



# Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

## Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 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).
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:** all present.
- Declaration of Interests:** Cllr. Wilkinson and Cllr. Hulme members of the SMDC Planning Committee.
- Public Participation: Cresswell to Cheadle Railway Track:**

a) A zoom link remote meeting with Mr David Kemp of Moorlands City Railway Ltd. who hold the lease on the line was held.

**Mr Kemp agreed that the Council and community volunteers could be allowed to work on the area at Tean Station to alleviate the mud and large ruts which have made it almost impassable.**

Mr Kemp told the Council that the District Council had been keen to take over the freehold of the track from the Department for Transport. The statutory requirement on the bridges is what has held up progress. Disused Railway lines are of immense value as green corridors. Mr Kemp suggested that the Council could make the project sustainable financially by negotiation with renewable energy companies who could use the route at the same time as a community footpath or bridleway. This would fund the liability created by the bridges.

**The Council agreed to work with Mr Kemp. Another meeting to be arranged to discuss this further.**

Cllr Wilkinson suggested with the opportunities arising from Devolution, the Parish Council will have to opportunity to take on the responsibilities of assets. The Parishes of Draycott, Checkley and Cheadle should work together to secure the track as a green corridor.

b) A resident asked a question about the horses grazing on the Cresswell end of the track. Moorlands City Rail had not given permission for this.

c) A resident asked about routes to access the track from Cresswell and Totmonslow. Parking for people to use the track was also discussed. St Mary's Church may benefit to open the Church Car Park to charge visitors to park.

**The Council resolved to form a working group and to organise a site visit.**

**The zoom link ended at 19:30**

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Signed Chairman  
Councillor

Date 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025

5) Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February were approved as a correct record.

*Proposed Cllr. Birds – Seconded Cllr. Lisa Emery*

6) Matters Arising:

The correspondence about Industrial noise on Blythe Park in the early hours seems to have worked.

7) Ongoing Reports:

HIGHWAY Projects

- i. **Pedestrian Crossing:** *Clerk to arrange a meeting date with Cllr Deaville’s PA.*
  
- ii. **Village Gateways:** The Highways officer has asked for a photograph to be sent with the sizes and a sample gate to be brought to the meeting when arranged. Locations for the gateways were debated. Cllr. Lisa Emery has the What Three Words locations from the previous meeting. The new Highways officer has asked for a site visit with a sample gate so measurements can be mapped. The licence to dig can then be applied for each gate.  
*Clerk to organise a site visit date*
  
- iv. **Vehicle Activated Signs:**  
Cllr. Luke Emery has studied the specifications and recommended that Elan City, Evolvis was the best sign for the Councils requirements. The Council resolved to purchase two Vehicle Activated Signs at a cost of £4499.00.  
*Proposed Cllr. Deaville – Seconded Cllr. Winfield – All in favour*

*Cllr. Wilkinson left the meeting 19.59*

- v. **Cheadle Road Railings:**  
Deep curbing was suggested. Clerk to write to the Environment Agency and to Staffordshire County Council to ask for help to resolve flooding issues with pipe idea and to solve the damaged railings matter possibly with deep curb. Planning decision to be checked for the New Hayden HGV site as there was a planning condition that Cheadle Road should not be a route for HGV use. Blocked gullies were reported following the sand debris on the road after the flood.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- vi. **Kissing Gate:** Proof has now been submitted of the landowners permission. Awaiting a response.

TECHNOLOGY

- vii. **Website:** [www.draycottinthemoorsparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.draycottinthemoorsparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
The Council would like to see more news about the projects which are being completed by the Council on the website. Councillors to send short press releases to the Clerk to load if they wish.
- viii. The Clerk checked if Councillors can now access their new .gov emails. If all online and using the website contacts can be updated.

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**FLORAL Projects**

ix. The Council approved to purchase three wooden planters from Sweet Meadows nursery who have agreed to plant them free of charge for the village, one of which for the Draycott Old Road location. Permission will be required for the locations from the Highways officer.

x. A resident of Draycott Old Road has offered to look after a planter on the opposite corner.  
***Proposed Cllr. Reardon – Seconded Cllr. Deaville – all in favour***

xi. **Best Kept Village Community:**

- The Draycott crest to display at the bus stops was discussed. Prices to be gathered of different resistant materials.
- Living roof idea – Clerk to ask Sweet Meadows for advice and to apply for Outside arts community grant.
- Phone box relocation was discussed and possible ideas for use as a village feature.
- To include volunteer groups in the village – Parkers Piece, the Friends of St Margarets Church, the Women Institute and other groups which meet at the Church Hall.

Letters have been sent out to all residents and businesses.

**A vote of thanks was given to Cllrs. Reardon, Emery, Emery and Birds for encouraging community cohesion and creating a buzz of excitement about improving the villages.**

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

The litter pickers hourly rate will rise to £12.50 from April.

**Uttoxeter Road:** Footpath on previous Fayre field is muddy. Clerk to ask the lengths person to clear.

**Draycott Road:** Wall collapse on resident property. Clerk to report this to the District Council as it is a dangerous structure.

**Planning Applications:**

Thanks were given to Checkley Parish Councillors who have helped break down the specifications on the Blythe Park applications.

**SMD/2025/0013      Scentarea Ltd.      Land at Blythe Park      Variation of conditions**

It was reported that the Statutory Consultees have not yet commented on the road junction layout. The Parish Council will hold comments until this information has been received.

It was recommended that Councillors also look at Fulford applications which are currently in the consultation stage.

**24/40073/FUL: Change of Use of paddock to Gypsy / Traveller Site** for four family pitched each consisting of one static caravan, one tourer caravan and two parking spaces, communal dayroom, access and drainage (part retrospective includes - compacted gravel to site area and perimeter fence)

**24/38719/FUL:** Construction and operation of a solar farm with all associated works, equipment, necessary infrastructure and biodiversity net gains.

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**10. Items on Notice**

**a. VE Day 80:**

- It was decided to order some VE Day bunting and a Flag
- Mr John Clarke has been asked if there can be a peel of Bells. St Margaret’s Church PCC will be asked for permission to do this. The Council will find out if St Mary’s Church has a bell.

b. Unadopted road status of Church Lane: The Clerk is researching where to find out this information. There is a County Council interactive map which states road classifications.

**11) Finance & Governance:**

**Payments were authorised:**

D Wheat	Clerk Salary February Gross 311.99	£249.59 net	<b>£249.59</b>	<b>1905</b>
HMRC	PAYE Feb Month 11	£62.40	<b>£62.40</b>	<b>1906</b>
Draycott Church Hall	Mar meeting 2hrs	£30.00	<b>£30.00</b>	<b>1907</b>
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work @ £10 p/h 13hrs (Dec)	£130.00	<b>£130.00</b>	<b>1908</b>
R Fox	Lengthsman work @ £15 p/h 10hrs (Dec)	£262.50	<b>£262.50</b>	<b>1909</b>
Clerk expenses	Smarty Internet	£9.00	<b>£117.50</b>	<b>1910</b>
	Mileage	£4.50		
	Stamps x5 books of 8 2 <sup>nd</sup> class (85p each)	34.00		
	Lavins Printers – run of letters to BKVC	£70.00		
		TOTAL	<b>£851.99</b>	

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

**b) Blythe Farm Solar Community Benefit agreement:**

It was resolved to move this item to the April Agenda to give Councillors time to read the large document.

**12) Correspondence:**

**a. Vehicles parked on verges and across footpaths on Rookery Crescent.**

The council resolved to send a letter to the residents to ask politely to move vehicles due to damage to the grass and because of visibility for vehicles, before any reports are submitted to the District enforcement team.

Garages adjacent to Rookery Crescent were mentioned. Ownership to be on next Agenda.

**b. Request for funding support for the Draycott Church Hall warm space café:** Cllrs Reardon and isa

Emery are willing to join the Church Hall committee to help apply for grants. The sustainability of the building was discussed so that it will still be here as an asset for future generations to use as a community hall. Clerk to ask the Church Hall committee to apply for the Solar Array fund and to also invite the Church Hall committee to speak at the Parish Assembly in May.

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**13) District Councillor Reports:**

Cllr. Hulme reported on the discussions taking place about Devolution and Unitary Authorities. Stoke-on-Trent City Councils proposal has triggered Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to consider re-organisation. A North Staffordshire Authority has been suggested. The deadline to submit proposals is the end of March, so the SMDC proposal should be released soon. Questions were raised about super parish councils and concerns were aired about Councils at Parish level being given more responsibilities of assets and service responsibilities.

**14) County Councillor Report:**

Cllr. Deaville reported that the County are also discussing their proposal for devolution and that they are considering all the 8 Districts in Staffordshire coming together as a Staffordshire Authority. Identity and Pride of Staffordshire Moorlands people are important in these proposals. There will be a County Council election on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

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

MP Allison Gardner will be visiting Draycott on 5<sup>th</sup> April to meet community volunteers and to discuss some village issues with Councillors. Time and venue to be confirmed.

Ask SPCA about the law surrounding holding a poll to find out what the Community are feeling about devolution on the County election day.

**16) To note items raised in public participation: Cresswell Railway Track working group formation.**

***Meeting ended 21.25***

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