



Draycott-in-the-Moors PARISH COUNCIL

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, 13th July 2026

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Vice Chair Cllr. Robert Birds	Cllr. Pat McLaughlin
Cllr. Alan Hulme (District)	Cllr. Pete Wilkinson (District)	
8 members of the public and staff: Responsible Financial Officer - Denise Wheat		

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

- 1. Chairman's Welcome:** Cllr. Winfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies:** Cllr. Bev Reardon, Cllr. Lisa Emery, Cllr. Luke Emery, Cllr. Mark Deaville and Cllr. Gary Bentley
- 3. Declaration of Interests:** Cllrs. Hulme & Wilkinson are members of the SMDC Planning Committee.
- 4. Guest Speaker: Presentation – Proposed Solar Farm, Cresswell**

A presentation was given by Andrew Dowell and representatives from Third Revolution Projects regarding the proposed solar farm at Cresswell.

The representatives advised that significant progress had been made since their previous presentation to the Parish Council. They explained that a number of surveys had been completed, including ecological and preliminary surveys covering badgers, bats and breeding birds, and that the findings of these surveys had been taken into account as part of the project development.

It was reported that several factors had influenced the selection of the proposed site, including landscape considerations, ecology, highway access and the capacity of the local electricity network. The presenters advised that the proposed 40MW solar farm would have the capacity to generate sufficient electricity to supply approximately 15,000 homes.

The presenters stated that they aimed to achieve a balance between delivering the development and minimising its visual impact on the local community. They advised that the proposals include additional hedgerow planting and the creation of wildflower meadows to enhance the landscape and biodiversity. They also confirmed that no battery storage facilities form part of the current proposal.

The presenters further advised that agricultural use of the land could continue alongside the solar installation during the proposed 40-year lease period. They also confirmed that the historic moatsite would be preserved, the existing public footpath would not be disturbed, and that additional landscaping and environmental enhancements formed part of the proposal.

- 5. Public Participation:** Members of the Parish Council and members of the public were invited to ask questions following the presentation. Several questions were raised on various aspects of the proposed development, representatives responded to all questions raised and agreed to provide further information to the Parish Clerk by email for circulation to members of the Parish Council.

6. Minutes Resolution:

a) Minutes of the 8th June 2026 Ordinary Meeting were all approved as a correct record

Proposed Cllr. Birds – Seconded Cllr. McLaughlin – all in favour

7. District and County Council Reports:

8.

- a. **District:** Cllr. Wilkinson advised the council that there are proposed changes to the planning process, The Governments Planning and infrastructure Act 2025 may significantly reduce or remove the elected District and Borough Councillor's right to "call in" planning applications for determination by a Planning Committee. Cllr. Wilkinson has proposed a Motion, to formally oppose any provision that restricts the rights of elected councillors. Cllr Wilkinson asked the Parish Council to support the motion and write to the Secretary of State for Housing, expressing the Councils concerns regarding the democratic implications of these changes.

Clerk to Action.

Proposed - Cllr. Birds Seconded -Cllr. McLaughlin- All in favour

- b. **County Council Report:** In the absence of Cllr. Bentley, an update was relayed to the meeting advising that complaints regarding the grass cutting in the area had been made online. He has been made aware that some parishes employ their own contractors and then pass on the invoice to County Council, Cllr. Bentley will investigate this further.

8. Items on Notice: The Council considered two applications for the Solar Array Fund:

- a. Mr. Richard Talbot presented to the council on behalf of Friends of St Margaret's Church. The Council requested formal quotations for the Parker's Piece Information Board before determining the application. Consideration was deferred until the September meeting.
- b. Tara Burndred's Application to fund six free "Stand Strong" Community Self Defence & Personal Safety Seminars were approved. Total awarded £450.00
Cllr. McLaughlin proposed, Cllr. Birds seconded – All in favour
- c. To consider introducing a scheme to recognise and celebrate the achievements of young people deferred until the September meeting.

9. Planning Applications: No planning applications to consider.

10. Finance and Governance

- a. Budget for Maintenance: Cllr. Birds presented his budget review, it needed further data.
Item to be added again to the September agenda.
- b. **Unity Trust Bank progress report:** Responsible Financial Officer Denise Wheat suggested the Council stays with NatWest as there are currently no monthly fees. Clerk and RFO to add new signatories and set up dual signatures for online banking.
- c. **Vat return** has been applied for and should be received by September meeting.
- d. **Reserve statement** was discussed

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

Signed Chairman

Councillor

Date

e. Payments were authorised for July 2026

<u>D Wheat</u>	RFO Salary Month 5 (JUNE) – (SPC rate 12 £ £14.82 p/h) Total - £322.00 per month	Gross £322.00 TAX £64.40	Net £257.60	Cheque 1990
<u>Y Grimshaw Baker</u>	Clerk Salary Month 5 (JUNE) -(SPC rate 12 – as above	Gross £322.00 Tax £0.00	Net £322.00	1991
HMRC	PAYE (JUNE) Month 5	£64.40	£64.40	1992
Draycott Church Hall	JUNE meeting (hire rate £30 p/session)	£30.00	£30.00	1993
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work @ £12.50 per hr 6 hrs JUNE	£75.00	£75.00	1994
R Fox	Lengths - person work @ £15 per hr 8 hrs JUNE	£120.00	£120.00	1995
Clerk Expenses: D Wheat Smarty	RFO Milage 9 Miles @50p Internet package p/m	£9.00 £4.50	£13.50	1996
Clerk Expenses: Y Grimshaw Baker	Clerks Milage 9 Miles @50p	£4.50	£4.50	1997
BREATHE TRAINING UK CIC	Tara Burndred – Solar Array Fund	£450.00	£450.00	2001
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	£1337.00	

Salary payments were also authorised for August:

<u>D Wheat</u>	Clerk Salary Month 6 (July) – (SPC rate 12 £ £14.82 p/h) Total - £322.00 per month	Gross £322.00 TAX £64.40	Net £257.60	Cheque 1998
<u>Y Grimshaw Baker</u>	Clerk Salary Month 6 (July) -(SPC rate 12 – as above	Gross £322.00 Tax £0.00	Net £322.00	1999
HMRC	PAYE (July) Month 6	£64.40	£64.40	2000
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	£644.40	

The above payments proposed...Cllr. Winfield and cheques duly signed...Cllr. McLaughlin...
Carried unanimously.

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Signed Chairman
Councillor

Date 14 Sept 2026

11. Highways

- a. **Totmonslow Sign:** Clerk has applied to the Moorlands Partnership Board for restoration of heritage features. Awaiting for a decision from the application.
- b. **Crossing or Pedestrian refuge on Uttoxeter Road:** No further progress on this issue as a third survey is being undertaken. The Clerk will keep the council informed of any information received.
- c. **Cheadle road railings:** Clerk and Cllrs have reported that some of the railing has been damaged, clerk to speak to Cllr. Bentley.
- d. **Village Gateways, Breach Lane, VAS signs and Community Speedwatch** were deferred to the September meeting.

12. Projects

- a. **Bus Stop Art Galleries:**
Project still ongoing, Denise to complete before she leaves in September.
- b. **Cresswell to Cheadle Railway:** Clerk has emailed both Cheadle and Checkley Parish Clerks to arrange a working group meeting in the autumn.
- c. **Planters and bedding plants:** Clerk has emailed Sweet Meadows as the planter opposite the restaurant with the current heatwave all plants have withered. Awaiting a response to see if they wish to continue sponsoring the area.
- d. **Parish Welcome Cards.** No new updates.

13. Governance & Communication

- e. **Policies:** Clerk is still investigating a new safeguarding policy for all to complete.

Items to be put on the September Agenda

- 1. Lengths-person and litter-picker budget.
- 2. Banking mandate changes.
- 3. To discuss to Cresswell to Cheadle Railway project
- 4. Introducing a scheme to recognise and celebrate the achievements of young people.
- 5. Solar Array Application.

Meeting closed 21.30

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

Signed Chairman
Councillor

Date 14 Sept 2026