



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes Monday, 9th February 2026

Attendees:

| | | |
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| Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield | Cllr. Bev Reardon | Cllr. Robert Birds |
| Cllr. Mark Deaville (Parish and District) | Cllr. Pat McLaughlin | |
| Cllr. Alan Hulme (District) | Cllr Pete Wilkinson (District) | Cllr. Gary Bentley (County) |
| 3 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 |

- A minutes silence** was held in remembrance of previous Councillor and regular public attendee Mr. Glynn Johnson of Cresswell and also for previous village litter picker Mr Malcolm Price who have both sadly passed away recently.
- Chairman's Welcome:** Chairman, Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Apologies:** Cllr. Lisa Emery and Cllr. Luke Emery
- Declaration of Interests:** Cllrs. Hulme and Wilkinson are members of the SMDC Planning Committee.
- Public Participation:**
 - Church Hall Kitchen:** Dr Richard Talbot, secretary of St Margarets PCC reported that the opening event on Saturday 7th February of Joyce's kitchen was successful. (named after Joyce Moore who has been a longstanding Church Hall Committee member). Thanks was given to the Chairman of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Cllr Adam Parkes and his consort for giving an opening speech and sharing a meal, meeting local residents and hall users.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2026** were approved as a correct record.
Proposed Cllr. McLaughlin – Seconded Cllr. Winfield – all in favour
- Matters Arising:**
 - St Margaret's Church Clock:** The Chair allowed Dr. Talbot to speak about the clock progress. The Church PCC are making decisions about the winding of the current clock. The lengthsperson and litterpicker have offered to be considered to wind the clock if required. Electrification of the clock mechanism is the best option, so the Council will await a new proposal from the Ashbourne clock maker before any support is considered. Grant funding must continue to be researched for the project.

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- b. **Public Rights of Way:** The bin location is being changed at Blythe Cricket Club on the public footpath. The Clerk has been in correspondence with the Chairman of the club to arrange to do this. Cllr. Birds offered to help with the logistics of moving the bin.

8. **District Councillor Reports: Cllr. Peter Wilkinson:**

- the next cabinet meeting will see the SMDC Budget proposed for 2026-27.
- Service Delivery are looking at the new Renters Rights Act 2025. This increases the Councils responsibility as landlords from 1st May enforcing new tenancy arrangements, security of tenures, standards and landlord compliance.
- Green Spaces grant is currently available for village project applications.
- Cllr. Wilkinson has donated £200 from his Councillor Initiative Fund towards the Draycott Church Hall kitchen.

9. **County Councillor Report: Cllr Gary Bentley**

Highways Reports:

- a) **Potholes:** The Highways plan for 2026 is to get all the potholes filled, then road resurfacing will take place in 2027. Contractors Amey are leading this work program. Cllr Deaville challenged this as elected members should be leading the work program. Residents must report potholes for them to be considered on the County program for repair. Councillor asked for the work schedule of the Pothole Pro machines. ***Clerk to request a report on this.***
- b) **Cheadle Road:** will be closed in May for repairs. County Highways officers are clarifying ownership of the brook and surrounding ditches and vegetation with Severn Trent and the Environment Agency. A plan can then be made to improve the flow, clear back overgrown vegetation, clear the footway and repair the railings. The moat was mentioned and Cllr. Hulme commented that landowners are also responsible for the ditches alongside the roads.
- c) **Railway Track:** Cllr Bentley has been speaking to County Officer Sarah Bentley about the Railway track. The bridges seem to be the problem due to the risks and liabilities of the structures. A feasibility study is required which has been estimated to cost ½ million pounds. The track could be managed by Cheadle Town Council, Draycott in the Moors Parish Council and Checkley Parish Council. The Green Space Strategy District Fund could be used for the project. Trees could be planted and it could become an important Green Corridor for the area. A Community Group could be formed to manage the project and to access funding. A local historian was mentioned who has all the history of the Railway track from when it was working in the 1950's. A talk could be arranged with him to start off the discussions again. ***Clerk to arrange an event.***
- d) **Village Gateways:** Cllr. Bentley suggested the Clerk talks to Aron Brown to progress the project.
- e) **Breach Lane:** The lane could be made one way or speed restrictions put in place. Draycott Old Road is also a rat run. Sat Nav's are the cause. Cllr. Bentley has been researching signage to advise about restrictions on the lanes. Licences are needed to install new signage.

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- f) **Pedestrian Crossing on Uttoxeter Road, Draycott.** Cllr. Deaville referenced a Community liaison paper which was produced when he was County Councillor. 17 Highways and Transport capital schemes were identified as priorities across Staffordshire. **A521 was on the list for a pedestrian crossing point.** If these schemes have been postponed or deleted the Parish Council want to know why. **Cllr Bentley to find out.** Cllr Birds suggested if a second survey is needed to progress the project the Council should request that this is done using Cllr Bentleys Divisional Highways program funding (DHP). MP Dr Allison Gardener has supported the project in a parliament debate. The Parish Council must pursue the project as part of the traffic calming initiative for the village. Cllr. Winfield mentioned the width is a three lane carriageway. **Clerk to write to officers Angela Dickenson and David Greatbatch to request information on how to progress the project.**
- g) **Flooding:** Flooding to be identified in the Parish. The County Council are gathering data about flooding across the County. Clerk to circulate any invitations to the meeting to the Council.

Cllr. Wilkinson left the meeting at 20:02

10. Correspondence:

- a) **War Memorial:** The request from a resident to clean and re-paint the war memorial was considered by the Council. A supplier was contacted by Cllr Deaville to come to give a quotation.
- b) **Bench replacement:** The Council agreed to apply for the Green Spaces fund to replace a picnic bench at Draycott Bus Stop adjacent to Villa Verde.
- c) **Parish Clerk replacement:** A CV was received to be considered for the position of Parish Clerk. The council will invite the candidate to the next meeting.

11. Highways reports:

- i. **Cheadle Road Railings:** already discussed.
- ii. **Cherry Trees:** The trees have been delivered to the Clerk. The Council approved to get these planted. Locations to be agreed.
- iii. **Village Gateways:** already discussed
- iv. **VAS:** selling or repurposing signage was discussed. Clerk to speak to Highways officer regarding locations.
- v. **Breach Lane:** already discussed
- vi. **Uttoxeter Road Crossing:** already discussed

12. Items on Notice:

- a) **Village Planters:** Cllr. Winfield moved to remove the timber village planters which are rotten. The lengths person was thanked for producing an illustrated report of the state and condition of the planters. The Council approved for them to be removed.
 - **Lengths person to be asked to remove rotten planters - All in favour.**
 - **discussions to be had with Sweet Meadows Nurseries about replacement.**
- b) **Welcome card:** Cllr Reardon moved to produce a welcome card for new residents with all relevant village information. **Design and content to be drafted - All in favour**

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- c) **Speed Initiative:** Cllr. Birds moved to start an action group similar to Meir Heath following Meir heath Action group advice. Mission Statement to be created.
Uttoxeter Road Safety Awareness Social Media page to be created - All in favour
- d) **Draycott empty house in disrepair:** It was discussed that a building in Draycott is dangerous to the public. **Clerk to report to Environmental Health**

13. Planning Applications:

Cllr. Birds reported on the Planning Committee where Cllr. Deaville, Cllr. Luke Emery, Cllr. Lisa Emery and Cllr. Birds all spoke in opposition to the application. A decision was made to defer the road layout application for the Uttoxeter Rd, Cresswell Lane junction but to approve the Elan Homes application for 157 homes on the development at Blythe Park. The vote was 7 in favour 6 against.

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| SMD/2026/0015 | Anslem, Sandon Road, Cresswell | Variation of condition 2 of SMD/2024/0280 Minor internal layout changes, window size and chimney re-position. | Decision: No objection |
| SMD/2026/0033 | 32 Marsh Bungalow, Uttoxeter Road, Draycott | Retrospective planning application for a proposed flat roof porch to front elevation, proposed render finish to entirety of the dwelling. Proposed changes to existing garage including height and proposed attached car port. Garage to be fully rendered as per main dwelling. | No objection |

14. Lengthsperson and Litter Picker Report: Not available at the time of the meeting
(see website for document in Meeting pack)

15. Finance & Governance:

a) **Payments were Authorised for January invoices:**

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| D Wheat | Clerk Salary Month 11 (Jan/Feb) – (SPC rate 12 £ £14.82 p/h) Total - £322.00 per month | Gross £322.00 TAX £64.40 | Net £257.60 | Cheque 1948 |
| HMRC | PAYE (Jan/Feb) Month 11 | £64.40 | £64.40 | 1949 |
| Draycott Church Hall | February meeting 2hrs (hire rate £30 p/session) | £30.00 | £30.00 | 1950 |
| J Swarbrooke | Litter picking work @ £12.50 per hr 20 hrs January | £250.00 | £250.00 | 1951 |
| R Fox | Lengths person work @ £15 per hr 10 hrs December | £150.00 | £150.00 | 1952 |
| Clerk Expenses: Smarty Clerks Milage | Internet package p/m 9 miles @50p | £9.00 £4.50 | £13.50 | 1953 |
| | | TOTAL PAYMENTS | £765.50 | |

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

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b. Projects for 2026-27: Clerk advised at 31st March 'Financial Year End' when UKSPF and County Council PROW grants should be received and VAT reclaimed. Then a clear balance of funds available for projects for the forthcoming year will be presented.

16. Projects in Progress:

- **Training Policy** – in progress, will be ready for annual meeting.
- **Calendar of Events:** Cllr Birds and the Clerk are working on setting up the calendar on the new email system.

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

- **Bus Stop Art Galleries and History project:** Clerk and Cllr. Reardon to arrange an event to invite members of the public to attend. Date to be advised.
- **Report footpaths for sweeping in the Parish to SMDC.**
- **Write to farmers to ask them to cut hedges in the Parish.**
- **The County Council have a public transport survey open to gather feedback on transport services.**

Meeting closed 21.12

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