



# Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

## Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Winfield	Vice Chairman Cllr. Holdcroft	Cllr. Deaville
Cllr. Johnson	Dist. Cllr Wilkinson	Dist. Cllr. Hulme
Cllr. Plant		
Also present were 14 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:

Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies:

Cllr. Hollingum – dispensation granted  
Cllr. McLaughlin

### 3. Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Wilkinson	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) A resident asked if individual Parish Councillors would write into the Planning Department to intensify the complaints regarding Planning consultation. The Councillors agreed to do this.  
**Proposed – Cllr. Holdcroft – Seconded Cllr. Deaville – Motion Carried**
- c) A resident complained that Planning notices had been put on posts on Private land facing away from public view. They felt this was not the purpose of a public notice of Planning.
- d) A resident commented that a Planning application for the Helicopter factory had been released during the Christmas period when the Planning Department knew that people would be on holiday,

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away visiting relatives and not in a position to hold public meetings. There was also a postal strike to increase the problems of consultation. They felt this had been timed in this way on purpose.

Cllr. Deaville responded to say that the Planning process needs to be transparent. It is a very complex application which needs thorough consultation and understanding of the wider implications to the area. The council needs to support economic growth in the area but only if done in the right way. The application for Blythe Park has been ongoing for 9 years.

Cllr. Holdcroft thanked the residents for all their work researching the Planning Applications. Cllr. Deaville seconded this thanks to the Blythe Park working group for their scientific examination of the facts and for their community teamwork.

Cllr. Wilkinson cannot comment on this application with being on the Planning Committee, but can comment on procedures and he said several assessments had not been done before the Application was validated. Outdated information has been presented.

Cllr. Deaville said he has been councillor on Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council for over 25 years and has never before had objections from other City Councils such as Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford Borough even when there was a previous application for a Power Station on the site. Cllr. Deaville assured residents that a proper democratic decision will be made by elected members of the District Council Planning Committee.

Formal Complaint procedures were discussed for some residents who wished to complain.

In conclusion, a complaint has been made by residents on behalf of the Parish Community. The Parish Council support the action group in their endeavours for public rights of consultation and proper procedures.

***Proposed Cllr. Holdcroft – Seconded Cllr. Johnson – Motion Carried***

- e) The Clerk read out correspondence from a Draycott resident about the overgrown footway from Brookside upwards on Cheadle Road. The grass and debris from the road is covering the pavement. It was confirmed that the Lengthsman cannot clear this because of safety due to speed and proximity to the road. The problem must be reported to County Highways for proper provision to be made for traffic management to ensure safety of staff or contractors clearing the footway.

**5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

The Clerk apologised but has not yet done the minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> December meeting due to the Christmas holiday and all the finance work in the new year to prepare the budgets. This issue will be rectified soon, and she apologised to anyone awaiting information from these minutes.

**6. Tree Preservation Orders:**

- a) The Clerk has spoken to Tree Preservation Officer who has confirmed that the trees in proximity to St Margaret's Court were TPO's but unfortunately upon inspection some were diseased and dangerous. The applications to remove the trees did go through the Planning office and everything has been done for the best care of the remaining trees.
- b) Benches have been ordered and are in progress. They will be delivered to the Lengthsman when complete and ready for fitting.

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c) Speed and Volume of Traffic through the Parish. Cllr Deaville proposed to arrange a meeting with the Highways officer onsite to look at Draycott Parish's current issues.

- Footway Clearance
- Road Surface under Cresswell A50 bridge
- Pedestrian Refuges on Uttoxeter Road to aid pedestrian crossing.
- 30mph throughout the Parish
- Cherry Trees to be planted at the Village Gateways
- Potholes
- Re-repair of Cheadle Road Railings

d) Christmas Lights: The Council thanked the Community Volunteers who provided the Christmas decorations on the local bus stops, they looked festive and visually effective to passers by. Thanks, was also given to Cllr. Winfield for his work creating the battery powered lights for the tree at the bottom of Church Lane. This lasted 10 days. Next year he will improve the system further to get more days powered so the lights are on for longer.

e) S106 funding for Draycott Racquet and Sports Centre. The Chairman asked the District Councillors why the Parish had not been involved with this. He spoke on behalf of the population who will probably never use this facility. He asked why the Draycott Church Hall could not have some of the funding so that a broader coverage of the electorate could benefit. Cllr. Deaville replied that because of the specific conditions being for pitch provision, the sports centre is the only leisure facility in the Parish area. The sports centre also applied which put them in a very strong position. Cllr. Wilkinson clarified this and said it was definitely only available for specific off site pitch provision. Blythe Cricket Club may receive funding if the Cresswell developments go ahead with S106 funding for the Cresswell area. The Community Infrastructure Levy is a different funding structure, but this has not been adopted by SMDC.

If the Church Hall Committee wish to apply for funding to improve the facility they need to be upfront and talking to the Parish Council now about what could be done so that any applications would already have the quotations in place and the evidence base ready when opportunities arise.

Cllr. Johnson was surprised the funding had gone to a private company. Forsbrook Parish Council have been approved outdoor Gym equipment for their Playing fields. Draycott is in a good position to apply for the Sports Grant which needs match funding. Public consultation about future projects could be discussed at quarterly meetings focusing on healthy living and what could benefit the Community.

#### **7. Lengthsman report:**

No work has been done in December due to the weather. Lettering is still to be completed on the War Memorial, and again this will be completed when the weather improves.

#### **8. Litterpicker report:**

No invoice has been submitted in January for December, but a full report will be prepared for the February meeting.

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**9. Planning Applications:**

**SMD/2022/0652** – 141 Uttoxeter Road, Draycott – Proposed single storey infill extension.

**Blythe Park working group – The committee reported that the appeal for the road junction in Cresswell had still not been set. The new application below is a new major planning application.**

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

**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.**

The Clerk could not download the Planning Applications as there were too many documents. It was resolved to move both the Planning Applications to the February Agenda so they can be scrutinised properly. Clerk to download documents to present at the 13<sup>th</sup> February meeting.

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

**10. Finance & Governance:**

**a) Payments were authorised:**

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Dec/Jan Clerk Expenses – milage 9 miles Broadband & Telephone 2022/23 (@£10 per month)	£208.00 £4.50 £120.00	£332.50	Cheque no. 1746
HMRC	PAYE	£52.00	£52.00	1747
Draycott Church Hall	December meeting 2hrs	£20.00	£20.00	1748
Starboard Systems Ltd.	Scribe Accounting Software	£375.00 VAT £75.00	£450.00	1749
SMDC	Election 4 <sup>th</sup> Payment	£481.52	£481.52	1750

***Proposed Cllr. Winfield - Seconded Cllr. Holdcroft – Motion Carried***

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**b) Precept Calculation Report: 2023/2024 PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS**

A table of % increase figures so that the Draycott in-the-Moors Parish Council can make a decision to request Precept from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for 2023/2024

	<b>A</b> Previous year 2020/21	<b>B</b> Previous 2021/22	<b>C</b> Current Year 2022/23	<b>D</b> Council Tax charge stays the same to residents	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b> Precept request stays almost the same as 2022 (less £5)
<b>Percentage Increase</b>	2020/2021 -1.1%	2021/2022 0%	2022/2023 2%	2023/2024 0%	2023/2024 1%	2023/2024 3%	2023/2024 5%	2023/2024 6%
<b>Precept Requirement</b>	£9,500	£9,731	£10,063	£9,487	£9,581	£9,971	£9,961	£10,058
<b>Tax Base</b>	357	362	367	346	346	346	346	346
<b>Equivalent band D precept Cost per year per household</b>	£26.88	£26.88	£27.42	£27.42	£27.69 +27p	£29.24 +82p	£28.79 +£1.37	£29.07 +£1.65

**Column A** was the Precept for 2020/2021. -1.1% decrease

**Column B** was the Precept for 2021/2022. 0% No increase

**Column C** is the Precept for 2022/2023 (the current year) 2% increase

In 2023/24 the tax base is less at 346 for Band D properties (decreased by 21)

**Column D - 0%** - If the Council decide to keep the Precept at 0% the Precept requirement will be **£9,487 ( a decrease of £571.00)**

**Column E, F G** are the percentage increases 1%, 3% and 5%

**Column H - 6%** - If the Council would like to keep the Precept request amount the same as last year (less £5) at **£10,058** the Precept will need to be raised by 6%

The Council questioned the decrease and asked the Clerk to check this with SMDC because 21 is a large amount of band D equivalent properties to lose in 1 year in a small Parish like Draycott-in-the-Moors. The Council resolved to defer the decision to set the Precept until further information is received with an explanation. An extraordinary meeting will need to be arranged before February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- c) The budget report was also deferred.
- d) The Precept request could not be approved at this time.

**11. Correspondence:**

The Clerk has received a copy of the signed legal agreement between Novus, Checkley Parish Council and Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council for the Blythe Farm Solar Community Fund. This contract is now sealed and will come into force when the new Solar development is active.

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**DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**12. To receive oral reports from our District Councillors:**

Councillor Hulme and Wilkinson had nothing in addition to report.

**13. To receive oral report from our County Councillor:**

Cllr. Deaville said matters had been covered in the main part of the meeting.

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

A member of the Blythe Park committee asked if he could report an issue at Railway Cottages. The Chairman agreed and the problem was brought before the Council. Rubble is being dumped in preparation for a unit to be built, but residents feel this Planning has not been passed and it is an infringement on their rights of way to their properties on the unmade shared lane. Cllr. Deaville suggested reporting the fly-tipping to SMDC officer Wayne Chell who will investigate the location.

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

Hill Helicopters Planning Application.

MEETING ENDED 20.25

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