



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 8th January 2024

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Lisa Emery	Cllr. Luke Emery
Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	Cllr. Robert Birds	
Also present were 4 members of the public		

Minutes recorded by	Start Time	Location
Clerk Mrs D Wheat	7.08pm	Draycott Church Hall, Church Lane, Draycott, ST11 9AG

1. **Chairman's Welcome:**

Chairman, Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies:**

Cllr. Bev Reardon (Parish)
Cllr Alan Hulme (District)
Cllr. Wilkinson (District)
Cllr. Deaville (Parish, District & County)

3. **Declaration of Interests:** Nothing declared.

4. **Public Participation:** No members of the public asked to speak on this occasion.

5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th December 2023** were resolved as a correct record. ***Proposed Cllr Winfield – Seconded Cllr. McLaughlin***

6. **Matters Arising:**

- a) **Christmas lights.** A few technical issues were overcome. Each year improvements have been made. Thanks were given to Cllr. Winfield, Cllr. Reardon and Cllr. Lisa Emery for putting up the decorations.
- b) **Public Right of Way No.8 change of stile:** The Clerk is researching how to get a kissing gate. A PROW grant is available to be applied for.
- c) **Village Gateways:** Cllr. Emery is working on locations and specifications for this project and will report back at the next meeting.
- d) **Highways issues:**
 - i. **Flooding in Cresswell:** Cllr. Birds reported more flooding has occurred on Sandon Road in Cresswell. The gullies are still blocked.
 - ii. **Potholes on Cheadle Road:** Clerk to report.

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Signed Chairman
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- iii. **Stuart Avenue:** Large pooling point at the bottom to be discussed at the next Highways Officer visit.
- iv. **Road Safety throughout the Parish:** Moved to be discussed under Item 9.

e) Draycott-in-the-Moors Environment and Natural Habitats:

Staffs Wildlife are keen to work with the Council to identify all the parts of the Parish that Cllr Luke Emery has identified:

- Bromley Woods,
- Newclose Sprink,
- Hosewood Farm and land north of Hosewood,
- Blythe Business Park,
- Lower Newton Farm,
- Huntley Wood,

These areas either have or potentially have Planning applications pending.

Cllr. Winfield recommend the new area to be developed on Blythe Fields as a nature zone to be included.

Public Right of Way No 6. It was reported to the Parish Council that it might be blocked off. The developers are allowed to move the public right of way as this was in the application, but they shouldn't block it off completely. Cllr. Birds agreed to walk the footpath during the next month to check.

- f) **Neighbourhood Plan:** Re-engaging a Planning adviser was discussed. Cllr. Luke Emery has researched funding for Neighbourhood Planning and found that this is earmarked for Parish Councils to apply for. If Draycott-in-the-Moors could get the restart underway by March, other planning in the Parish can then be considered for example the solar farm planning. Item for the next Agenda.

7. Lengthsman Report:

The Clerk read the report from the Lengthsman and Litter picker. No major tasks have been done in December, but there has been some Litter picking.

The Council asked if the Lengthsman could clean some of the village road signs: The Clerk advised that any with lighting should not be cleaned and should be reported to County Highways.

8. Items on Notice:

- a) **Parishes Together meeting:** Checkley are hosting a meeting on Monday February 5th at 7pm at Great Wood Hall in Tean, ST10 4JY. **Cllr. Luke Emery, Cllr. Birds, Cllr. Winfield will attend.**

9. Speeding Traffic on Uttoxeter Road:

- i. **Condolences:** The Parish Council are saddened to hear of the fatality which occurred on Uttoxeter Road, Draycott on Christmas Eve and send condolences to those families involved. Grateful thanks were given to the Police and Emergency services for their response.
- ii. **Police Request for information to assist with their enquiry:**
There has been a request from Staffordshire Highways and Staffordshire Police for the data which the Vehicle Activated Signs record. The Clerk asked for help to retrieve this data. Cllr. Luke Emery offered to download the software and connect remotely to the devices.

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- iii. **Petition to our MP:** The Chairman presented a petition which was sent 7 years ago to MP. Bill Cash, to ask for something to be done about the speed through the Parish. The Council discussed petitioning our MP to change the speed limit to 30mph. It was discussed to write to Jack Brereton who may be the Stoke South MP succeeding MP Bill Cash when the boundary changes take place. The Parish could Lobby all potential candidates if an election is called.
- iv. **Highways Officer:**
The Council had a meeting with the Highways Officer in the summer and a discussion was had about the difficulty to enforce a Speed limit. All the speed cameras in the Moorlands have been refreshed recently to encourage drivers to drive at the correct speed limits. Education of drivers is an area that the County are working towards with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership.
- v. **History of Uttoxeter Road:** The Chairman recalled 17 tragic fatalities in-between the Draycott Arms (Villa Verde Restaurant) to the start of the Queensway near to Chandni Cottage Restaurant. The stretch of road is ¾ mile. There have now been 18 fatalities.
- v. **Pedestrian Safety:** The Parish Council have asked for pedestrian refuges or a Pelican crossing to be installed in the Stuart Avenue area.
- vi. **Traffic Calming:** A roundabout at the junction of Cresswell Lane and Uttoxeter Road was in the original Planning Application for Blythe Park which would have been a traffic calming feature, but this has now been changed in the current planning application for Blythe Park. Vehicles need to be stopped from overtaking with islands, pedestrian refuges, crossing points or any other road traffic engineering that can be implemented on the road.
- vii. **A50 Diversion Route:** Uttoxeter Road is a distributor road and used often for diversions of huge numbers of HGV traffic. A discussion was had about 'Horizontal techniques', road narrowing, islands in the middle, mini roundabouts at junctions.
- viii. **Feasibility:** An estimate of £6,000 to get a feasibility study done was discussed. Clerk to check if Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership are currently offering any Grants which could be used for speed calming.

Propose - Cllr Lisa Emery – Seconded Cllr Winfield: to ask the Highways Officer to come to the Parish for a site visit and to attend a future meeting if possible.

- ix. **Local Residents correspondence:** A letter has been received requesting a memorial bench in to mark this recent fatality. The Item to be on the February Agenda.

10. Planning:

a) Blythe Park Working Report:

- **Hill Helicopters:** An update was received from Cllr. Luke Emery regarding requests from the applicant to the Environment Agency to reduce the levels of flood data connected with the application, but the Environment Agency are upholding their request for data reports.

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- A Freedom of Information request to Staffordshire Air Ambulance has triggered alarming comments to the SMDC District Councillors. It was suggested to write to Cheadle Town Council to inform them. **Cllr. Luke Emery will draft a letter.**
- **Blythe Park:** Residential developers Elan Holmes have not yet submitted enough reports as requested to meet the Planning criteria.

11. Finance & Governance: Payments were authorised from December for the following:

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Dec/Jan	£208.00		Cheque
	Clerk Expenses – milage 4.5 miles	£2.25	£260.25	1812
A Lovatt	Broxap Bin Collection from depot	£50.00		
HMRC	PAYE Dec/Jan	£52.00	£52.00	1813
Draycott Church Hall	Jan meeting 2hrs	£25.00	£25.00	1814
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work 8.5hrs @ £10 per hr	£85.00	£85.00	1815
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association	Councillor Training	£108.00	£108.00	1816
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	£840.85	

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

BANK BALANCE		Bank	Chq. No.	Bank Statement
Current Account 1 st Dec 2023		£27,415.96		
Reserve Account		£0.01		
Total in Bank		£27,415.97		
Solar Array Fund	Earmarked Funds	£11,648.99		Earmarked
Election Reserve		£3,073.89		Earmarked
Cherry Trees		£300.00		Earmarked
Emergency Reserve	4 months of Precept	£3,162.00		Reserve
Lengthsman	Budgeted Funds	£224.26		Budget £1800.00
Litter picker		£1,035.00		Budget £1750.00
Salary & PAYE		£520.00		Budget £3120.00
Hall Hire & Administration		£163.15		estimated
Uncleared Cheques				
General Fund Available	<i>Estimated (awaiting January Bank Statement)</i>	£7288.68		

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A VAT refund for the Period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023 has been received £2,129.06 and included in General Fund above.

b) Budget Report:

2024/2025 PRECEPT REQUIREMENT REPORT

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
% Increase	2024/25 -5.5%	2024/25 0%	2024/25 1%	2024/25 2%	2024/25 3%	2024/25 4%	2024/25 5%
Precept Required	£9,487 Precept stays same as last year	£10,035	£10,134	£10,237	£10,336	£10,438	£10,537
Tax Base	346 last year 366 (20 more)	366	366	366	366	366	366
Equivalent band D precept	£25.92	£27.42 Household pays same as last year	£27.69 +27p	£27.97 +55p	£28.24 +82p	£28.52 +£1.10	£28.79 +£1.37

The tax base is the number of equivalent band D properties in the Parish. Draycott has increased by 20.

Column A: -5.5% - Cost of Council Tax decreases for residents, Council would receive the same as in 2023 - **£9487.00**

Column B: 0% - Council Tax will stay the same to residents **£27.42**, Council will receive £548 more than last year.

Column C: 1% increase – Household (Band D) pays 27p more/ Council Precept received would be **£647 more (£10,134.00)**

Column D: 2% increase – Household pays 55p more/ Council Precept in received would be **£750 more (£10,237.00)**

Column E: 3% increase – Household pays 82p more/ Council Precept received would be **£849 more (£10,336.00)**

Column F: 4% increase – Household pays £1.10 more/ Council Precept received would be **£951 more (£10,438.00)**

Column G: 5% increase – Household pays £1.37 more/ Council Precept received would be **£1,050 more (£10,537.00)**

Budget Setting: Cllr. Birds was thanked for producing a Budget Spreadsheet which will be clear to see the annual budget forecast. This can be shared after setting the Precept with councillors on a regular basis to monitor the finances.

The Clerk went through the expenditure items of the Council and any potential increases were considered:

- The Clerks salary will be adjusted to meet the NALC guidelines to fit a Salary Point in line with responsibility. **SCP10 £13.28 per hour x5 £66.40 x 52 weeks £3452.80**
- There will be small increases in line with inflation on services and administration products.
- The Lengthsman has estimated an average of 3 hours per week annually (seasonally spread out as more work is needed in summer) **£2340 (£15 x 3 £45 x52 weeks)**

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- The Litter picker will maintain 3 hours per week on average throughout the year. **£1560 (£10 x3 £30 x 52 weeks)**
- Increase in Hall hire was incorporated. **£25 per meeting x11 Parish Council x 1 Parish Assembly £300.00**
- An **Election cost reserve of £3000** was agreed to be vired into the next financial year, but no additional funding to be budgeted towards an election.
- **£5000 to be vired to the gateway project** from the General fund.
- 4 months equivalent precept to be reserved as recommended by the Auditor.
- An emergency reserve to be earmarked for unexpected repairs or other circumstances needing urgent response.
- **Solar Array Fund:** It was discussed to promote the Solar Array fund opportunity to the Community to encourage applications.
- **Cherry Trees:** well established, 6ft bear root flowering Cherry trees to be purchased. It was proposed to purchase and get these planted when the locations for the gateway signage has been approved.
- **Proposed Lisa Emery – Second Cllr. Birds – all in favour**
- **Future Parish Projects:** The Council discussed Parish Projects: When a specific project is identified funds should be earmarked for that project in the budget.

The Council then voted on setting the Precept Request.

Proposed 2% increase by Cllr Birds – Seconded Cllr Winfield. – Motion not carried

Counter Proposal of 1% by Cllr Lisa Emery – Seconded Cllr McLaughlin

The Council then resolved unanimously to raise the Precept by 1% - Motion Carried

12. Matters pertaining:

a. Speed Issues:

What are the Council going to do to address the issue and to reduce speed? A plan is needed so action can be taken.

b. Uttoxeter Road Traffic Calming:

- When the A50 is closed the volume and speed of traffic is needs to be monitored. Every time the A50 is closed it causes massive disruption to the village.
- HGV's coming through Draycott, Tean & Checkley must be damaging the roads.
- Speed checks need to be put in.
- New Vehicle Activated signage.
- The number of fatalities on the road were discussed.
- Pedestrian crossing points are needed for residents.
- Cllr Deaville has earmarked the pedestrian refuge on the County capital plan.
- Use of lanes is damaging property and verges when drivers avoid the traffic.
- Lobby Highways England as the Parishes Together was discussed.

x. **Clerk was asked to remind the PCSOs to attend the Parish Council meetings if possible.**

Meeting ended 20.40

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