



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 10th February 2025

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	Cllr. Robert Birds
Cllr. Bev Reardon	Cllr. Lisa Emery	Cllr. Luke Emery
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

1. **Chairman's Welcome:** Chairman, Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. Deaville (County, District & Parish), Cllr. Hulme (District) and Cllr. Wilkinson (District)
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None
4. **Public Participation:**
 - a) A resident of Church Lane came to ask about Church Lane unadopted road being adopted by County Council. Item for March Agenda.
 - b) A resident of Church Lane reported that the main road adjoining Church Lane is subsiding. With the proposed traffic lights residents are never going to get out of the lane. It was suggested that drivers will use the residential pull in as a rat run to bypass the lights.
Cllr. Luke Emery projected a presentation on the progress of the Blythe Park planning application in relation to the Uttoxeter Road junction element. In 2021 the application for signalised junction was refused. This was then appealed which was approved. The change in the design was scrutinised. The footpath on the Cresswell Lane side of the junction has been removed on the drawing which will take out the footpath.
- 5) **Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2025** 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 Project Reports:**

HIGHWAYS:

- i. **Pedestrian Crossing:** Awaiting a new meeting date with Highways officers.
- ii. **Village Gateways:** Highways officer has asked the Clerk for a map with locations marked.
- iv. **Cheadle Road flooding debris:** There is still mud on Cheadle Road. Clerk to request street cleaning.
- v. **Vehicle Activated Signs:** Quotations were circulated. Cllr Emery will look at the data collection specifications. Item for the next Agenda.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY:

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- vi. **Kissing Gate:** Draycott Path 2. Clerk to write a letter and to call on landowner Mr. Ford to ask him to give written permission to fit the gate.
- vii. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Birds reported that a new stile has been fitted in the field near to Newton Farm.
- viii. **Cresswell to Cheadle Railway track.** The Clerk has received correspondence from Mr Kemp from Moorlands City Railways. It was decided to ask if a Teams meeting could be held at the March meeting. Clerk to arrange this.

TECHNOLOGY:

- ix. **Website: www.draycottinthemoorsparishcouncil.gov.uk**
A problem arose with the publication of the agenda due to formatting. It was suggested that the document should be saved to a Mark down format. Councillors to continue to check the website and to request additions or improvements.
- x. **Official email addresses:** The new .gov emails are now available. Councillors to request help to set up. Bring laptops to next meeting.
- xi. **Wi-Fi at Draycott Church Hall is now set up.** Clerk to notify the Church Hall Committee with the log in details so they can share this with Hall users.

VILLAGE FEATURES:

- xii. **Planters:** A quotation has been received for wooden planters. More research needed on recycled plastic tubs with water reservoirs.
- xiii. **Best Kept Village Community:**
 - **Tidiness:** The Lengthsperson does a good job and improvements are noted round the Parish.
 - **Footpaths:** need attention especially Cresswell Lane and Draycott Road. If Draycott Road is being closed, it was suggested this would be a good time to do the path clearance from Totmonslow to Draycott. 25th March is the day the work is being done. Highways workmanship was discussed and working patterns. The design manual for Roads and Bridges states a minimum width for a public footpath should be 5 foot/1.5meters for roads at 40MPH and above.
Clerk to request footpath cleaning from SMDC in Cresswell and from Draycott Old Road to Church Lane
 - **Overgrown tree branches:** Cllr. Birds has already trimmed branches by St Margaret's Church Cemetery. There are still branches to be removed at the entrance to Breach Lane.
 - **Community Engagement:** Cllr. Reardon is engaging with community groups to gain support for the project. Volunteers are coming forward. Contact could be made with the local businesses to ask for support. Cllr. Reardon has contacted Outside Arts to ask if they could help. Thanks was given to Cllr. Reardon for her work on this.
 - **Draycott Telephone Box:** is a village asset. Vandalism was discussed as an issue. It was debated whether it could be moved, scrapped or renovated. Telephone boxes are quintessentially English, and it could become a distinctive village feature.
 - **Bus Stops:** The Lengthsperson has some paint to repaint these. The Perspex panels were removed several years ago because of vandalism. The weeds and brambles can

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be removed, and the wooden shelters can be repaired and re-stained. It was suggested mounting the coat of arms on the bus shelters as decorative features.

- **Cheadle Road Railings** outside Villa Verde look a mess and make that area of the village untidy. Cllr. McLaughlin asked that the Clerk writes to Highways and ask them to help.
- **War Memorial:** The stonemason copied the text from the inscriptions in the church. The S was not his fault as the mistake is in the church war memorial inscription. Unfortunately, the S which has been filled is noticeable and needs retouching so that it matches up with the gritstone. It has also been reported that the stone has some marks appearing. The Lengthperson will treat the marks on the stone, but the Council are content to let the stone weather naturally.

The Council resolved to form a BKVC working group: Cllr. Reardon, Cllr Birds and Cllr. Emery

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Noise: Reports have been received about noise on Blythe Park. It was resolved to write a polite letter from the Parish Council to the site manager to ask businesses to stop creating loud noises in the early morning before standard working hours commence.

Proposed Cllr. Lisa Emery – Secoded Cllr. Birds – all in favour.

8) Lengthperson and Litter picker report:

The January reports were read out. The Clerk has discussed an hourly rate increase with the Litter picker contractor. **The Council approved an increase for the Litter picker from £10 to £12.50 p/h from 1st April. The Lengthperson will stay the same at £15.00 p/h.**

9) Planning Applications:

SMD/2025/0013 Scentarea Ltd. Land at Blythe Park: Failure to consult properties to be affected by the application is still apparent. A debate was had about the application for variation of conditions. It was resolved to object to the application and to ask Cllr. Deaville to call in to the SMDC Planning Committee. ***Proposed - Cllr Luke Emery Secoded - Cllr. Lisa Emery – All in favour***

10) Items on Notice:

- Invitation sent to Stoke South MP:** Cllr. Reardon has invited Dr Allison Gardner MP to come to a meeting to discuss road safety and bus services.
- VE Day 80:** It was resolved to apply for the SMDC grant of £435.00 to hold an event for the Community and to purchase some street decorations.
Ideas for the event were: a film show – a tea party – period music.

11) Correspondence:

An email has been received from the Church Hall Committee concerning the Community Café asking for help with funding. It was decided to explore all options to apply for Warm Space funding. Cllr Reardon and Cllr Emery offered to get involved with the Church Hall Committee. The Parish Council would like to store the projector and the stand in the Church Hall.

Clerk to write to the Church Hall Committee

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12) Finance & Governance:

a) Payments were authorised:

				Cheque No.
D Wheat	Clerk Salary Month 11 – (SPC rate 12 £ £14.36 p/h) Total - £311.99 per month (14.36 p/h x5 hrs x 52.143 weeks (365/7) divide by 12 months)	Gross £311.99 TAX £62.40	Net £249.59	1898
HMRC	PAYE Jan	£62.40	£62.40	1899
Draycott Church Hall	Feb meeting 2hrs (new hire rate £30) plus, January under payment due £5	Jan £5.00 Feb £30.00	£35.00	1900
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work @ £10 per hr 9.5hrs (Jan)	£95.00	£95.00	1901
R Fox	Lengthsperson work @ £15 per hr 16.5hrs (Jan)	£274.50	£274.50	1902
Draycott Nurseries & Landscape Sales Ltd.	Cherry Trees x5 plus stakes and ties <i>Re-issue cheque with different payee name</i>	Net VAT £419.75 £83.95	Gross £503.70	1903
Clerk Expenses: Smarty Clerks Milage Home working allowance 2024-25 Stamps BKVC	Internet package p/m 9 miles @50p £10 per month (broadband and electricity contribution) 5 books of 8 2nd class (85p each) entry fee	£9.00 £4.50 £120.00 £34.00 £35.00	£202.50	1904
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	£1,422.69	

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

b) **Bank Reconciliation and uncleared payments** reports (*attached*)

c) **Budget report:** Cllr Birds now has access to Scribe and is exploring the report options to bring back to the next meeting.

d) **The Community Benefit agreement** for the Blythe House Farm/ Innova Solar Farm was not available to be signed due to an administration error by Innova. ***Item moved to the March agenda.***

13) **District Councillor Reports:** No reports available.

14) **County Councillor Report:** No report available.

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

To hold a Teams online meeting with Moorlands City Rail at the March meeting if possible.

16) **To note items raised in public participation:**

a) Unadopted road status of Church Lane.

b) Concerns about road junction layout at Uttoxeter Road and Creswell Lane junction.

Meeting ended 20.33

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