



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - Monday 11th May 2026 - MINUTES

The Annual Parish Meeting held at Draycott Church Hall, ST11 9AG at 7.00pm on Monday 11th May 2026

All Local Government electors of Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish including Totmonslow and Cresswell were invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish

1. Refreshments were served.

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Bev Reardon	Cllr. Lisa Emery
Vice Chair Cllr. Robert Birds	Cllr. Luke Emery Cllr. Pat McLoughlin	Cllr. Mark Deaville (Parish & District)
Cllr. Alan Hulme (District)	Cllr. Gary Bentley (County)	Cllr. Pete Wilkinson (District)
members of the public and Guest Speakers		

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

2. **Welcome and apologies:** Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. Gordon Winfield opened the meeting.
3. **Minutes of the Parish Assembly of 12th May 2025** were approved.
4. **The Annual Report** from Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Chairman was received: see appendix 1

Meetings: Regular monthly meetings have been held on the second Monday of the month throughout the year (except August).

Governance: The Precept for the forthcoming financial year was set at ???

Community and Volunteer Activity in the Parish:

- Sweet Meadows/ Draycott Nurseries are supporting the Parish by supplying and maintaining planters. Additional new planters will be made to order.

Contract Work: Lengthsperson Rachel Fox and Litter Picker Jack Swarbrooke Both have worked very hard to keep our Parish tidy. Many thanks was given to them both for their work.

War Memorial & Flag Pole: Rachel Fox tends to the War Memorial which was made by local stone mason George Plant. John Clarke changes the flags when needed and Laura Bird has also helped with this. Thanks to all of them for maintaining the village features.

Street Furniture: The benches are maintained by Rachel Fox, who also maintains the Dog Pooh bag dispensers around our parish to encourage dog walkers to keep our parish clean.

Highways Issues:

Zebra Crossing: The Council is also still awaiting confirmation of when the third survey will be completed, the study is intended to investigate a crossing at the location previously agreed, to demonstrate if it is both safe and viable, funding for its construction and implementation would need to be sought through future Capital Programmes again. The scheme would then be considered alongside many other projects from across Staffordshire and would be subject to the availability of funding.

Potholes Are an ongoing issue in the parish, however road resurfacing and surface dressing is underway on Cheadle road, which should help with this busy carriageway, also resurfacing has been completed on Draycott Road.

Cheadle Road railings repair - Ongoing

7 Village Gateways have also been delivered and are awaiting the application process to the County Council before they can be fitted.

Meeting Venue: As previously Draycott Church Hall provides a good venue for Parish Council meetings. Cllr. Luke Emery has fitted WiFi device to the Hall so that Parish Council meetings can access online data and Planning reports when required to be projected. This will also help reduce paper and ink wastage if meeting documents can be projected instead of printed. The WiFi is also available for other Hall users, so this is improving services in the community building.

Best Kept Village Community

An application was submitted by the new Clerk for the Best Kept Village Community competition, and the parish has successfully progressed to the next stage. Judges will now visit the parish to undertake an assessment as part of the judging process.

5. **The Financial Statement** (unaudited) for the year ending 31st March 2025 was received. The Clerk will publish the audited version as soon as it has been approved and the period of public rights will be announced to give members of the public the opportunity to inspect the accounts.
6. **Speakers:**
Several representatives from local organisations within the parish were invited to speak about the valuable work they undertake within the community. The presentations and discussions provided an opportunity to learn more about their activities, explore local needs and priorities, and consider how the Parish Council might support and work alongside these organisations for the benefit of the community.

Two-time Ju Jitsu World Champion Tara Burndred attended on behalf of Tatsu Dojo. Based at Draycott Sports Club and working within local schools, the dojo has achieved significant success,

with several students selected to represent Great Britain, including one competitor who will be competing in the European Cup this year.

In addition to its competitive achievements, Tatsu Dojo works closely with local schools through funded programmes that promote fitness, self-defence, confidence, discipline and overall wellbeing among young people. These sessions provide valuable opportunities for children and young adults to remain active while supporting both their physical and mental health.

Tara spoke about the dojo's aspirations to expand its community outreach and the positive impact that additional support from the Parish Council and funding opportunities, such as the Solar Array Fund, could have in enabling the organisation to deliver further activities and benefits for local residents.

Claire attended on behalf of Blythe Cricket Club, a well-established club based in Cresswell that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. She provided an overview of the club's history, its structure and activities, and highlighted the important role it continues to play within the local community.

The club provides cricket coaching and playing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, encouraging participation in sport and healthy lifestyles.

In addition to its sporting activities, the club has a thriving social programme that is open to both members and non-members. Regular events and gatherings help bring residents together and contribute positively to village life. The club is keen to strengthen its links with the wider community and looks forward to working with other local groups to organise events and activities in the future.

Charles attended on behalf of Blythe Camera Club who are celebrating their 75th year, he presented a selection of photographs produced by club members. He spoke about plans for the forthcoming exhibition, which will be displayed in the village's former bus shelters, and invited views on the themes and subjects that residents would like to see featured.

Charles suggested pairing photographers with local residents to help uncover and capture lesser-known parts of the parish that are often overlooked from the main roads. A wide-ranging discussion followed, including whether the exhibition should feature black-and-white or colour photography, focus on landscapes and local landmarks, or document contemporary village life.

There was strong support for ensuring that people and community life are at the heart of the exhibition, capturing not only the character of the parish but also the residents who make it such a vibrant place to live.

Mark Stewart, a representative of the Friends of St Margaret's Group spoke about the organisation's work within the parish. Although independent of the church and non-religious in nature, the group is dedicated to preserving and promoting the heritage of St Margaret's Church and other important historical assets within the local area.

The group plays an active role in supporting community projects, including Parker's Piece, the wild garden located behind the church and adjacent to the church hall. It also organises a range of fundraising and community events throughout the year. Among the most popular is the annual Summer Fête, held in the nearby fields, which continues to attract strong support from residents and visitors alike.

The Friends of St Margaret's also work in partnership with other local organisations, including Blythe Cricket Club, to host events such as race nights and other fundraising activities. During the summer months, the church is open to visitors on the first Saturday of each month from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, providing an opportunity for people to learn more about the church's history and heritage. The group hopes to welcome many visitors and encourages continued support and involvement from the wider community.

Meeting Ended 9.30pm

APPENDIX 1

Draycott-in-the-Moors Chairmans Annual Report 11th May 2026

Meetings: Monthly meetings have been held on the second Monday of the month throughout the year (except August).

Governance: The Precept for the 2026-2027 financial year was set at £10,737. This is 1% increase meaning that Parish Council Tax will stay the same to residents £28.11 per year per band D household, an increase of 28p per year. The Council will raise £132 more than last year in Precept due to a slight increase of 16 in the Tax Base.

New Parish Clerk: Mrs Yvonne Grimshaw Baker has been recruited as Parish Clerk to replace Denise Wheat who has been Clerk for 8 years at Draycott-in-the-Moors since 2018.

Contract Work: Lengthsperson Rachel Fox and Litter Picker Jack Swarbrooke Both work very hard to keep our Parish tidy. Jack has many challenges with litterpicking especially on Cheadle Road and the main through routes where car drivers throw rubbish out as they drive through.

Community and Volunteer Activity in the Parish:

Best Kept Village Community: The first entry to the Staffordshire Best Kept Village Community awards proved very challenging with new volunteers being recruited from businesses on Blythe Business Park who worked with Councillors to paint the bus stops with paint from Waste Savvy Saffs paint recycling centre. Cllr. Bev Reardon worked on bringing different people together to work on the project. Lots of other improvements were done around the Village to tidy up community spaces.

Draycott in the Moors achieved runner up for Small Village North and received a donation of £250.00 to future projects. Thanks to Cllr. Bev Reardon and Cllr Robert Birds for their work on this. The retiring Clerk Denise Wheat has passed on her knowledge to new Clerk Yvonne Grimshaw Baker who has submitted an application for 2026.

Church Hall Meeting Venue:

WiFi has been installed and funded by the Parish Council in the Church Hall and this is available for meetings and for other hall users improving the Community Facility. The Council also were successful in being awarded a UKSPF Community Infrastructure Grant of £10,000 to replace the Church Hall Kitchen.

District Councillor Initiative Funding: Thanks to Cllr. Pete Wilkinson who gave £200 to this project from his Cllr. Initiative Fund. Cllr. Alan Hulme has supported three young peoples' initiatives -Tean Rainbows, Brownies and Tean Youth Club which are attended by young people of Draycott-in-the-Moors. Thanks to Draycott resident Mrs Sarah Plant for taking over the leadership of Tean Rainbows (following the retirement of the two leaders Denise and Yvonne (the Clerks) who have ran Tean rainbows for over 20 years) Unfortunately Draycott Brownies has now closed (ran by previous Clerk Mary Edwards)

Sweet Meadows/ Draycott Nurseries are supporting the Parish by supplying and maintaining planters. New planters have been put in place at Villa Verde bus stop and outside the restaurant by the nursery.

Street Furniture:

Dog Pooh bag dispensers around our parish to encourage dog walkers to keep our parish clean are working well but one disappeared from Cresswell which was a shame.

Bins: Cllr Bev Reardon has engaged with the community solve some dog pooh bag issues by providing locations for two additional bins in the Parish. The bins have been installed, one outside Cresswell Cricket Club to help with dog pooh bag litter from the Public Right of Way and one on the Railway track for walkers and cyclists using that route. Thank to Cllr. Birds and to Bostocks farm for fitting these.

Road Signage: No Sat Nav signs have been mounted on posts under the No HGV signs on Cresswell Old Lane, Breach Lane and Draycott Old Road to help deter drivers using the lanes as shortcut routes. The Totmonslow sign on Draycott Road has perished. This has been removed by the Clerk to see if it can be repaired, while new signs are being applied for through the Moorlands Partnership Fund Grant.

Old Planters and Bench at Villa Verde and other sites have been removed by the Lengthsperson Rachel. New planters are being made by Rachel's husband. Volunteers are looking after the different planters which need watering and maintenance throughout the summer months.

Christmas Lights: The displays get better each year. Thanks to Cllr Lisa Emery for improving all the bus shelter lights. Thanks to the volunteers who transported the heavy equipment to Church Lane for the little chapel display.

War Memorial, Flagpole and Beacon: Grants were given to the to Communities of Draycott and Cresswell to fund cream tea events for both VE and VJ Day which were open to all the community free of charge at St Margaret's and at St Mary's Churches. Wreath laying and Flag raising ceremonies also occurred on the VE and VJ days at the War Memorial stone. Rachel Fox tends to the War Memorial which was made by local stone mason George Plant. Volunteer Laura Bird changed the flags for VE Day and VJ Day so thanks to Laura for doing that.

Cllr Bev Reardon suggested the parish have a beacon lighting ceremony for VE Day. A Beacon was commissioned from Mr Clive Swinson, metalworker from Freehay, who built the structure for the Parish. Cllr Bev Reardon organised a cream tea event at Blythe Cricket Club who kindly offered to locate the beacon at the highest point in the villages. A celebration event was held at The Anchor Inn, Breach Lane, Totmonslow and beacon lighting was held at the Blythe Cricket Club Cresswell.

Bus Stop Art Galleries:

The Clerk Denise was successful in applying for a grant of £900 from Outside Arts to create a display area in three of the Bus stops in the Parish. Old photographs have been sourced from Blythe and District Historical Society historian Joe Thorley and is working with Camera Club member David Bourne to create a project for club members to capture images of Draycott-in-the-Moors to be mounted in the bus stops and for new images to use on the parish website. Frames will be mounted soon and a community notice space. Cllr. Bev Reardon has also got a similar grant for a project working on the histories of people living in the Parish to be recorded on video and audio.

Highways Issues:

MP Surgery: Cllr Bev Reardon organised a visit from MP Dr. Allison Gardner who came to the Parish for a visit and then met with several members of the public in an open session at Blythe Cricket Club. Allison took the Parishes issues about a zebra crossing to Parliament!

Zebra Crossing: This project is currently being assessed by the County Council for its viability. The Council continue to lobby to get backing for this project from other authorities.

Potholes are an ongoing issue in the Parish. Road closures are scheduled in late May to fix some of the worst ones on Cheadle Road when the railing repair will be done again.

2 New Vehicle Activated Signs have been installed and the data that we are receiving from the reports is very informative. The Council are committed to reducing speed in the Parish and are using the data to inform the police and the County Council of the speed problems persisting on the roads. Other parishes have asked for our Councillors advice. Thank you to Cllr. Luke Emery for his work on this. The two old VAS devices are to be relocated in Cresswell as soon as location permission can be achieved.

7 Village Gateways are still in progress. The permission to site the signs has proved a difficult task but is progressing slowly. Thanks to Cllr. Lisa Emery for her work on this with the Clerk and thanks to Clerks husband Steve Wheat for assembling the gateways.

5 Cherry tree locations have been agreed and will be planted shortly.

Planning:

The Council have been very active in monitoring the Planning progress of the Blythe Park Development and the subsequent road layout at the junction to Cresswell Lane and Uttoxeter Road. There have been some very complex planning documents to read and understand, thanks must be given to Cllr. Luke Emery for all his work on this with the Blythe Park working group in communicating the information to the Council and to the members of the public and also to Cllr. Birds, Cllr. Lisa Emery, Cllr Deaville and Cllr. Luke Emery for representing the Council at the District Planning Committee meetings.

Public Rights of Way:

Thanks to Cllr. Birds and to the Lengthsperson Rachel for the research and clearance of some of the Public Rights of Way. The Parish Council have been successful in getting a grant to part fund two accessible kissing gates for Public Footpath Draycott 2. The County Council PROW funded over 50% of the costs. Local businessman Paul Ford kindly collected the gates from the manufacturer and fitted the gates on his land. The gates will allow residents who are less mobile to get onto the paths without having to climb over stiles which is a barrier to accessibility.

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield