Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council

Draycott-in-the-Moors Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, 12th October 2026

Attendees:

Chairman Cllr. Gordon Winfield	Cllr. Lisa Emery	Cllr. Alan Hulme (District)
Cllr. Robert Birds	Cllr. Bev Reardon	
Cllr. Gary Bentley (County)		
1 member 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 Luke Emery, Cllr. Mclaughlin, Cllr. Wilkinson, Cllr. Deaville

Declaration of Interests: Cllr. Hulme is a member of the SMDC Planning Committee.

Public Participation:

A member of the public wanted to thank Cllr. Bentley for making sure the road survey team completed their work, but did however point out that the sensors were not placed in the correct area that people generally crossed the very busy road.

Minutes Resolution:

a) Minutes of 14th September 2026 Ordinary Meeting
were approved as a true and accurate record
Proposed Cllr. Winfield – Seconded Cllr. Birds – all in favour

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

1) **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Hulme provided an update on planning matters and advised that an additional Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for later in the month to consider outstanding planning applications.

2) **Report from County Councillor:**

Cllr Bentley confirmed that the match-funding paperwork for the proposed wheelchair-accessible picnic table had been signed and forwarded to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. He also agreed to investigate obtaining additional road safety signs for display on wheelie bins and lampposts throughout the parish.

3) **Planning Applications:**

No Planning applications to report.

4) **New Items:**

a) **Recognition of Young People's Achievements**: Cllr Lisa Emery proposed the introduction of a Parish Award to recognise and celebrate the achievements, talents and contributions of young people within the parish. The initiative would provide an opportunity to acknowledge their accomplishments and encourage continued participation in the local community.
The council unanimously supported the proposal and suggested establishing a small committee to explore the initiative further. This would include researching similar award schemes, considering eligibility criteria, nomination and judging procedures, and establishing clear guidelines for how the awards would be administered.
Cllr. Lisa Emery Proposed, Cllr. Birds Seconded – All in favour

b) **S106 Funding – Blythe Fields Estate (SMD2017/0512):** Deferred to next meeting.

c) **AGAR Assertion 10 – Digital and Data Compliance:** Clerk updated the council regarding the requirements of AGAR Assertion 10 and to consider the work required to ensure the Council's IT, data protection, privacy, document retention and accessibility policies are current and compliant.

d) **Tipping on Private Land – Cresswell Old Lane**: A parishioner raised concerns regarding the increasing amount of tipping taking place on privately owned land at Cresswell Old Lane, stating that the situation was becoming unacceptable. The Clerk informed the Council that the land was due to be sold at auction and suggested that, once the new owner had been identified, the Parish Council could write to them to express its concerns and request that the matter be addressed.

e) **Additional Grit Bins:**
Cllr. Bentley advised the Council that he would investigate the possibility of securing additional fun ding, including any available funds from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) to enable the purchase of extra grit bins within the parish in preparation for the forthcoming winter months.

f) **Village Gateways Project**: The Parish Council discussed the ongoing project to install new village gateways. Cllr Lisa Emery had provided the Clerk with a map identifying the proposed locations, together with the corresponding what3words references for each site.
The Council agreed that the project should be prioritised, with the aim of completing the work within the current Council's remaining term of office, ahead of the elections in May. However, the Clerk advised that this timescale may not be achievable, despite previously receiving written confirmation from Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Highways, agreeing to waive the associated fees. Further clarification and liaison with SCC Highways may be required before the project can progress.

5) **Finance**

a. Payments were authorised for Sept/October 2026

Proposed by Cllr. Winfield – Seconded by Cllr. Birds – All in Favour

D Wheat	Clerk Salary Back Pay (apr-sept) Total - £10.63 x 6 mths	**Gross** £49.13 Tax £12.20	**Net £49.13**	**Cheque number 2074**
Y Grimshaw Baker	Clerk Salary Month 7 (sept/0ct) -(SPC new rate 12 – £15.31) Back pay £10.63 x 7 mths- (£66.24)	**Gross** £332.00 Tax £0.00 Back Pay	**Net £332.00 £66.24**	**2075**
HMRC	PAYE (May/Jun) Month 7	£12.20	**£12.20**	**2073**
Draycott Church Hall	Sept meeting (hire rate £30 p/session)	£30.00	**£30.00**	**2072**
J Swarbrooke	Litter picking work September 7.5 hrs @ £12.50 per hr	£87.50	**£87.50**	**2076**
R Fox	Lengths person work September 7 hrs @ £15.00 per hr	£112.50	**£112.50**	**2077**
Clerk DW Expenses: Smarty	Homeworking Allowance £10 x 5mths Internet package p/m	£50.00 £9.00	**£50.00 £9.00**	**2078**
Clerk YGB Expenses Clerks Milage Printer Paper Tea & Coffee	Sept-9 miles @50p £16.66 + £3.33 VAT £2.95 + £3.75 =£6.70	£4.50 £19.99 £6.70	**£31.19**	**2079**
Scribe Software DD	£20.00 + £4.00 VAT	£24.00	**£24.00**	
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	**£803.76**	

	Bank Reconciliation at 30/09/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026			15,481.75
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2026 - 30/09/2026			15,877.47
				31,359.22
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2026 - 30/09/2026			9,706.25
A	**Cash in Hand 30/09/2026** (per Cash Book)			**21,652.97**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	30/09/2026	0.00	
	Current Account	30/09/2026	19,111.02	
	Reserve Account	30/09/2026	2,541.95	
				21,652.97
	Less unpresented payments			
				21,652.97
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**21,652.97**
	A = B Checks out OK			

b. **Banking Arrangements:**
The Clerk reported that authorisation was still awaited to update the bank account signatories an d transfer the account to online banking.

c. **Agar Completion Certificate:**
The Clerk confirmed that the AGAR completion certificate had been received and circulated to all councillors.

d. **Bus Stop Photography Project:**
The Council agreed to postpone the project until the spring, allowing sufficient time for the bus shelters and surrounding areas to be painted, tidied and prepared. This would also provide an opportunity to finalise the selection of photographs to be included in the exhibition.

6) **Projects in Progress:**

HIGHWAYS

i. **Uttoxeter Road Crossing:** No further update was available regarding the proposed crossing. The council was advised that Highways required approximately two months to assess the finding of the latest road survey.

PROJECTS

i. **Totmonslow signs:**
Staffordshire County Council Highways has confirmed that it has no objection in principle to the replacement of the existing boundary signs at Totmonslow. The Parish Council intends to submit a funding application to the Moorlands Rural Fund when the next round of application s opens.

ii. **Bus Stop Art Galleries:** See previous.

iii. **New Planters:** Lengthswoman is awaiting a wood delivery for the new planters in Stuart Avenue.

COMMUNICATION

i. **Policies:** Clerk is working on the review of Council policies.

ii. **Calendar of Events 2026**: Remembrance Sunday, arrangements have been discussed and agreed on who and when the poppies and silhouettes are to be placed.

8) Items for consideration at a future meeting:

Local Roads and Road Safety – Facebook Group: Cllr Birds informed the Council that he had previously established a Facebook group dedicated to local road conditions and road safety concerns, with the aim of raising awareness and encouraging greater community involvement in the issues affecting the parish. Cllr Birds agreed to provide the Clerk with the relevant login details to enable a review of the group and explore opportunities to increase engagement and encourage wider participation from residents.

9) <u>Public Participation</u>:

War Memorial – St Margaret's Church: Following a suggestion from a parishioner at the previous meeting regarding improvements to the existing war memorial outside St Margaret's Church, the Clerk had been tasked with obtaining quotations for a possible replacement.

Following discussions with several stonemasons, it became apparent that the work could not be completed in time for the forthcoming Remembrance Service. Initial enquiries also indicated that the cost of a replacement memorial would be considerable and beyond the Council's current available budget.

At this month's meeting, it was suggested that a more affordable alternative would be to install a new engraved metal plaque on the existing memorial stone, rather than replace the entire structure.

The Clerk was asked to investigate this option further and obtain relevant quotations for the Council's consideration.

Date of next Meeting: Monday 9th November 2026
Correspondence, written submissions to clerk@draycottinthemoorsparishcouncil.gov.uk
7 days before.

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

Signed
Chairman

Date