



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, 9th March 2026

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Bev Reardon	Cllr. Robert Birds
Vice Chair Cllr. Lisa Emery	Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	
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. Luke Emery, Cllr. Mark Deaville (Parish and District), 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 asked a question about the planning application at the junction of Uttoxeter Road and Cresswell Lane for a new road layout with traffic lights.**
Cllr Alan Hulme clarified that a decision was made at 22nd January 2026 meeting of the SMDC Planning Committee to defer the application because of a Highways matter. A consultant will now come out to assess the design at the junction.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2026** were approved as a correct record.
Proposed Cllr. Birds – Seconded Cllr. McLaughlin – all in favour
- Matters Arising:**
 - Bins:** The new Cresswell bin has been moved from the Cricket Club path and fitted at the entrance gate so it is in the public realm. Thanks was given to Cllr. Birds for moving and fixing the bin.
 - Old planters and bench at Villa Verde bus stop:** Maintenance team Rachel and Jack have removed some of the rotten planters and the broken bench.
 - Parish information welcome card:** Cllr. Reardon is progressing with the design. Ideas for information to be included is to be submitted before the next meeting.
 - War Memorial Stone:** Cllr Deaville has booked a man to come to clean the stone
- District Council Report:**
 - Cllr. Hulme reported that the District Council are focusing on preparation for Local Government Reorganisation.
- County Councillor Report:** Cllr. Bentley had submitted a report for some of the Highways items. (reported in agenda item 13)

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

Signed Chairman
Councillor

Date 13th April 2026

9. Recruitment : A candidate was interviewed prior to the meeting. It was decided that references and proof of DBS are needed before a decision can be made. SPCA to be asked for advice on recruitment checks. The Clerk to advise when these are available.

10. Planning: SMD/2022/0267 and SMD/2025/0013 A decision has been made to pass the Blythe Park housing development in Cresswell, but work cannot start on the development until the junction design application is resolved.

11. Lengthsman & Litterpicker report: The February report was reviewed and approved. The footway is being cleared gradually from Draycott Raquet and Sports Club up to Blythe Cricket Club. Rachel and Jack were complemented for continuing to do an excellent job in the parish.

12. Finance & Governance:

a. Payments were authorised for February invoices:

b. <u>D Wheat</u>	Clerk Salary Month 12 (Mar) – (SPC rate 12 £ £14.82 p/h) Total - £322.00 per month	Gross £322.00 TAX £64.40	Net £257.60	Cheque 1954
HMRC	Cheque cancelled PAYE (Mar) Month 12	£64.40	£64.40	1955 1956
Draycott Church Hall	Mar meeting 2hrs (hire rate £30 p/session)	£30.00	£30.00	1957
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work @ £12.50 per hr 22 hrs February	£275.00	£275.00	1958
R Fox	Lengths person work @ £15 per hr 19 hrs February	£285.00	£285.00	
Clerk Expenses: Smarty Clerks Milage Toner Giant	Internet package p/m 9 miles @50p Black Toner x4 cartridges	£9.00 £4.50 £118.40 net £23.68 vat £142.08 total	£155.58	1959
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	£1,067.58	

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

b) **Bank Reconciliation to 28th February 2026 was approved**

c) **A Green Space Development fund application** for a bench at Villa Verde bus stop has been refused as the area was not deemed to be a green space that people can visit.

d) **Parkers Piece** would qualify as a green space. The Council agreed that the information should be shared to the Parkers Piece committee so they can apply for an information board to explain the wildflower planting in the community garden.

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13. Projects in Progress:

HIGHWAYS

- i. **Totmonslow Sign:** The Totmonslow sign has fallen over on Draycott Road at the Tean entrance. The council resolved to apply for the Moorlands Partnership Board for restoration of heritage features. The boards could be replaced with better designs to mark the ancient history of the Totmonslow Hundred. Clerk to seek quotations for a design and two new signs, consult with Highways officer and to apply for the MPB grant from SMDC.
Proposed Cllr. Lisa Emery – Seconded Cllr. Birds

- ii. **Potholes:** Councillors are reporting potholes to County Highways through the app. None appear to have been repaired in the last month in the parish but some have been inspected as they have been marked. Everyone was encouraged to keep reporting issues as they appear.

- iii. **Hedge Cutting:** Local farmers have cut their hedges throughout the parish and the Lengthsperson has swept up where any debris has been left.

- iv. **Grass verge churned up and mud on the footway along Uttoxeter Road:** Carers visiting residents on Uttoxeter Road are pulling up on grass verges instead of reversing into residents drive. A letter could be sent to the care company if this can be identified but unfortunately there is not a law in place to enforce no parking on grass verges.

Highways have repaired an area outside a property but have left a pile of mud which has now spread onto the footway. The Clerk will request footpath cleaning to be done by the District Council.

- v. **Cheadle Road railings:** County Cllr. Bentley has confirmed there will be a road closure in place in May to repair the Cheadle Road railing and to fix potholes. He has suggested a working party to paint the railings, to clear footways and to clear the brook of overgrown vegetation. Draycott Nurseries/Sweet Meadows have suggested placing some hanging baskets on the railings. This could obstruct the footway which is narrow. ***The council did not approve the idea of hanging baskets on Cheadle Road railings.***
Draycott Nurseries have also asked if they can maintain the area at Villa Verde bus stop. The Council agreed that partnership working was to be welcomed. It was also suggested that flowers have been used to decorate Telephone Boxes, so that could be explored to improve the Draycott Telephone box.
The Clerk to liaise with Draycott Nurseries to confirm the decisions.

- vi. **Crossing or Pedestrian refuge on Uttoxeter Road.** County Cllr. Bentley has confirmed with Highways officers that a feasibility study is being done on the road which was initiated by Cllr Deaville when he was a County Councillor. Pedestrians have to wait a long time for a safe gap to cross, older people are too frightened to cross. School children have to cross the road to catch the school bus. It is a three lane highway and several people have been killed. A crossing point must be put in to prevent any further deaths.
The Clerk will keep the council informed of any information received.

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vii. Village Gateways: The Clerk has written to the neighbouring Parish Councils, Forsbrook, Checkley and Fulford and spoken to Bostock's farmers who own the verge at Draycott Cross. A letter to ask permission to locate a gateway is to be sent to Mr Hargreaves of Waste Gate Farm who owns the verge opposite The Hunter pub. Site visits to be arranged to discuss locations and written permission is needed to submit with the application for the licences.

viii. Sites for Cherry Trees: It was agreed that the trees would be best planted in the following locations:

- a. Corner of Breach Lane or by Totmonslow sign at village entrance
- b. by the steps of the flag pole at Church Lane
- c. corner by the entrance to Brookside
- d. corner of Draycott Old Road or New Avenue – Utilities to be checked.
- e. Cresswell by the phone box or bus stop or on the wide verge above Rookery Crescent entering the village.

***Clerk to check the locations with Highways officer and to confirm to the lengthsperson.
Cllr. Reardon will collect the Trees and deliver to the Lengthsperson to plant.***

ix. VAS – The council agreed for both old signs to be relocated and erected in Cresswell. Clerk to arrange a meeting with Highways Officer to confirm locations.

x. Breach Lane traffic speed and volume issues. Cllr Luke Emery is requesting with the Sat Nav mapping to have breach Lane removed so that traffic is not offered Breach Lane as a route.
Report moved to next meeting.

xi. Community Speedwatch: Cllr. Birds has created a social media page, but this has not been launched yet. A working group is to be arranged to clarify the aims and purpose.

PROJECTS

xii. Bus stop art galleries

The Clerk is arranging the printing of old photographs to be displayed. Frame measurements to be confirmed so these can be ordered. It was decided to invite Blythe Bridge Camera Club to the Parish Assembly to be held on Monday 11th May at 7pm.

xiii. Cresswell to Cheadle Railway track: The speaker on the history of the Railway to be invited to talk at the Parish Assembly. A discussion was had about the location of the old tunnel, Severn Trent own the site.

COMUNICATION

xiv. Training Policy: A draft policy will be presented at the April meeting for approval at the Annual meeting.

xv. Calendar: Cllr Birds is working on setting up group calendar and group emails with Zoho.

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xvi. Local Councils Award Scheme:

The Clerk has registered to attend a course in April to find out how to progress with applying for the award.

14. Matters Pertaining to the Parish for the next Agenda:

- **Best Kept Village application:** Council to improve on the points raised in the report.
- **Draycott Nurseries:** to be asked to speak at the Parish Assembly.
- **Cheadle Spitfire project:** to be asked to speak at the Parish Assembly
- **Planters:** Quote to have new planters and a plan for planting and watering.

15. Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly Report:

Cllr. Birds gave a report of the SMDC Parish Assembly held on 5th March at Council Chamber at Moorlands House, Leek. The following topics were presented and discussed;

- **Moorlands Partnership Board:** The officer spoke about all the projects which had been funded in 2025. The grant is for Heritage projects across the Moorlands. Parish councils, community groups or individuals can apply if they have an asset which can be improved or regenerated.
- **Staffordshire Micro Providers:** Support Staffordshire have launched a new initiative for people who need care and support at home. People can register to access help for all sorts of tasks in the home, these can be paid for out of attendance allowance or from a person's /own funds. The program also offers help for people to start their own business as micro support providers offering a flexible way of working.
- **Local Government Reorganisation:** The Chief Executive of SMDC, Mr. Andrew Stokes gave an update on LGR. Staffs Moorlands Leader Cllr. Mike Gledhill has been to London to present the Staffordshire Moorlands case to the Government. There will be a decision published by July 2026. The statutory consultation process is in progress. Parish Councils are not a statutory consultee but can still submit the consultation form. The website is very informative.
<https://staffordshirestokelgr.org.uk/>

Meeting closed 20.45

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