



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 12th January 2026

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Bev Reardon	Cllr. Robert Birds
Cllr. Mark Deaville (Parish and District)	Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	Cllr. Luke Emery
Cllr. Alan Hulme (District)		
4 members of the public		

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

- Chairman's Welcome:** Chairman, Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Apologies:** Cllr. Lisa Emery, Cllr Pete Wilkinson (District) and Cllr. Gary Bentley (County)
- Declaration of Interests:** Cllrs. Hulme is a member of the SMDC Planning Committee.
- Public Participation:**
 - A resident from The Old Vicarage spoke regarding the construction in his garden which has been identified as blocking the view of St Margarets Church.** Photographs were circulated showing the state of the property when purchased and that hedges were so high then that there was no view. A lot of work has been done on the house and the lane, which is a public right of way. The resident stated that it would have been courteous to have had a conversation before Planning enforcement were asked to inspect. The Clerk apologised that a letter was not sent from the Parish Council, as recorded in the December minutes, due to the SMDC Planning Officer report being received verifying permitted development.
 - Church Hall Kitchen:** A member of St Margarets PCC reported that the kitchen replacement has now been completed. There will be an opening event on Saturday 7th February at 12.30pm. Thanks were given to the Clerk for successfully applying for the UKSPF grant to improve Community infrastructure.
Cllr. Deaville proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk from the Parish Council. Cllr Winfield seconded - All in favour.
 - Church Clock:** A member of St Margaret's PCC gave an update on progress with the application to JCB for additional funding to electrify the clock as the current winding arrangement cannot be permitted for health and safety reasons and lone working. The Smiths clock was built in 1876 and is part of the listed building so can not be replaced. The clock needs servicing. A new supplier has been sourced from Ashbourne for a quotation for electrification modification work.
The Chairman moved that the council discuss the request under item 6 on the Agenda.

I declare that this is an accurate account of the meeting held by Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council.

Signed Chairman
Councillor

Date 9th February 2026

5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2025** were approved as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr. Deaville – Secoded Cllr. Winfield – all in favour

6. **Matters Arising:**

- a. **Christmas Lights:** Cllr. Lisa Emery and Cllr. Gordon Winfield were thanked for their work improving and managing the village Christmas Lights.
- b. **St Margaret’s Church Clock:** The Council agreed to continue to help source funding.
- c. **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr Birds reported that path 9 and 10 footpaths are now clear. Works are still in progress on the housing development and paths will be blocked in due course. No further discussion is needed at this time.

7. **Correspondence:**

- a) A letter supporting Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council to put pressure on County Highways was received from MP Dr. Allison Gardner.
- b) NALC guide to completing the Local Council Awards Scheme has been received.

8. **Highways Reports:**

- a) **Potholes:** A temporary pothole fix has been applied at the bottom of Church Lane.
- b) **Railings on Cheadle Road:** No progress to date, but Cllr. Bentley has been in correspondence with the Clerk on the matter.

9. **Items on Notice:**

- a) Cresswell Defibrillator: A formal written request from the Cresswell Kiosk Committee was received for the Parish Council to take responsibility for the Cresswell defibrillator.
The Council resolved to take on this responsibility. Lengthsman to be asked to do the weekly checks, Clerk to register with SMDC and complete the monthly checks, keeping the Circuit updated.
Proposed Cllr. Birds – Secoded Cllr. Luke Emery – All in favour

Cllr Deaville left the meeting 19.44

10. **Lengthsperson and Litter picker:** activity reports were received for December. It was noted that Cheadle Road is very bad for litter and many bags have been collected.

11. **Payments were Authorised for December invoices:**

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Month 10 (Dec/Jan) – (SPC rate 12 £ £14.82 p/h) Total - £322.00 per month	Gross £322.00 TAX £64.40	Net £257.60	Cheque 2058
HMRC	Cheque Cancelled PAYE (Dec/Jan) Month 10	£0.00 £64.40	£0.00 £64.40	2059 2060
Draycott Church Hall	January meeting 2hrs (hire rate £30 p/session)	£30.00	£30.00	2061
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work @ £12.50 per hr 18 hrs December	£225.00	£225.00	2062

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R Fox	Lengths person work @ £15 per hr 12 hrs December	£180.00	£180.00	2063
IAE	Kissing Gates x2	£852.72 Vat £170.54	£1,023.26	2064
Clerk Expenses: Smarty Clerks Milage	Internet package p/m 9 miles @50p	£9.00 £4.50	£13.50	2065
AED Donate	Repair of Cresswell Kiosk	£159.00 VAT £31.80	£190.80	1946
Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Accounting software	£273.60 Vat £54.72	£328.32	1947
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	£2,312.88	

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

b. The Budget 2025-26 (see summary of Cost Centres attached)

The Current Budget position report was presented up to 31st Dec 2025. The Clerk explained there will be a slight overspend on maintenance by the year end as the Lengthsperson and litter picker have done more hours than predicted. The other cost centres, administration, staff, governance are in budget.

Village Projects: The main expenditure in the year has used the reserves for the village projects:

- **Wifi equipment:** purchased to improve communication in the Church Hall and for display of Planning documents during meetings.
- **Beacon:** Funded using grants for VE Day and VJ Day
- **Best Kept Village Community:** Some funds were used for maintenance equipment, but a prize of £250 was received as runners up.
- **Kissing gates:** The two gates for path 2 accessible were partially funded by the County Council Public Rights of Way grant.
- **New bins in Cresswell:** for Cricket Club PROW and for the Railway Track. The bins were purchased used Parish Council reserves.
- **Draycott Church Hall UKSPF kitchen project:** The Kitchen funded by the UKSPF grant which is still to be received.
- **Bus stop art project:** funded by Outside Arts through Support Staffordshire is still in progress.
- **Solar Array Grants:** None have been issues this year, but the funds could be considered for the speed reduction projects which will be of benefit to the whole parish.

The Council discussed raising the Precept for future projects, a vote was agreed all in favour to set the budget with a slight increase of £132 which the council would receive as a result of a 1% increase to the Precept. Other grant funding for projects can be researched.

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d. **The precept request was then set at 1%.** (see Precept report attached)

The Tax base has increased by 16. The majority of Council tax is raised to pay County Council and District Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire and Rescue services. The Parish Council element is only a small portion of the total at £28.11 per year.

It was approved to request £10,737 which equates to a 28p increase per year for a band D household. This is an increase of 1%. **Proposed Cllr Birds – Seconded Cllr. Luke Emery – all in favour**

The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Precept request documents to be submitted to SMDC

12. Planning Applications:

a.

SMD/2025/0013 and SMD/2022/0267	Scentarea Limited	Land At Blythe Park, Sandon Road Cresswell	Variation of conditions 4 & 12 of SMD/2021/0829 to replace PD-21-555-150 with revised plan PD-21-555-150e It was agreed that Cllr Luke Emery and Cllr. Birds would speak at the Planning Committee meeting.
SMD/2025/0487	Bird Grove Farm	Sandon Road Hilderstone	Take down and rebuild existing agricultural unit with extension to rear to form secure store area for implements No objection

b. **Other Planning Correspondence:**

- i) **Traffic Regulation Order** – the County Council have responded that they have received the complaint from the Parish Council about the lack of consultation on the highway junction layout at Uttoxeter Road/ Cresswell Lane junction.
- ii) **Uttoxeter Road residential care home** retrospective planning application: the fence has been lowered but not removed.
- iii) **Neighbourhood Plan** quotation to complete the plan for Draycott-in-the-Moors still pending from Urban Vision.

13. Reports on Projects in Progress:

HIGHWAYS

- i. **Crossing and pedestrian refuges:** There is a speed reduction zone in the planning proposal for the Uttoxeter Road/ Cresswell Lane junction. Two pedestrian crossings are included in the design.
- ii. **Village Gateways:** Clerk can now move onto the administration of this project.
- iii. **VAS signage and Community Speedwatch:** The actual data recorded by the VAS is 30-40% higher than the reports that have been submitted for the Uttoxeter Road junction application.
- iv. **Breach Lane:** Council to advise residents to report issues and gather evidence.

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[Signature Box]

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- v. **Speed Reduction:** Traffic is bypassing Blythe Bridge from Forsbrook using Draycott Old Road which is not suitable for high volumes of traffic.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.

- vi. **Kissing Gates:** Gates have been collected and are awaiting fitting.
- vii. **Cresswell to Cheadle Railway Track:** No further progress
- viii. **Waste bin located at Blythe Cricket Club:** Cllr. Birds offered to re-locate the bin on the verge outside the club entrance. Clerk to contact the club chairman to discuss an open top waste bin to be located in the grounds.

COMMUNICATION

- ix. **Training Policy:** in progress.
- x. **Calendar of Events:** Clerk to get this working for the next meeting.

PROJECTS

- xi. **Bus Stop Art Project:** Old photographs to be printed, Notice board measurements to be taken more accurately so they will fit the spaces. Clerk is liaising with Blythe Camera Club, who may hold a exhibition day at Leek Butter Market Outside Arts stall to promote the project.
- xii. **Draycott Church Hall Kitchen Refurbishment:** Fitting completed. Grant criteria now to be submitted to UKSPF for grant completion. Cllr Emery will print the UKSPF and the Staffordshire Moorlands logo. Clerk to send the files

14. District Councillor Report: Cllr. Alan Hulme reported that meetings are being held regarding Local Government Re-organisation. There were two large Planning meetings in December.

15. County Councillor Report: Cllr. Bentley was not present. Clerk to remind Cllr. Bentley about Cheadle Road brook, curb, new railings, fluorescent posts and railings and pavement clearance.

16. Matters pertaining to issues in the Parish or items for the next Agenda:

Flooding prevention – a County led initiative with Severn Trent. Meeting scheduled for February. Details to be advised.

Fly tipping has been reported on Cheadle Road and Cresswell Old Road

Meeting closed 20.45

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