Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, 14th September 2026

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Pat McLaughlin	Cllr. Bev Reardon
Cllr. Mark Deaville (Parish & District)	Cllr. Pete Wilkinson (District)	Cllr. Alan Hulme (District)
Cllr. Gary Bentley (County)	Mrs Denise Wheat (Retiring clerk)	
3 members of the public		

Minutes recorded by	Start Time	Location
Mrs. Y Grimshaw Baker 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 and Cllr Robert Birds. Cllr Luke Emery attended at the start of the meeting but left before the formal business commenced.
Declaration of Interests: Cllrs. Hulme & Wilkinson are members of the SMDC Planning Committee.

Public Participation:

A member of the public raised the following two matters:

Solar Farms:
The resident expressed his support for solar farm developments, referring to the need for renewable energy and the potential for solar farms to help protect agricultural land from permanent development. He noted that land beneath solar panels can continue to be used for purposes such as sheep grazing and can potentially return to full agricultural use once the solar development has reached the end of its operational life.

War Memorial:
Concern was raised regarding the current condition of the village war memorial, particularly the deterioration of its appearance and the fading of some of the names. The resident felt that the memorial should provide a fitting and respectful tribute to those commemorated and asked whether the Parish Council could progress work to improve or replace it.

The resident advised that he had previously researched local stonemasons and passed details to the Parish Council, and noted that Cllr Deaville had also undertaken some research into possible options.

The Parish Council noted the comments made regarding solar farm developments.

Following discussion regarding the war memorial, the Council agreed to investigate options for its replacement and instructed the Clerk to obtain advice and quotations from a number of stonemasons. It was acknowledged that replacement of the memorial may take some time and would not be completed before this year's Remembrance Service. In the meantime, the Council agreed to explore whether some remedial work could be undertaken to improve the appearance and legibility of the existing memorial.

Minutes Resolution:

a) Minutes of 13th July 2026 Ordinary Meeting
were approved as a true and accurate record
Proposed Cllr. Winfield – Seconded Cllr. McLaughlin – all in favour

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

1) **Report from District Councillors:**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that Cllr Linda Malyon had been elected Chairman and First Citizen of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for the 2026/27 civic year.

Cllr Wilkinson also provided an update regarding recent changes to the planning process and expressed his concerns about the reduction in the ability of local councillors to "call in" planning applications for consideration by the Planning Applications Committee. He felt that the changes could reduce local democratic involvement in planning decisions, with a greater number of applications potentially being determined by Planning Officers under delegated powers.

Cllr Wilkinson advised that he had written to the Secretary of State expressing his concerns and asked the Parish Council to consider supporting his representations.

Following discussion, the Parish Council agreed to support Cllr Wilkinson's concerns and to write to the Secretary of State. The Clerk was instructed to prepare and send a letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

2) **Report from County Councillor:**

Cllr Bentley advised that approximately 22 other Parish and Town Councils currently arrange grass cutting through their own contractors and subsequently recharge Staffordshire County Council. It was suggested that this may provide a possible alternative for the Parish, particularly given concerns raised by residents regarding the current standard and frequency of grass cutting. Cllr Bentley agreed to forward information to the Clerk regarding the process and how the Parish Council could apply to undertake this arrangement.

Cllr Bentley also provided an update from the Highways Team regarding the ongoing highways matters discussed under **Projects in Progress**.

Further discussion took place regarding the increasing volume of traffic travelling through the Parish, particularly during the frequent closures and diversions from the A50. Concern was expressed regarding the impact of the recent overnight closures, which had resulted in significant additional traffic through the local area.

Cllr Bentley supported the Chair's suggestion that a strongly worded letter should be sent to Highways outlining the Parish Council's concerns and requesting that the increasing impact of A50 closures and diversion traffic on the Parish be addressed.

Action: Clerk to prepare and send a letter to Highways on behalf of the Parish Council

3) **Planning Applications:**

Application Ref:	Address	Proposed Development
P/2026/00149	SOUTH OF BOUNDARY LINE BUSTOMLEY LANE MORRILOW HEATH	Solar Farm

Noted that the parish council had no comment on this application.

4) **New Items:**

a) Recognition of Young People's Achievements- Deferred to next meeting.
b) Cllr Reardon reported that she had spoken with a number of residents regarding issues with the food waste collection service, which currently appears to be inconsistent. It was hoped that these were initial teething problems with the new service. The situation will continue to be monitored.

5) **Finance**

a. Payments were authorised for August 2026

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Month 6 (aug/sept) – (SPC rate 12 £ £14.82 p/h) Total - £322.00 per month	Gross £322.00 Tax £64.40	**Net £257.60**	**Cheque number**
Y Grimshaw Baker	Clerk Salary Month 6 (aug/sept) -(SPC rate 12 – as above)	Gross £322.00 Tax £0.00	**Net £322.00**	
HMRC	PAYE (May/Jun) Month 6	£64.40	**£64.40**	
Draycott Church Hall	Sept meeting (hire rate £30 p/session)	£30.00	**£30.00**	
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work July 0 hrs @ £12.50 August 2.5 hrs @ £12.50 per hr	 £0.00 £31.25	 **£0.00** **£31.25**	
R Fox July Invoice August Invoice	Lengths person work 11 hrs @ £15.00 per hr 8.5 hrs @ £15.00 per hr	 £165.00 £127.50	 **£165.00** **£127.50**	
Clerk DW Expenses: Smarty Clerks Milage Printer Ink	 Internet package p/m 9 miles @50p £172.66 + £34.54 VAT	 £9.00 £4.50 £207.20	 **£9.00** **£4.50** **£207.20**	
Clerk YGB Expenses Clerks Milage HP Ink	 July-9 miles @50p August-9 miles @50p	 £4.50 £4.50	 **£4.50** **£4.50**	
Marion Corbishley	Auditor	£50.00	**£50.00**	
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	**£1272.95**	

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

	Bank Reconciliation at 01/09/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026		15,481.75
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2026 - 01/09/2026		10,508.97
			25,990.72
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2026 - 01/09/2026		8,428.80
A	**Cash in Hand 01/09/2026** (per Cash Book)		**17,561.92**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 01/09/2026	0.00	
	Current Account 01/09/2026	15,019.97	
	Reserve Account 01/09/2026	2,541.95	
			17,561.92
	Less unpresented payments		
			17,561.92
	Plus unpresented receipts		
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**		**17,561.92**
	A = B Checks out OK		

b. **Bank Reconciliation**: to 1st September 2026 was approved. *Proposed by Cllr. Winfield, seconded by Cllr. Deaville*

c. **Reserves:** Cllr Birds submitted a query regarding the level of the Council's reserves. The retiring Clerk explained that several capital purchases had been made during the previous financial year, including the beacon, two VAS signs, two kissing gates and works to the Church Hall kitchen.

The retiring Clerk recommended transferring £3,000 from the Election Recharge Reserve to the General Reserve to rebalance the Council's reserves. It was also noted that the next instalment of the precept was due to be received.

Action: To transfer £3,000 from the Election Recharge Reserve to the General Reserve.
Proposed: Cllr Deaville. Seconded: Cllr Winfield. All in favour.

d. **NALC Pay Award:** The Council considered the 2026/27 NALC pay award and agreed to implement the revised pay rates. The Clerk was authorised to arrange the appropriate back pay from April 2026 for both the retiring Clerk and current Clerk, as detailed in Appendix 10b.
Proposed: Cllr Winfield. Seconded: Cllr Deaville. All in favour.
e. Changing Banks to Unity/NatWest progress report has been put on hold, until we can ascertain if we can change existing NatWest account to online banking.
f. Two more signatories were sent for authorization again with NatWest so we can action the direct debit for HMRC
g. Payment to Auditor Marion Corbishley was authorised.
h. The updated application for Solar Array Fund; Parkers Piece information board was deferred until we hear back from the Grant application.

6) **Items on Notice:**

Partial Review of the Local Plan:
Several Councillors and the Clerk attended the recent local plan presentations held in Blythe Bridge and Cheadle. The presentations outlined the need to plan for additional housing and explained that areas within the A50 corridor are likely to attract particular interest from developers, due in part to their location and transport links.

It was emphasised at the presentations that, despite recent local newspaper headlines, no decisions have been made regarding specific sites or developments at this stage. The process is currently a partial review of the Local Plan and an opportunity to consider how future housing needs could be accommodated.

The presentations also highlighted a preference for considering more planned development, rather than relying solely on small numbers of houses being added in various locations. This would allow the necessary infrastructure and services required to support additional housing to be considered alongside any future development.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the Local Plan review as it progresses.

7) **Projects in Progress:**

HIGHWAYS

Uttoxeter Road – Pedestrian Crossing Assessment:
An update was received from Staffordshire County Council regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing assessment on Uttoxeter Road. Traffic monitoring was scheduled to take place from **20th–26th September 2026**, recording traffic volumes and speeds over a seven-day period. This coincided with overnight closures of the A50 main highway, allowing the assessment to also consider the increased traffic experienced through the village during diversion periods.

Pedestrian and cyclist movements are also being monitored, and existing accident data will form part of the assessment. A further site visit will consider pedestrian movements, crossing times, traffic conditions, road and footway widths and other relevant features.

Once all data has been collected, a full report will consider whether a pedestrian crossing is justified, the most appropriate type of crossing, estimated costs and any alternative measures that could be considered. The report is expected to be completed within approximately two months.

Following completion, a meeting will be arranged with relevant representatives to discuss the findings and recommendations.

PROJECTS

i. **Totmonslow Boundary Signs:**
Confirmation was received from Highways that they do nor foresee any objections to the proposed replacement boundary signs, as they are the same size, wording and general design as the existing signs. No further Highways approval is required, provided the existing posts are retained and the new signs are installed in the same locations.

If new or replacement posts are required, further Highways consideration may be necessary, including appropriate licences and surveys where excavation within the highway is involved. The Clerk will complete and submit the grant application within the next few weeks.

ii. **Village Gateways.** No updates at this moment in time.

iii. **Bus Stop Art Galleries:** The outgoing Clerk has handed the Bus Stop Art Galleries project over to Cllr Reardon, who will take responsibility for progressing the initiative.

COMMUNICATION

i. **Policies:** The Clerk attended a meeting with the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), where guidance was provided regarding the Parish Council's policies, including those requiring review or updating and any additional policies that should be adopted and published on the Council's official website.

ii. **Calendar of Events 2026 – Remembrance Sunday, 8th November:** The Clerk will begin preparations for Remembrance Sunday, including placing poppies along the roadside and positioning the commemorative silhouettes at the memorial site.

iii. Training and Development: Authorization for Clerk to start training and join the SLCC was approved.
Proposed by Cllr. Deaville, seconded by Cllr. McLaughlin

8) **Matters pertaining to issues in the Parish for the next Agenda:**
   a) Possible funding for new grit bins.
   b) The Clerk needs clarification regarding the previously proposed locations for the village gateways, previous work and discussions were undertaken prior to taking up the role. Councillors to confirm the agreed/proposed locations to enable the Clerk to progress the project.
   c) Uttoxeter Road Survey - information or updates.

9) **Items arising from Public Participation for consideration at the next meeting:**
War Memorial: To receive an update from the Clerk regarding quotations and advice obtained from stonemasons and to consider the next steps.

Retirement of the Clerk:
At the close of the meeting, Cllr Reardon thanked the retiring Clerk, Mrs Denise Wheat, for her dedicated service to the Parish Council and presented her with a leaving gift and card. The Parish Council would like to formally record its sincere thanks to Denise for her **eight years of service to Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council** and for her contribution to the Parish during that time. Members wished her every happiness and all the very best for the future.

Meeting Ends 9.10pm

Date of next Meeting: Monday 12th OCTOBER 2026

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

Signed
Chairman _____ Date _____