Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council

Forsbrook Parish Council

Checkley Parish Council

Fulford Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISHES TOGETHER

(CHECKLEY, DRAYCOTT, FORSBROOK, FULFORD)

5TH February 2024 7pm Greatwood Hall

1. Welcome and introductions

   Denise Wheat – Clerk Draycott,
   Draycott Parish Council - Cllrs Emery, Emery Birds, Reardon
   Forsbrook Parish Council - Cllr Holmes (SMDC Councillors),Herdman (SMDC Councillor)
   Stafford Borough Council – Fulford Ward Cllr Sandiford
   Fulford Parish Council - Cllr Marlowe.
   Checkley Parish Council - Cllrs Akerman, S Buckley, Wilkinson (SMDC Councillor), Flunder (SMDC and SCC Councillor)
   Dawn Plant – Clerk Forsbrook and Checkley.

2. To elect a Chairman
   Cllr Akerman proposed Cllr S Buckley, seconded by Cllr Herdman.
   Unanimously agreed.

3. Apologies – None received

4. Declarations of interest

   Planning application committee members – Cllrs Wilkinson, Cllr Flunder, Cllr Holmes.

5. To accept the terms of reference
   Terms of reference were discussed.
   Quarterly meetings were deemed appropriate, however if required more frequently.
   It was agreed that representatives could be anyone from the local community who would add value to the discussions at that particular time.

   Dawn Plant would Clerk the meetings and organise any follow up etc

   Shared resources if Councils were in agreement and if necessary at the point of need.

Unanimous to accept the Terms of Reference.

6. To discuss the priority areas of focus for the group

Draycott - Application for Blythe Park combined residential and industrial development. Amendments to the applications recently despite being past the date allowed. With the changes made the access arrangements have been altered. Helicopter application has issues moving forward to progress the application. Concerns over the lack of environmental impact assessments and being out of date. Concerns over contamination of the land, desk studies done on the area show radiation increases. Why are they only desk studies. Two versions of the S106 documents.

Could Councillors lobby for better flooding risk assessment.

Fulford – Solar Farms, 250 metres from peoples back gardens. Environmental Assessment impact has not shown any other solar farms in the area. Application is due to be submitted. Concerns about loosing farm land. Cumulative effect of other solar farms in the area is not being considered. Rules are being bended and no community engagement. Cllr Buckley will provide information to Fulford on his research with regard to solar farms.

Checkley Parish Council – concerns of lack of enforcement over the discharge of conditions. Concerns over lack of policies. Planning commencing before discharge of conditions. Inundated with Solar Farms, inundated with major developments. Issues with Tenford Lane development, application on reserve matters that should be a full new application. Drainage issues on Tenford Lane. Issues with solar farms and the fact that they are unable to connect to the grid and lack of infrastructure. Planning department should be to prove that they have a connection to the grid. Problems with infrastructure, sewage, drainage, pollution into the river. Flats at the Cooperative are being used as a half way house.

Forsbrook – Childrens homes being classified as change of use and not HMO.

Chairman Buckley – major concerns about the planning officers and department following procedures. Training seems to be lacking for the planning committee.

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Chairman Buckley suggested that every planning application must receive a comment from the Parish Council.

Concerns from Draycott that the application forms on the SMDC planning portal are not representative of the application.

Can the group have a pool of willing speakers to attend the planning committee meetings.

Priorities for the next meeting:-
Solar Farms and Blythe Park.
Clerk to provide map of solar planning applications.
Clerks to instigate a whatsapp group.
Clerk to investigate onedrive
Clerk to investigate a key note speaker for the next meeting.

7. Date of the next meeting

Clerk to circulate dates for end of May beginning of June dependant on guest speaker.