



# Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

## Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	Cllr. Robert Birds
Cllr. Bev Reardon	Cllr. Lisa Emery	Cllr. Luke Emery
Cllr. Alan Hulme (District)	Cllr. Pete Wilkinson (District)	Cllr. Mark Deaville (Parish, District & County).
1 member 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:** all present.  
A minute's silence was held in memory of Mr. Louis Horleston, a Cresswell resident and member of the Blythe Park working group who has worked very hard to protect his village from development, who has sadly passed away.
  - Declaration of Interests:** Cllr. Wilkinson and Cllr. Hulme members of the SMDC Planning Committee.
  - Public Participation:** None
- 5) **Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024** were approved as a correct record.  
*Proposed Cllr. Birds – Seconded Cllr. Lisa Emery*
- 6) **Matters Arising:** None were raised that were not on the agenda.

### 7) Ongoing Reports:

#### HIGHWAY Projects

- Pedestrian Crossing:** A meeting is scheduled to visit the location with Highways officers. Cllr. Deaville will let the Clerk know the date.
- Village Gateways:** two quotations for fitting are in progress. The council will negotiate with the Highways officer to put all the licence to dig locations in one application to the County Council.
- 'Do not follow Sat Nav'** signage for Parish lanes. The signs have arrived. Clerk to organise the fitting to suitable posts.
- Vehicle Activated Signs:**  
Clerk has been gathering quotations ready for the next meeting
- Bus Service:**  
No response has been received to date from Highways transport department. Issues were reported about local pharmacies no longer delivering to Draycott. Some alternatives were offered to patients. This will cause even more issues for Draycott-in-the-Moors residents.

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Signed Chairman  
Councillor

Date

10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

- vi. **Cheadle Road flooding debris:**  
District street cleansing team need to be booked to come out to clear the road of sandy soil
- vii. **Cheadle Road gullies.**  
This needs to be reported on the County Council app. The Totmonslow gullies have been cleared. The gullies have also been cleared on Uttoxeter Road.
- viii. **Cheadle Road Railings:**  
The Council agreed that the railings need to be fixed as they are dangerous. Clerk to report to County to ask for a discussion on how the area can be improved without further risk of damage from HGV's on Cheadle Road.

**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

- ix. **Kissing Gate:** Clerk has had contact with the Public Rights of Way officer. Proof is required from the landowner that they give permission, then the application can be approved.
- x. **Paynsley Hall** footpath fingerpost is still not fixed. Clerk to re-report.
- xi. **Footpath 6:** The path is now passable, so St Modwen have cleared partially, but it is still overgrown. Clerk to call into the sales office. Report to the County Council PROW, report that we have attempted to resolve the problem with St Modwen but we don't have the contacts to get action. Copy Forsbrook Parish Council in and ask them to also write to complain.
- xii. **Overhanging Trees:** action now completed.

**TECHNOLOGY**

- xiii. **WiFi at Draycott Church Hall:** The Clerk has now purchased the Wifi package so the device can be fitted for the February meeting.
- xiv. **Website is now live:** [www.draycottinthemoorsparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.draycottinthemoorsparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Documents need to be checked to make sure none are missing as part of the changeover from Vast to Parish Online.  
**.gov Emails:** The Clerk needs to raise a ticket with Parish Online administrators need to get the new emails activated.
- xv. **Christmas decorations review:** Thanks was given to Cllr. Lisa Emery for putting up the decorations. One nutcracker and wreath went missing on Uttoxeter Road. The Christmas lights have also been cut. A wreath was also removed from the bus stop adjacent to Villa Verde. The Council agreed not to let vandals win, the problems this year should not put the council off trying again next year.  
Cllr. Winfield had a successful installation of the Christmas lights model chapel at the bottom of Church Lane. The battery-operated display lasted 11 days. It was also discussed that Tean looked lovely with the Christmas trees and stars this year. Compliments to be replayed to Checkley Parish Council.

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## FLORAL Projects

xvi. **Planters and Summer Fower** quotations are currently being gathered. Clerk to chase this with Summer Meadows Plant Centre.

xvii. **Cherry Trees:** The saplings have been purchased and are ready for planting.

### 8) Lengthsman and Litter picker Reports:

The Boundary was discussed of where the Litter picker should stop in Cresswell. It was suggested litter picking up to the new gateway signage when these are installed adjacent to the Hunter. The boundary of Draycott Parish was discussed which follows the left side of Sandon Road as far as Morrillow Heath junction. The safety of our contractors is very important on the narrow verges alongside busy roads.

### 9)a. 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***

The Clerk has met with members of the Blythe working group to gather information to raise an objection on behalf of the Parish Council to the Reserved matters application.

b. **Uttoxeter Road** A planning enforcement issue has been brought to the Councils attention about fencing at a property on Uttoxeter Road. SMDC Planning enforcement came out to look at the issue and Staffordshire Moorlands are now dealing with this.

### 10. Items on Notice

a. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Planning consultants are being sourced. A fresh start is needed. Funding opens again after 31<sup>st</sup> March.

b. **Best Kept Village Community competition:** The Council need to encourage more people to get involved in tidying up the main village and outlying hamlets. The Parish is looking better due to consistent maintenance work and litter picking, and also initiatives like the planters, the community kiosk, the war memorial and the flagpole. Clerk to prepare the entry framework. Councillors to think of areas to focus on improvement for the next meeting. The cost is £35. Various categories to be judged.

***It was approved to enter the Best Kept Village Community competition.***

***Proposed Cllr Luke Emery – Secoded Cllr. Lisa Emery – all in favour***

***Cllr. Wilkinson left the meeting at 20.00***

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**11) Finance & Governance:**

**Payments were authorised:**

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Dec including NALC approved back pay 63p p/h– (£ Gross)	£423.95	<b>£423.95</b>	<b>1882</b>
D Wheat	Mileage x27 @50p £13.50 (past three months)	£13.50	<b>£13.50</b>	<b>1881</b>
HMRC	PAYE Dec	£106.20	<b>£106.20</b>	<b>1883</b>
Draycott Church Hall	Jan meeting 2hrs	£25.00	<b>£25.00</b>	<b>1884</b>
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work @ £10 p/h 13hrs (Dec)	£130.00	<b>£130.00</b>	<b>1885</b>
R Fox	Lengthsman work @ £15 p/h 10hrs (Dec)	£150.00	<b>£150.00</b>	<b>1894</b>
Sweet Meadows Plant Centre	Cherry Trees x5	Net £402.96 VAT £100.74	<b>£503.70</b>	<b>1895</b>
Your Security Sign (D Wheat)	6 Warning – Do not follow Sat Nav signs for lanes	Net £135.13 VAT £33.78	<b>£168.91</b>	<b>1896</b>
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association	Annual Subscription	<b>£287.97</b>	<b>£287.97</b>	<b>1897</b>

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

**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>

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## 2025/2026 PRECEPT REQUIREMENT REPORT

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<b>%</b>	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26
<b>Increase</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Precept Required</b>	£10,134 Precept stays same as last year	<b>£10,605</b>	£10,712	£10,816	£10,923	£11,026	£11,130
<b>Tax Base</b>	366 last year 383 (17 more)	<b>383</b>	383	383	383	383	383
<b>Equivalent band D precept</b>	£26.46	<b>£27.69</b> Household pays same as last year	£27.97 +28p	£28.24 +55p	£28.52 +82p	£28.79 +£1.10	£29.06 +£1.37

- c) **Budget:** Cllr. Birds will create a spreadsheet of budget figures for the February meeting to be included in the minutes.
- d) **Precept:** A debate was had about setting the Precept. The Council agreed that Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council have enough funds in reserve to complete current projects and because of the cost-of-living crisis the council resolved not to increase to cause further financial difficulties to residents.  
The tax base is the number of equivalent band D properties in the Parish. Draycott in the Moors Parish has increased by 17 equivalent band D properties in 2024.

**0% increase means that Parish Council Tax will stay the same to residents £27.69 per year per band D household, Council will receive £471 more than last year in Precept due to a slight increase of 17 in the Tax Base.**

(Please note: The District, County and Police & Fire may increase their Precept even though the Parish has stayed at 0%)

**The precept to be requested for 2025-2026 is £10,605 was approved to be set with a 0% increase.**

**Proposed Cllr. Mark Deaville - Seconded Cllr. Robert Birds - all in favour**

### 12) Correspondence:

- a. **Litter: Report from a resident of litter on Sandon Road:** The litter picker has been out to resolve the matter and will keep an eye on the verges in that area. Safety was again discussed on narrow verges close to the highway.

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- b. **Noise Nuisance before 6am:** Report from residents adjacent to Blythe Park of delivery truck noise before 6am. A discussion was had about whether the industrial site works a night shift. Move to next agenda and monitor any further reports.
- c. **Defibrillator Service at Creswell Kiosk:** The Creswell Kiosk committee have reported to the Clerk that the Defibrillator has been serviced by AED donate under the new SMDC maintenance contract. Pads have been replaced.
- d. **Hedge cutting debris:** The Clerk has written to residents who have left debris obstructing the footways following hedge cutting on Uttoxeter Road.
- e. **Letter to Moorlands & City Railways Ltd.** Clerk has written to ask permission and seek to work together at Totmonslow station to make the footpath accessible to walkers, cyclists, wheelchair users and horse riders who use the path for exercise and connection to a green corridor route.

**13) District Councillor Reports:**

Cllr. Alan Hulme and the Clerk have composed a letter from the Parish Council about rural Farming issues to send to the MP Alison Gardner.

**14) County Councillor Report:**

The Councillors asked Cllr. Deaville to consult County about the quality of the pothole filling material, as many are reappearing within months of repair. Cllr. Deaville responded that winter 2024 has been very bad for road surface erosion. The positive news is that the County Council are excelling targets on pothole maintenance compared with 2023.

**16) Matters pertaining to issues in the Parish for the next Agenda:**

Industrial noise on Blythe Park at anti-social hours. Any further reports to be monitored.

**17) To note items raised in public participation:** None raised

***Meeting ended 20.25***

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