement at the bottom of Stuart Avenue.
- Overgrown footways and improvements for pedestrians.
- Improve and extend VAS signage units to remind drivers to reduce speed.
- Plant trees at Village Gateways.
- Community Speedwatch – to reform the volunteer group.

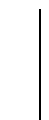
4. The Clerk presented the unaudited year end accounts and the VAT summary. These will now go for internal audit with Mrs M. Corbishley before the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is completed.

The Clerk explained that a VAT return is now due. £1251.69 from 2020-2023 and £988.14 in 2022-23. A total of £2,239.83

15 May 2023 (2022 - 2023)

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council
SUMMARY OF VAT POSITION

Actual to date	
Brought Forward	£1,251.69
Receipts	
Sub Total	-£1,251.69
Payments	£988.14
Bal. carry/fwd.	-£2,239.83



Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Opening Balance		
Balance at Bank	19,645.66	
Cash in Hand		
Precept	10,063.00	
Clerk Salary		2,488.00
HMRC PAYE		622.00
Lengthsman		715.00
Litter Picker		321.50
Solar Array Fund	2,516.53	
Grants	2,160.00	
Insurance		422.59
Subscriptions		1,422.91
Donations		320.00
Room Hire Fee		294.98
Audit		35.00
Clerk Mileage		57.94
Election Charge		481.51
Printing		314.93
Christmas Lights		204.82
Benches		2,429.99
Maintenance costs		34.70
Flags & Bunting		783.30
Website Fees		425.00
Purchase of Assets		500.00
VAS Signs		299.00
VAT		988.14
	14,739.53	13,161.31
Closing Balances:		
Balances in Bank Account		21,223.88
Cash in Hand		
TOTAL	34,385.19	34,385.19

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the council as at 31 Mar 2023

Signed _____
Responsible Financial Officer

Date _____

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Councillor

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5. Open Floor Discussions:

a) Blythe Park Working Group

A discussion was had between members of the working group, members of the public and councillors regarding the progress of the Blythe Park applications. Concerns were raised about Helicopters seen flying low in the area. The Clerk was asked to write to the authority leaders, (County) John Henderson and District (Andrew Stokes) to complain about how distressing this is to residents asking why these flights are necessary, whether they are legal and safe. Also copy in SMDC Environmental Health officer Alicia Pattinson.

b) Air Ambulance

The Stoke-on-Trent Air Ambulance in comparison to the Midlands Air Ambulance were discussed and the support of the NHS. People need to be fully informed about these charity air ambulance services.

c) Cresswell Kiosk

Glyn Johnson gave an informative talk on the Cresswell Community Kiosk Group:

Report of Cresswell Community Kiosk Group to the Draycott-in-the-Moors Annual Assembly 2023

When the telephone kiosk on Cresswell lay-by was made redundant by BT in 2015, the Cresswell Community Group lobbied for it to be turned over to the community. This was successful, and the group then refurbished the kiosk.

The kiosk actually belongs to Draycott Parish Council, who pays a peppercorn rent for it to BT. BT supply free electricity to the kiosk, which keeps the lights on and keeps the defibrillator up to a minimum temperature.

However, basic maintenance, including cleaning and tidying, is actually carried out by the Cresswell Community Kiosk Group. The members of the group also cut back undergrowth around the kiosk and give the adjacent bench and wildlife board a regular wipe down. The Kiosk Group now consists of two people, Mark Stewart and Glyn Johnson.

The kiosk contains a defibrillator. The defibrillator, which cost over £2000 to put in and set up, was paid for with funds donated by local people and local charities including Rotary and the British Heart Foundation. It was installed by AED Donate, who still carry out any major repairs. As recommended by the defibrillator makers, the workings of the defibrillator are checked once a month - a member of the group does the check.

The group set up a community account with Hanley Economic to pay for maintenance jobs, such as replacement of the defibrillator pads and light-bulbs; the money in it is from a crowd-sourcing fund that is monitored by AED Donate. There is currently about £50 in the account.

But, when there was some vandalism to the kiosk door, the parish council paid for the repair.

The other aspect of the kiosk is the book-swap. At any one time there are around 100 books in the kiosk for local people to take away and read. These have all been donated, and over the last five years, about 500 books have been given. The amount of swaps per month is about 20, which is satisfactory.

Books that have been in the kiosk over six months without being borrowed are donated in turn to Blythe Bridge Library, who can sell them for library funds.

There is also a small notice-board in the kiosk.

There is a webpage about the kiosk, which reports any updates.

The future of the kiosk depends on whether the development at Blythe Park goes ahead. If it does, the kiosk will be in the way of a new entry road, in which case the kiosk will have to be taken down.

A general discussion about the locations of all the defibrillators in the Parish was then had:

The Anchor Inn on Breach Lane will be fitting a defibrillator in 2023

Draycott Moor College has recently installed one on the public side of the railings on Draycott Old Road, Draycott Racquet and Fitness Club have one on their building during opening hours.

Cresswell Community Kiosk – telephone box in the centre of Cresswell on Sandon Road

The Golden Keg Restaurant Uttoxeter Road, Draycott and La Verde Italian Restaurant Draycott Road and Cheadle Road Junction host the Parish Council defibrillators. Thanks to all these venues for their support in providing these valuable community facilities.

MEETING ENDED 20.45

Refreshments were served

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Signed Chairman
Councillor

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