



# Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

## Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	Cllr. Robert Birds
Cllr. Bev Reardon	Cllr. Lisa Emery	
Cllr. Alan Hulme (District)	Cllr. Pete Wilkinson (District)	
5 members of the public		

Minutes recorded by	Start Time	Location
Clerk Mrs D Wheat	7.00pm	Draycott Church Hall, Church Lane, Draycott, ST11 9AG

- Chairman's Welcome:** Chairman, Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Apologies:** Cllr. Mark Deaville (Parish, District & County) and Cllr. Luke Emery.
- Declaration of Interests:** Cllr. Wilkinson and Cllr. Hulme members of the Planning Committee.
- Public Participation:**
  - Cheadle Road Flooding Prevention:** A resident asked if there are any plans to alleviate the mud which has come off the field during the recent flooding. There was a discussion that the field is owned by Draycott Church and is rented to the farmer of Manor Farm. The field is sown and all the seeds are being washed down in the silt and the surface water is flooding everywhere. The road drainage gullies are also blocked. A trench could be dug which would retain the water. Blocked gullies should be reported to the County Council through the My Staffs app.  
***The debris on the road is a County Council issue, but to stopping the soil erosion needs communication with the landowner and the farmer.***
  - Cheadle Road Railings:** A resident complained that the railing opposite Villa Verde has been damaged for over three years. The poles are dangerous. This needs re-reporting to the County Council. The Parish Council have discussed changes to the landscaping to provide a safe footpath for residents to walk on the opposite side of the brook, with a covered area or new bridge to get across away from the busy road as the size of the vehicles is dangerous for pedestrians. The Clerk had applied to the Environment agency for a landscaping project but had been unsuccessful.
  - Visibility Mirror on Cheadle Road:** A resident of Brookside asked what had happened to the mirror to help residents come out of Brookside safely because of the speed and volume to traffic coming down Cheadle Road. The Parish Council do not have the powers to authorise the fitting of a mirror, but the County Highways officer can be asked about this.

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- d) **Brookside Brook volume and flow issues:** A resident asked who owns the footbridge on Brookside. Brookside is an unadopted Road. The footbridge stops the water flow. The stream is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. A discussion was had about flooding and how the flow of the brook could be improved.

5) **Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024** were approved as a correct record.

**Proposed Cllr. Birds – Seconded Cllr. Reardon**

6) **Matters Arising:** None were raised that were not on the agenda.

**7) Ongoing Reports:**

**HIGHWAY Projects**

- i. **Pedestrian Crossing:** A meeting is scheduled for about the pedestrian crossing for Draycott in January. Cllr. Wilkinson suggested that the Parish Council should insist on a crossing with traffic lights. Highways England should be funding this. The funding should also be coming from the Blythe Park development. Anybody with any type of disability can't get across because of the lack of time and the width of the road combined with an increase to the volume and speed of traffic. There have been too many fatalities, the Chairman reported from the Cheadle Road junction to the border of Draycott, 17 people have lost their lives in Road Traffic Incidents (5 of these children).  
Clerk to inform councillors when the next meeting is. ***All in favour to push this project forward.***
- ii. **Village Gateways:** two quotations are in progress for fitting. It was suggested to set a deadline for quotations to be in. A licence to dig needs to be negotiated with the Highways Officer.
- iii. **'Do not follow Sat Nav'** signage for Parish lanes. The quote is below £300.  
***Clerk to order before the January meeting.***
- iv. **Vehicle Activated Signs:** Quotations for two are being gathered. Locations were discussed There is a place that is already authorised to have a sign on Uttoxeter Road where the mobile temporary sign used to be situated. Cllr. Lisa Emery has asked for Cllr. Luke Emery to study the specification of the data gathering software quality before a decision is made.  
***All in favour***
- v. **Bus Service:** Following the Highways consultation event no further information has materialised about an extension to the First Bus 6a that turns around at Golden Keg. Cllr. Bev Reardon has written to MP. Alison Gardner who has managed to get bus services re-instated in other areas. Cllr. Lisa Emery was approached by residents when she put up the Christmas decorations at the bus stops to ask about the bus services. The Clerk has written to SMDC to ask about extending the Moorlands Connect service. This minibus service currently covers all of the North Staffordshire Moorlands as far south as Cheadle. No response has been received to date.

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## PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- vi. **Kissing Gate:** Clerk has had contact with the Public Rights of Way officer about the application for the Kissing Gate for Brookside path 2. Progress is slow. Clerk to chase this to get the project completed.
- vii. **Paynsley Hall** footpath fingerpost is still not fixed. Clerk to re-report. **Footpath 6:** Rerouted path to St Modwen estate. Overgrown path has been reported to St Modwen. Path needs inspecting to see if any action has been taken.
- viii. **Uttoxeter Road and Totmonslow:** Lengthsman has been working to clear the footpath from Cresswell Lane all the way along to the bungalows. Clerk to book the path sweeper to clear leaves and to request that the farmer cuts the hedge along Uttoxeter Road.
- ix. **Overhanging Trees:** The trees have been trimmed back on Draycott Road. The resident was very understanding. There are more Trees on the bankside of St. Margarets cemetery overhanging the footpath. Bushes are also overhanging the footway along Cheadle Road.  
***Cllr. Birds offered to trim some of these back.***

It was reported that on Uttoxeter Road someone has cut their hedge and left the cuttings all over the pavement. This is litter which is an offence. ***The Clerk is to check and send a letter to ask them to clear up.***

- x. **Railway Track:** Improvements to Tean Station track surface. The Council need permission from Moorland City Railway. ***Clerk to write to make contact to discuss surface improvements and to thank them for allowing access for local residents to use.***

## TECH. Projects

- xi. **Wi Fi at the Church Hall:** A sim package needs to be bought and then this can be activated. ***The Clerk will check the specification recommended and purchase a package.***
- xii. **New Website:** Clerk to create a log in for other Councillors. .gov emails then need to be activated by Councillors.
- xiii. **Social media improvements:** The Dog Pooh Bag dispensers have still not been fitted. The Council need to post what has been achieved. All the small things that the lengthsman has done could be published. Time lapse videos would be good to visualise improvements made.
- xiv. **Christmas Lights:** Cllr. Lisa Emery has repaired the nutcracker decorations on the bus stops. Due to storms some have had to be removed. Cllr. Winfield will fit the chapel and tree lights at the bottom of Church Lane mid-December.

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**FLORAL Projects**

- xv. **Planters and Summer Fower** quotations are currently being gathered. A report has been received that the current planters are deteriorating.
- xvi. **Cherry Trees** for the four Parish Gateways and one for Church Lane area have been ordered from sweet meadows nursery.

**8) Lengthsman and Litter picker Reports:**

Thanks were given to Rachel and Jack for their hard work in the Parish. It was suggested to consider putting a litter bin on Cresswell Old Lane under the bridge which is an area which has a lot of litter left from cars. It was also discussed that the back of the wooden Cresswell Bus shelter is rotting. ***The Clerk to find out whose responsibility this is to maintain.***

**9) Solar Array Application:**

The Council approved the application for £1000 towards a customised parish notice board for the bottom of Church Lane for the Friends of St Margarets Church community group and the Church. ***Proposed Cllr. Lisa Emery – Secoded Cllr. Birds***

**10) Planning Applications: SMD/2022/0267- Elan Homes, Land at Blythe Park, Sandon Road Cresswell. Reserved Matters for layout, internal access arrangements, scale, appearance and landscape details for phase 4 & 5 (159 residential dwellings and community uses) The outline application was an EIA application, and an Environmental statement was submitted to the council at the time SMD/2018/0789**

There are outstanding issues within this application which have not been resolved. Network Rail would prefer a roundabout. There are questions on the flood survey and the environmental surveys. There will be a new National Planning Policy Framework in the near future but this has not yet gone through parliament. The Local Plan will stand until the new laws are passed.

**11) Neighbourhood Plan:** Clerk has sent the Road Map document to Cllr. Deaville to pass onto his associate who may be able to work with the Council on this.

**12) Finance & Governance:**

**a) Payments were authorised:**

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Nov – (£287.77 Gross)	£230.17	<b>£230.17</b>	<b>1876</b>
HMRC	PAYE Nov	£57.40	<b>£57.60</b>	<b>1877</b>
Draycott Church Hall	Dec meeting 2hrs	£25.00	<b>£25.00</b>	<b>1878</b>
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work @ £10 p/h 17.5hrs (Nov)	£175.00	<b>£175.00</b>	<b>1879</b>
R Fox	Lengthsman work @ £15 p/h 15hrs (Nov)	£270.00	<b>£270.00</b>	<b>1880</b>
Friends of St Margarets Church	Community Noticeboard (Solar Array)	£1000.00	<b>£1000.00</b>	<b>1893</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1757.77</b>	

The above payments proposed.....GW..... and cheques duly signed.....PMcL.....

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b) **Finance report:**

<b>Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council 2024-2025</b>	<b>Earmarked Reserves Balance</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>
	£	£
Solar Array Fund	14,628.38	14,628.38
Election Charge Reserve	3,000.00	3,000.00
Emergency Reserve	2,500.00	2,500.00
Village Gateway Project	3,272.00	3,272.00
<b>TOTAL RESERVE</b>	<b>23,400.38</b>	<b>23,400.38</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>6,689.14</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>30,089.52</b>

c) **Budget**

**Items were considered to be included when setting the Budget and Precept in January:**

- Reserve some funds for the VAS signage. A Road safety plan for 2025, to improve throughout the Parish.
- Reserve a significant amount to be earmarked from the Solar Array for the Uttoxeter Rd. crossing which will be funded by Highways England, Staffordshire County Council and the Parish Council as a partnership project.
- New Planters
- Gateway fitting & signage
- Bus shelter improvements
- Equipment to project Agendas and Planning documents in meetings.
- Clerk Salary
- Lengthsman
- Litter Picker
- Hall Hire fees
- Insurance and Audit
- Administration
- Subscriptions

***The Clerk will provide information for Cllr. Birds to design a spreadsheet***

d) **NALC Council Employee Pay agreement.**

The Clerk explained the agreement through NALC for all Council employees to receive a backdated pay increase of 62p per hour.

The Council approved the backdated pay increase to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

***Proposed Cllr. Reardon – Seconded Cllr. Winfield***

13) **Correspondence:** None received

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**14) District Councillor Reports:**

Cllr. Alan Hulme reported on the District Full Council meeting. The effect of inheritance tax on rural communities was debated. The Health of the Moorlands people was debated. There could be no future in farming. It will affect family farms which have been run for generations. A discussion was had about Solar Panels in fields and the money that farmers are getting from income. Farmers are not encouraged to plant crops and livestock as the income is gradual. If there is a crisis Great Britain cannot feed its population. A letter is to be sent to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor from the District. Draycott in the Moors is a rural Parish.

**Cllr. Hulme suggested that a letter could be sent from the Parish about the situation.**

*All in favour*

**15) County Councillor Report:** No report

**16) Matters pertaining to issues in the Parish for the next Agenda:** No new items

**17) To note items raised in public participation to be discussed at the January meeting:  
The aftereffects of Flooding and future prevention of more problems.**

Meeting ended 20.25

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