

# Drayton Bassett Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Robert Pritchard

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May 2026

## REPORT OF THE CLERK

### LDC Clean & Green bid:

LDC have transferred us the grant of £564.00 for the dog waste station on the playing fields.

### Speed Indicator Device (SID)

We remain without an indication on the timescales or outcome of this SID policy review. Lichfield District Council are aware of the situation. SCC have been provided with signed consent forms from residents.

### VAT Refund

A VAT refund was submitted to HMRC covering the remainder of 25/26 financial year, the council has received £1,072.12.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) The 25/26 CIL report has been completed for approval. The council utilised all CIL it held up until March 26. The council has now received an additional received £1,278.59 for 26/27.

### Village Green Consultation

Consultation has been underway regarding the Village Green, so far 40 responses have been received. These will be analysed to see if there is any public consensus.

### Lichfield District Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Strategic Fund April 2026

An application was submitted to the recent Lichfield District Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Strategic Fund April 2026. We applied for £80,000 for refurbishment of the BMX Track, and other improvements like goalposts, sporting equipment and outdoor chess set. Letters of support from residents, groups and the school have been included in the application.

### Under 13 football team

The team has signed a user agreement, and we await a start date.

### Local Council Award Scheme

Our application is not in the first stage. The current timescales are

- Triage team to contact you with any feedback by Friday 22nd May.
- Your response to any Triage feedback by Friday 5th June.
- Applications will be sent to the panel for assessment by Friday 12th June. Panels to meet in July.
- Results and panel feedback to be given by Friday 7th August.

### Finance Software

The 25/26 accounts have been transferred to Scribe to help with the production of the 25/26 AGAR. The accounts and all financial records will be kept in this system going forward.

### Year End Audit / AGAR

The year end audit is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> May, following this the AGAR will come to Full Council in June.

### Village Green Flag

Residents have commented the flag is in a poor state, the Handyman contractor will replace the flag.

# Drayton Bassett Parish Council

## Council Report: Proposal for BMX / Pump Track

**Report Author:** Parish Clerk

Business case for a community BMX / pump track

### 1. Purpose of Report

To present a formal business case for the provision of a BMX / pump track within Drayton Bassett parish, and to seek in-principal approval to progress with site identification, design, and funding applications.

### 2. Background

Drayton Bassett has limited recreational provision for older children and young people. Nearby parish councils, including Audley (Staffordshire) and Findern (Derbyshire), have successfully delivered parish-led BMX and pump track facilities resulting in high levels of use, improved youth engagement, and low ongoing maintenance requirements.

### 3. Proposed Development

The proposal is to install a professionally designed BMX / pump track on parish-owned land. The track would be suitable for bicycles, scooters, and balance bikes, provide inclusive access for all abilities, and operate on a free, unsupervised basis.

Option	Description	Assessment
Do nothing	No new provision	Fails to address identified youth need
Informal dirt BMX track	Low initial cost	High maintenance, erosion, safety risk
<b>Specialist BMX / pump track (preferred)</b>	Designed and built by qualified contractor	Durable, inclusive, fundable, low liability

### 4. Options Considered

Option appraisal has shown that a specialist pump track provides the best balance of safety, durability, funding eligibility, and long-term value when compared to informal dirt tracks or taking no action.

### 5. Financial Implications

Estimated capital costs range from £35,000 to £70,000 depending on size and specification. Funding would be sought from external grants including landfill community funds, Police & Crime Commissioner grants, and district council funding, supported by a parish council contribution.

Item	Estimated Cost
Design & consultation	£3,000–£5,000
Specialist construction	£30,000–£60,000
Ancillary works (seating, signage)	£2,000–£5,000
<b>Total Estimated Capital Cost</b>	<b>£35,000–£70,000</b>

## 6. Revenue and Maintenance

The facility would be free to use with no staffing requirement. Annual inspection and minor maintenance costs are estimated at £500–£1,000 and can be accommodated within existing parish budgets.

Item	Typical Annual Cost
Inspection & minor repairs	£500–£1,000
Reserves for surface repairs	£500

## 7. Risk Management

Risks including safety, noise, and anti-social behaviour can be mitigated through professional design, regular inspections, appropriate siting, and clear signage.

Risk	Mitigation
Personal injury claims	Professional design, inspection regime
Anti-social behaviour	Open visibility, community ownership
Noise concerns	Remote siting from housing where possible
Under-use	Youth engagement during design stage

## 8. Community Benefits

The facility would promote physical activity, provide positive youth diversion, reduce informal riding in unsuitable locations, and create a long-term parish asset with a lifespan of 20+ years.

Where tracks have been build in other areas they have contributed to a reduction in anti-social behavior and the formation of volunteer led BMX clubs.

## 9. Recommendation

That Drayton Bassett Parish Council approves the principle of developing a BMX / pump track on the site of the existing track.

# Neighbourhood Governance Pack



**Pack contents: Council briefing,  
template motion and template letter  
to your local MP.**

## Overview

The UK Government's emerging agenda on neighbourhood governance—set out through the English Devolution and Community Empowerment (EDCE) Bill—signals a shift toward more localised, community-level decision-making.

However, despite new duties placed on unitary councils, **the Government has not yet provided a clear, formal definition or detailed guidance** on what neighbourhood governance should look like. There is yet to be any role for parish/town councils in these new structures.

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## What the Government Has Said So Far

Government documents describe neighbourhood governance mainly in broad, outcome-focused terms, stating that its purpose is to **“move decision-making closer to residents”** and enable public services to be better organised around local needs.

The Bill gives the Secretary of State powers to **define neighbourhood areas** and set criteria for governance arrangements—but these definitions and criteria have **not yet been issued**.

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## Key Gap: No Clear Definition or Local Council role

Although local authority duties are being introduced, **no statutory or practical definition of “neighbourhood governance” has been set out by the Government**.

This leaves councils uncertain about the scale, form and minimum standards expected.

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## Implications for Parish and Town Councils

Neighbourhood governance reforms—driven by the English Devolution and Community Empowerment (EDCE) Bill—have significant implications for parish and town councils. While these bodies are long-established forms of neighbourhood-level democracy, the Government's proposals introduce new expectations, uncertainty, and potential opportunities.

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## Parish and Town Councils Will No Longer Be the Default Neighbourhood Governance Model

The Government has stated that it **“wants to make sure that all local authorities have a way of working with people in their**

**neighbourhoods, so they are not relying on town and parish councils to do it.”**

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### **Uncertainty About Their Future Role**

Because the Government has not yet defined:

- what constitutes a neighbourhood governance structure, or
- how these structures will interact with existing parish councils,

parish and town councils face **uncertainty** regarding:

- Their statutory position within the new framework
  - Whether their existing roles will be strengthened, diluted, or duplicated
- 

### **3. Potential Overlap or Duplication**

With the Secretary of State empowered to **define neighbourhood areas** and set criteria for governance arrangements—yet without definitions currently in place—there is a risk that new, imposed neighbourhood structures may **overlap with existing parished areas or the work of parish/town councils**.

This could lead to:

- Confusion over responsibilities
  - Blurred lines of accountability
  - Challenges in community engagement
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### **Summary**

**Parish and town councils are likely to remain important, but their role is no longer assumed or guaranteed.**

We face a period of uncertainty while the Government develops regulations defining neighbourhood areas and governance standards. Until clarity is provided, councils must prepare for:

- Possible structural changes
  - Integration with new neighbourhood models
  - The need to demonstrate strong community value
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Below is a **ready-to-use template motion** that a parish or town council can adopt. It reflects the current policy context, including the Government's intention **not to rely solely on parish and town councils for neighbourhood governance**, and the lack of detailed guidance on how new structures will work alongside existing local councils.

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## **Template Motion: Ensuring an Influential Role for Parish/Town Councils in Neighbourhood Governance**

**[Council Name] Parish/Town Council**

### **Motion for Resolution**

**Date:**

**Proposed**

**by:**

**Seconded by:**

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### **Motion**

#### **This Council notes:**

1. That the Government's English Devolution and Community Empowerment (EDCE) Bill introduces a new duty on all local authorities to establish "effective neighbourhood governance" structures, with further detail to be set out in forthcoming regulations.
  2. That the Government has stated it wants all local authorities to have a way of working with neighbourhoods "**so they are not relying on town and parish councils to do it,**" indicating that parish and town councils may not automatically be recognised as the primary neighbourhood governance mechanism.
  3. That the Secretary of State will have powers to define neighbourhood areas and set criteria for neighbourhood governance arrangements, but these definitions and criteria have **not yet been published**, creating uncertainty about the future role of parish and town councils within the new framework. [[nalc.gov.uk](http://nalc.gov.uk)]
  4. That parish and town councils are the most local and democratically accountable tier of government, with established relationships in communities and a strong track record of facilitating local engagement and service delivery.
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#### **This Council believes:**

1. That parish and town councils should play a **central and influential role** in any new system of neighbourhood governance, reflecting their democratic mandate and deep local knowledge.
  2. That any new neighbourhood governance structures should **complement, not duplicate or marginalise**, existing parish and town councils.
  3. That clear guidance from Government is essential to avoid confusion, overlap, and the dilution of local democratic accountability.
  4. That parish and town councils are offered the opportunity to join any neighbourhood governance structures created in their area.;
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**This Council resolves to:**

1. **Call on our local Member of Parliament** to press the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to:
    - Ensure that parish and town councils are formally recognised as key partners within the emerging neighbourhood governance framework;
    - Guarantee that the forthcoming regulations and guidance clearly set out how parish and town councils will be integrated into neighbourhood governance structures;
    - Provide assurance that new neighbourhood governance arrangements will not duplicate functions or undermine the democratic legitimacy of parish and town councils.
  2. **Write to the MP** enclosing this motion and requesting active lobbying on behalf of parish and town councils during the development of regulations under the EDCE Bill.
  3. **Engage with our principal authority** to express the Council's expectation that parish and town councils be meaningfully involved in shaping local responses to the neighbourhood governance duty.
  4. **Publicly communicate** this Council's position to residents, reaffirming our commitment to maintaining strong, local, democratic representation.
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Template Letter to your local MP

**[Council Letterhead]**

**[Date]**

**[Name of MP]**

Member of Parliament for **[Constituency]**

**[Office Address]**

Dear **[Name of MP]**,

**Re: Request for Advocacy on the Role of Parish/Town Councils in Neighbourhood Governance Reforms**

I am writing on behalf of **[Council Name] Parish/Town Council** to draw your attention to significant concerns arising from the Government's emerging neighbourhood governance proposals under the English Devolution and Community Empowerment (EDCE) Bill.

As you will know, the Bill introduces a new legal duty for all local authorities to establish **"effective neighbourhood governance"** structures. However, the Government has indicated that local authorities should not rely solely on parish and town councils for this purpose. Specifically, accompanying commentary to the Bill states that councils should have ways of working with neighbourhoods **"so they are not relying on town and parish councils to do it."**

At the same time, the Bill provides the Secretary of State with new powers to **define neighbourhood areas** and set criteria for governance arrangements, but these definitions and criteria have **not yet been published**, leaving substantial uncertainty about how existing parish and town councils will fit within the new system.

Given that parish and town councils are the **most local, democratically elected tier of government**, with deep knowledge of their communities, we strongly believe they should have an **influential and clearly recognised role** within any new neighbourhood governance arrangements.

Enclosed with this letter is a motion passed by **[Council Name]** requesting that you press the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to:

1. Ensure parish and town councils are formally recognised as key partners in neighbourhood governance.
2. Provide clarity—through forthcoming regulations and guidance—on how these councils will be integrated into the new framework.

3. Avoid the creation of parallel structures that could duplicate or diminish the role of democratically elected local councils.

We would be grateful for your support in raising these matters with Ministers and ensuring that community-level democratic representation is not weakened as these reforms progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to meet to discuss this further or require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

**[Name]**

**[Position, e.g., Chair/Clerk]**

**[Council Name] Parish/Town Council**

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## Drayton Bassett Parish Council

# Standing Orders

<b>Date Created</b>	<b>Date Adopted</b>	<b>Date Revised</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2022	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	May 2026

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## **1. Rules of debate at meetings**

- a. Motions on the agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear unless the order is changed at the discretion of the chair of the meeting.
- b. A motion (including an amendment) shall not be progressed unless it has been moved and seconded.
- c. A motion on the agenda that is not moved by its proposer may be treated by the chair of the meeting as withdrawn.
- d. If a motion (including an amendment) has been seconded, it may be withdrawn by the proposer only with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- e. An amendment is a proposal to remove or add words to a motion. It shall not negate the motion.
- f. If an amendment to the original motion is carried, the original motion (as amended) becomes the substantive motion upon which further amendment(s) may be moved.
- g. An amendment shall not be considered unless early verbal notice of it is given at the meeting and, if requested by the chair of the meeting, is expressed in writing to the chair.
- h. A councillor may move an amendment to their own motion if agreed by the meeting. If a motion has already been seconded, the amendment shall be with the consent of the seconder and the meeting.
- i. If there is more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion, the amendments shall be moved in the order directed by the chair of the meeting.
- j. Subject to standing order 1(k), only one amendment shall be moved and debated at a time, the order of which shall be directed by the chair of the meeting.
- k. One or more amendments may be discussed together if the chair of the meeting considers this expedient but each amendment shall be voted upon separately.
- l. A councillor may not move more than one amendment to an original or substantive motion.
- m. The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the end of debate on it.
- n. Where a series of amendments to an original motion are carried, the mover of the original motion shall have a right of reply either at the end of debate on the first amendment or at the very end of debate on the final substantive motion immediately before it is put to the vote.
- o. Unless permitted by the chair of the meeting, a councillor may speak once in the debate on a motion except:
  - i. to speak on an amendment moved by another councillor;

- ii. to move or speak on another amendment if the motion has been amended since he last spoke;
  - iii. to make a point of order;
  - iv. to give a personal explanation; or
  - v. to exercise a right of reply.
- p. During the debate on a motion, a councillor may interrupt only on a point of order or a personal explanation and the councillor who was interrupted shall stop speaking. A councillor raising a point of order shall identify the standing order which he considers has been breached or specify the other irregularity in the proceedings of the meeting he is concerned by.
- q. A point of order shall be decided by the Chair of the meeting and their decision shall be final.
- r. When a motion is under debate, no other motion shall be moved except:
- i. to amend the motion;
  - ii. to proceed to the next business;
  - iii. to adjourn the debate;
  - iv. to put the motion to a vote;
  - v. to ask a person to be no longer heard or to leave the meeting;
  - vi. to refer a motion to a committee or sub-committee for consideration;
  - vii. to exclude the public and press;
  - viii. to adjourn the meeting; or
  - ix. to suspend particular standing order(s) excepting those which reflect mandatory statutory or legal requirements.
- s. Before an original or substantive motion is put to the vote, the chair of the meeting shall be satisfied that the motion has been sufficiently debated and that the mover of the motion under debate has exercised or waived their right of reply.
- t. Excluding motions moved understanding order 1(r), the contributions or speeches by a councillor shall relate only to the motion under discussion and shall not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the chair of the meeting.

## **2. Disorderly conduct at meetings**

- a. No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If their standing order is ignored, the chair of the meeting shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct.
- b. If person(s) disregard the request of the chair of the meeting to moderate or improve

their conduct, any councillor or the chair of the meeting may move that the person be no longer heard or be excluded from the meeting. The motion, if seconded, shall be put to the vote without discussion.

- c. If a resolution made under standing order 2(b) is ignored, the chair of the meeting may take further reasonable steps to restore order or to progress the meeting. This may include temporarily suspending or closing the meeting.

### 3. Meetings generally

Full Council meetings ●

Committee meetings ●

Sub-committee meetings ●

- a. **Meetings shall not take place in premises which at the time of the meeting are used for the supply of alcohol, unless no other premises are available free of charge or at a reasonable cost.**
- b. **The minimum three clear days for notice of a meeting does not include the day on which notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Sunday, a day of the Christmas break, a day of the Easter break or of a bank holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.**
- c. **The minimum three clear days' public notice for a meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued or the day of the meeting unless the meeting is convened at shorter notice.**
- d. **Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion.**
- e. Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.
- f. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed 5 minutes unless directed by the chair of the meeting.
- g. Subject to standing order 3(f), a member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes.
- h. In accordance with standing order 3(e), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the

meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

- i. A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak and stand when speaking (except when a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort)]. The chair of the meeting may at any time permit a person to be seated when speaking.
- j. A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct their comments to the chair of the meeting.
- k. Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak, the chair of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking.
- l. **Subject to standing order 3(m), a person who attends a meeting is permitted to report on the meeting whilst the meeting is open to the public. To “report” means to film, photograph, make an audio recording of meeting proceedings, use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear the meeting as it takes place or later or to report or to provide oral or written commentary about the meeting so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to persons not present.**
- m. **A person present at a meeting may not provide an oral report or oral commentary about a meeting as it takes place without permission.**
- n. **The press shall be provided with reasonable facilities for the taking of their report of all or part of a meeting at which they are entitled to be present.**
- o. **Subject to standing orders which indicate otherwise, anything authorised or required to be done by, to or before the Chair of the Council may in their absence be done by, to or before the Vice-Chair of the Council (if there is one).**
- p. **The Chair of the Council, if present, shall preside at a meeting. If the Chair is absent from a meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Council (if there is one) if present, shall preside. If both the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent from a meeting, a councillor as chosen by the councillors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.**
- q. **Subject to a meeting being quorate, all questions at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the councillors and non-councillors with voting rights present and voting.**

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- r. **The chair of a meeting may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may exercise their casting vote whether or not he gave an original vote.**

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*See standing orders 5(h) and (i) for the different rules that apply in the election of the Chair of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council.*

- s. **Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on a question shall be by a show of hands. At the request of a councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against that question.** Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.

- t. The minutes of a meeting shall include an accurate record of the following:
  - i. the time and place of the meeting;
  - ii. the names of councillors who are present and the names of councillors who are absent;
  - iii. interests that have been declared by councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
  - iv. the grant of dispensations (if any) to councillors and non-councillors with voting rights;
  - v. whether a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights left the meeting when matters that they held interests in were being considered;
  - vi. if there was a public participation session; and
  - vii. the resolutions made.

- u. **A councillor or a non-councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in the Council's code of conduct in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under the code on their right to participate and vote on that matter.**

- v. **No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least one-third of the whole number of members of the Council are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than three.**

*See standing order 4d(viii) for the quorum of a committee or sub-committee meeting.*

- **If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted** and the meeting shall be closed. The business on the agenda for the meeting shall be adjourned to another meeting.
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x. A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2.5 hours.

#### **4. Committees and sub-committees**

- a. **Unless the Council determines otherwise, a committee may appoint a sub-committee whose terms of reference and members shall be determined by the committee.**
- b. **The members of a committee may include non-councillors unless it is a committee which regulates and controls the finances of the Council.**
- c. **Unless the Council determines otherwise, all the members of an advisory committee and a sub-committee of the advisory committee may be non-councillors.**
- d. The Council may appoint standing committees or other committees as may be necessary, and:
  - i. shall determine their terms of reference;
  - ii. shall determine the number and time of the ordinary meetings of a standing committee up until the date of the next annual meeting of the Council;
  - iii. shall permit a committee, other than in respect of the ordinary meetings of a committee, to determine the number and time of its meetings;
  - iv. shall, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of members of such a committee;
  - v. may, subject to standing orders 4(b) and (c), appoint and determine the terms of office of the substitute members to a committee whose role is to replace the ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary members of the committee confirm to the Proper Officer 1 day before the meeting that they are unable to attend;
  - vi. shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, appoint the chair of the standing committee;

- vii. shall permit a committee other than a standing committee, to appoint its own chair at the first meeting of the committee;
- viii. shall determine the place, notice requirements and quorum for a meeting of a committee and a sub-committee which, in both cases, shall be no less than three;
- ix. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a committee;
- x. shall determine if the public and press are permitted to attend the meetings of a sub-committee and also the advance public notice requirements, if any, required for the meetings of a sub-committee;
- xi. shall determine if the public may participate at a meeting of a sub-committee that they are permitted to attend; and
- xii. may dissolve a committee or a sub-committee.

## **5. Ordinary council meetings**

- a. In an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the councillors elected take office.**
- b. In a year which is not an election year, the annual meeting of the Council shall be held on such day in May as the Council decides.**
- c. If no other time is fixed, the annual meeting of the Council shall take place at 6pm.**
- d. In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, at least three other ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council decides.**
- e. The first business conducted at the annual meeting of the Council shall be the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council.**
- f. The Chair of the Council, unless they have resigned or becomes disqualified, shall continue in office and preside at the annual meeting until their successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Council.**
- g. The Vice-Chair of the Council, if there is one, unless they resign or become disqualified, shall hold office until immediately after the election of the Chair of the Council at the next annual meeting of the Council.**
- h. In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the annual meeting until a successor Chair of the Council has been elected. The current Chair of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council but shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**
- i. In an election year, if the current Chair of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the annual meeting until a new**

**Chair of the Council has been elected. They may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council and shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.**

- j. Following the election of the Chair of the Council and Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council at the annual meeting, the business shall include:
- i. **In an election year, delivery by the Chair of the Council and councillors of their acceptance of office forms unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date. In a year which is not an election year, delivery by the Chair of the Council of their acceptance of office form unless the Council resolves for this to be done at a later date;**
  - ii. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council;
  - iii. Receipt of the minutes of the last meeting of a committee;
  - iv. Consideration of the recommendations made by a committee;
  - v. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities;
  - vi. Review of the terms of reference for committees;
  - vii. Appointment of members to existing committees;
  - viii. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with standing order 4;
  - ix. Review and adoption of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations;
  - x. Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses.
  - xi. Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back;
  - xii. In an election year, to make arrangements with a view to the Council becoming eligible to exercise the general power of competence in the future;
  - xiii. Review of inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment;
  - xiv. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;
  - xv. Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
  - xvi. Review of the Council's complaints procedure;
  - xvii. Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (*see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21*);
  - xviii. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;

- xix.** Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures;
- xx.** Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.
- xxi.** Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

## **6. Extraordinary meetings of the council, committees and sub-committees**

- a. The Chair of the Council may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at any time.**
- b. If the Chair of the Council does not call an extraordinary meeting of the Council within seven days of having been requested in writing to do so by 2 councillors, any 2 councillors may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council. The public notice giving the time, place and agenda for such a meeting shall be signed by the 2 councillors.**
- c. The chair of a committee, or a sub-committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee, or the sub-committee at any time.
- d. If the chair of a committee, or a sub-committee does not call an extraordinary meeting within 5 days of having been requested to do so by 2 members of the committee, or the sub-committee, any 2 members of the committee, or the sub-committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the committee, or a sub-committee.

## **7. Previous resolutions**

- a. A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 4 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.
- b. When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7(a) has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved for a further six months.

## **8. Voting on appointments**

- a. Where more than two persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. A tie in votes may be settled by the casting vote exercisable by the chair of the meeting.

- 9. Motions for a meeting that require written notice to be given to the proper officer**
- a. A motion shall relate to the responsibilities of the meeting for which it is tabled and in any event shall relate to the performance of the Council's statutory functions, powers and obligations or an issue which specifically affects the Council's area or its residents.
  - b. No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given written notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least 5 clear days before the meeting. Clear days do not include the day of the notice or the day of the meeting.
  - c. The Proper Officer may, before including a motion on the agenda received in accordance with standing order 9(b), correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors in the wording of the motion.
  - d. If the Proper Officer considers the wording of a motion received in accordance with standing order 9(b) is not clear in meaning, the motion shall be rejected until the mover of the motion resubmits it, so that it can be understood, in writing, to the Proper Officer at least 5 clear days before the meeting.
  - e. If the wording or subject of a proposed motion is considered improper, the Proper Officer shall consult with the chair of the forthcoming meeting or, as the case may be, the councillors who have convened the meeting, to consider whether the motion shall be included in the agenda or rejected.
  - f. The decision of the Proper Officer as to whether or not to include the motion on the agenda shall be final.
  - g. Motions received shall be recorded and numbered in the order that they are received.
  - h. Motions rejected shall be recorded with an explanation by the Proper Officer of the reason for rejection.
- 10. Motions at a meeting that do not require written notice**
- a. The following motions may be moved at a meeting without written notice to the Proper Officer:
    - i. to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes of a meeting;
    - ii. to move to a vote;
    - iii. to defer consideration of a motion;
    - iv. to refer a motion to a particular committee or sub-committee;
    - v. to appoint a person to preside at a meeting;
    - vi. to change the order of business on the agenda;
    - vii. to proceed to the next business on the agenda;
    - viii. to require a written report;
    - ix. to appoint a committee or sub-committee and their members;

- x. to extend the time limits for speaking;
- xi. to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or other information which is prejudicial to the public interest;
- xii. to not hear further from a councillor or a member of the public;
- xiii. to exclude a councillor or member of the public for disorderly conduct;
- xiv. to temporarily suspend the meeting;
- xv. to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory or legal requirements);
- xvi. to adjourn the meeting; or
- xvii. to close the meeting.

## **11. Management of information**

See also standing order 20.

- a. **The Council shall have in place and keep under review, technical and organisational measures to keep secure information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. Such arrangements shall include deciding who has access to personal data and encryption of personal data.**
- b. **The Council shall have in place, and keep under review, policies for the retention and safe destruction of all information (including personal data) which it holds in paper and electronic form. The Council's retention policy shall confirm the period for which information (including personal data) shall be retained or if this is not possible the criteria used to determine that period (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980).**
- c. **The agenda, papers that support the agenda and the minutes of a meeting shall not disclose or otherwise undermine confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**
- d. **Councillors, staff, the Council's contractors and agents shall not disclose confidential information or personal data without legal justification.**

## **12. Draft minutes**

- Full Council meetings ●
- Committee meetings ●
- Sub-committee meetings ●

- a. If the draft minutes of a preceding meeting have been served on councillors with the agenda to attend the meeting at which they are due to be approved for accuracy, they shall be taken as read.
- b. There shall be no discussion about the draft minutes of a preceding meeting except in relation to their accuracy. A motion to correct an inaccuracy in the draft minutes shall be moved in accordance with standing order 10(a)(i).
- c. The accuracy of draft minutes, including any amendment(s) made to them, shall be confirmed by resolution and shall be signed by the chair of the meeting and stand as an accurate record of the meeting to which the minutes relate.
- d. If the chair of the meeting does not consider the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting to which they relate, he shall sign the minutes and include a paragraph in the following terms or to the same effect: Any inaccuracies contained in the minutes will be corrected by the Clerk and re presented at a subsequent mtg for approval and signature. This action will be minuted at current meeting.
- e. **If the Council's gross annual income or expenditure (whichever is higher) does not exceed £25,000, it shall publish draft minutes on a website which is publicly accessible and free of charge not later than one month after the meeting has taken place.**
- 
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- f. Subject to the publication of draft minutes in accordance with standing order 12(e) and standing order 20(a) and following a resolution which confirms the accuracy of the minutes of a meeting, the draft minutes or recordings of the meeting for which approved minutes exist shall be destroyed.

### **13. Code of conduct and dispensations**

See also standing order 3(u).

- a. All councillors and non-councillors with voting rights shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council.
- b. Unless he has been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has a disclosable pecuniary interest. He may return to the meeting after it has considered the matter in which he had the interest.
- c. Unless he has been granted a dispensation, a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights shall withdraw from a meeting when it is considering a matter in which he has another interest if so required by the Council's code of conduct. He may return to the

meeting after it has considered the matter in which he had the interest.

- d. **Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Proper Officer** as soon as possible before the meeting, or failing that, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.
- e. A decision as to whether to grant a dispensation shall be made by the Proper Officer/ Chair or if presented at a meeting; by a meeting of the Council, committee, sub-committee for which the dispensation is required and that decision is final.
- f. A dispensation request shall confirm:
  - i. the description and the nature of the disclosable pecuniary interest or other interest to which the request for the dispensation relates;
  - ii. whether the dispensation is required to participate at a meeting in a discussion only or a discussion and a vote;
  - iii. the date of the meeting or the period (not exceeding four years) for which the dispensation is sought; and
  - iv. an explanation as to why the dispensation is sought.
- g. Subject to standing orders 13(d) and (f), a dispensation request shall be considered by the Proper Officer before the meeting or, if this is not possible, at the start of the meeting for which the dispensation is required.
- h. **A dispensation may be granted in accordance with standing order 13(e) if having regard to all relevant circumstances any of the following apply:**
  - i. **without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in the particular business would be so great a proportion of the meeting transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business;**
  - ii. **granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area; or**
  - iii. **it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.**

#### **14. Code of conduct complaints**

- a. Upon notification by the Principal Council that a councillor or non-councillor with voting rights has breached the Council's code of conduct, the Council shall consider what, if any, action to take against them. Such action excludes disqualification or suspension from office.

#### **15. Proper Officer**

- a. The Proper Officer shall be either (i) the clerk or (ii) other staff member(s) nominated by the Council to undertake the work of the Proper Officer when the Proper Officer is absent.

b. The Proper Officer shall:

- i. **at least three clear days before a meeting of the council, a committee or a sub-committee,**
  - **serve on councillors by delivery or post at their residences or by email authenticated in such manner as the Proper Officer thinks fit, a signed summons confirming the time, place and the agenda (provided the councillor has consented to service by email), and**
  - **Provide, in a conspicuous place, public notice of the time, place and agenda (provided that the public notice with agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Council convened by councillors is signed by them).**

*See standing order 3(b) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a full council and standing order 3(c) for the meaning of clear days for a meeting of a committee;*

- ii. subject to standing order 9, include on the agenda all motions in the order received unless a councillor has given written notice at least 5 days before the meeting confirming their withdrawal of it;
- iii. **convene a meeting of the Council for the election of a new Chair of the Council, occasioned by a casual vacancy in their office;**
- iv. **facilitate inspection of the minute book by local government electors;**
- v. **receive and retain copies of byelaws made by other local authorities;**
- vi. hold acceptance of office forms from councillors;
- vii. hold a copy of every councillor's register of interests;
- viii. assist with responding to requests made under freedom of information legislation and rights exercisable under data protection legislation, in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures;
- ix. liaise, as appropriate, with the Council's Data Protection Officer (if there is one);
- x. receive and send general correspondence and notices on behalf of the Council except where there is a resolution to the contrary;
- xi. assist in the organisation of, storage of, access to, security of and destruction of information held by the Council in paper and electronic form subject to the requirements of data protection and freedom of information legislation and other legitimate requirements (e.g. the Limitation Act 1980);
- xii. arrange for legal deeds to be executed;  
(*see also standing order 23*);
- xiii. arrange or manage the prompt authorisation, approval, and instruction regarding any payments to be made by the Council in accordance with its financial regulations;

- xiv. record every planning application notified to the Council and the Council's response;
- xv. refer a planning application received by the Council to the Chair or in their absence the Vice-Chair (if there is one) of the Council within two working days of receipt to facilitate an extraordinary meeting if the nature of a planning application requires consideration before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.
- xvi. manage access to information about the Council via the publication scheme; and
- xvii. retain custody of the seal of the Council (if there is one) which shall not be used without a resolution to that effect.  
(see also standing order 23).

#### **16. Responsible financial officer**

- a. The Council shall appoint appropriate staff member(s) to undertake the work of the Responsible Financial Officer when the Responsible Financial Officer is absent.

#### **17. Accounts and accounting statements**

- a. "Proper practices" in standing orders refer to the most recent version of "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – a Practitioners' Guide".
- b. All payments by the Council shall be authorised, approved and paid in accordance with the law, proper practices and the Council's financial regulations.
- c. The Responsible Financial Officer shall supply to each councillor as soon as practicable after 30 June, 30 September and 31 December in each year a statement to summarise:
  - i. the Council's receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for each quarter;
  - ii. the Council's aggregate receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for the year to date;
  - iii. the balances held at the end of the quarter being reported andwhich includes a comparison with the budget for the financial year and highlights any actual or potential overspends.
- d. As soon as possible after the financial year end at 31 March, the Responsible Financial Officer shall provide:
  - i. each councillor with a statement summarising the Council's receipts and payments (or income and expenditure) for the last quarter and the year to date for information; and
  - ii. to the Council the accounting statements for the year in the form of Section 2 of

the annual governance and accountability return, as required by proper practices, for consideration and approval.

- e. The year-end accounting statements shall be prepared in accordance with proper practices and apply the form of accounts determined by the Council (receipts and payments, or income and expenditure) for the year to 31 March. A completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to anticipated approval by the Council. The annual governance and accountability return of the Council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to the Council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.

## **18. Financial controls and procurement**

- a. The Council shall consider and approve financial regulations drawn up by the Responsible Financial Officer, which shall include detailed arrangements in respect of the following:
  - i. the keeping of accounting records and systems of internal controls;
  - ii. the assessment and management of financial risks faced by the Council;
  - iii. the work of the independent internal auditor in accordance with proper practices and the receipt of regular reports from the internal auditor, which shall be required at least annually;
  - iv. the inspection and copying by councillors and local electors of the Council's accounts and/or orders of payments; and
  - v. whether contracts with an estimated value below **£25,000** due to special circumstances are exempt from a tendering process or procurement exercise.
- b. Financial regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose.
- c. Subject to additional requirements in the financial regulations of the Council, the tender process for contracts for the supply of goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall include, as a minimum, the following steps:
  - i. a specification for the goods, materials, services or the execution of works shall be drawn up;
  - ii. an invitation to tender shall be drawn up to confirm (i) the Council's specification (ii) the time, date and address for the submission of tenders (iii) the date of the Council's written response to the tender and (iv) the prohibition on prospective contractors contacting councillors or staff to encourage or support their tender outside the prescribed process;
  - iii. tenders are to be submitted in writing in a sealed marked envelope addressed to the Proper Officer;

- iv. tenders shall be opened by the Proper Officer in the presence of at least one councillor after the deadline for submission of tenders has passed;
  - v. tenders are to be reported to and considered by the appropriate meeting of the Council or a committee or sub-committee with delegated responsibility.
- e. Neither the Council, nor a committee or a sub-committee with delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound to accept the lowest value tender.
- f. Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Government from time to time, the Council must consider whether the contract is subject to the requirements of the current procurement legislation and, if so, the Council must comply with procurement rules. NALC's procurement guidance contains further details.

## **19. Handling staff matters**

- a. A matter personal to a member of staff that is being considered by a meeting of Council, the committee, sub-committee is subject to standing order 11.
- b. Subject to the Council's policy regarding absences from work, the staff member shall notify the chair of any absences as soon as practicable.
- c. The Chair and Vice Chair shall conduct an annual review of the performance of the work of the Clerk. The review and appraisal shall be noted at the council meeting following the appraisal.
- d. Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, the staff member shall contact the chair in respect of an informal or formal grievance matter, and this matter shall be reported back the council.
- e. Subject to the Council's policy regarding the handling of grievance matters, if an informal or formal grievance matter raised by the member of staff relates to the chair or vice-chair of a committee or sub-committee, this shall be communicated to another member of the committee or the sub-committee, which shall be reported back and progressed by resolution of the committee or the sub-committee.
- f. Any persons responsible for all or part of the management of staff shall treat as confidential the written records of all meetings relating to their performance, capabilities, grievance or disciplinary matters.
- g. In accordance with standing order 11(a), persons with line management responsibilities shall have access to staff records referred to in standing order 19(f).

## **20. Responsibilities to provide information**

See also standing order 21.

- a. **In accordance with freedom of information legislation, the Council shall publish information in accordance with its publication scheme and respond to requests for information held by the Council.**

- a. *[If gross annual income or expenditure (whichever is higher) does not exceed £25,000]* **The Council shall publish information in accordance with the requirements of the Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015.**

OR

*[If gross annual income or expenditure (whichever is the higher) exceeds £200,000]*  
**The Council, shall publish information in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015.**

## **21. Responsibilities under data protection legislation**

Below is not an exclusive list. See also standing order 11.

- a. The Council may appoint a Data Protection Officer.
- b. **The Council shall have policies and procedures in place to respond to an individual exercising statutory rights concerning their personal data.**
- c. **The Council shall have a written policy in place for responding to and managing a personal data breach.**
- d. **The Council shall keep a record of all personal data breaches comprising the facts relating to the personal data breach, its effects and the remedial action taken.**
- e. **The Council shall ensure that information communicated in its privacy notice(s) is in an easily accessible and available form and kept up to date.**
- f. **The Council shall maintain a written record of its processing activities.**

## **22. Relations with the press/media**

- a. Requests from the press or other media for an oral or written comment or statement from the Council, its councillors or staff shall be handled in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.

## **23. Execution and sealing of legal deeds**

See also standing orders 15(b)(xii) and (xvii).

- a. A legal deed shall not be executed on behalf of the Council unless authorised by a resolution.
- b. **[Subject to standing order 23(a), the Council's common seal shall alone be used for sealing a deed required by law. It shall be applied by the Proper Officer in the**

**presence of two councillors who shall sign the deed as witnesses.]**

*The above is applicable to a Council with a common seal.*

OR

**[Subject to standing order 23(a), any two councillors may sign, on behalf of the Council, any deed required by law and the Proper Officer shall witness their signatures.]**

*The above is applicable to a Council without a common seal.*

**24. Communicating with district and county or unitary councillors**

- a. An invitation to attend a meeting of the Council shall be sent, together with the agenda, to the ward councillor(s) of the District and County Council OR Unitary Council representing the area of the Council.
- b. Unless the Council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the District and County Council OR Unitary Council shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the Council.

**25. Restrictions on councillor activities**

- a. Unless duly authorised no councillor shall:
  - i. inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or
  - ii. issue orders, instructions or directions.

**26. Standing orders generally**

- a. All or part of a standing order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, may be suspended by resolution in relation to the consideration of an item on the agenda for a meeting.
- b. A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's standing orders, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice by at least 4 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9.
- c. The Proper Officer shall provide a copy of the Council's standing orders to a councillor as soon as possible.
- d. The decision of the chair of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final.

Drayton Bassett Parish Council

# Financial Regulations

<b>Date Created</b> September 2022	<b>Date Approved</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	<b>Date Revised</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	<b>Review Date</b> May 2026
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# MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

## DRAYTON BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

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## 1. General

- 1.1. These Financial Regulations govern the financial management of the council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the council. They are one of the council's governing documents and shall be observed in conjunction with the council's Standing Orders.
- 1.2. Councillors are expected to follow these regulations and not to entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow these regulations brings the office of councillor into disrepute.
- 1.3. Wilful breach of these regulations by an employee may result in disciplinary proceedings.
- 1.4. In these Financial Regulations:
  - 'Accounts and Audit Regulations' means the regulations issued under Sections 32, 43(2) and 46 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, or any superseding legislation, and then in force, unless otherwise specified.
  - "Approve" refers to an online action, allowing an electronic transaction to take place.
  - "Authorise" refers to a decision by the council, or a committee or an officer, to allow something to happen.
  - 'Proper practices' means those set out in *The Practitioners' Guide*
  - *Practitioners' Guide* refers to the guide issued by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) and published by NALC in England or Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales – A Practitioners Guide jointly published by One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks in Wales.
  - 'Must' and **bold text** refer to a statutory obligation the council cannot change.
  - 'Shall' refers to a non-statutory instruction by the council to its members and staff.
- 1.5. The Clerk has been appointed as RFO and these regulations apply accordingly.  
The RFO/Clerk;
  - acts under the policy direction of the council;
  - administers the council's financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, Regulations and proper practices;
  - determines on behalf of the council its accounting records and control systems;
  - ensures the accounting control systems are observed;
  - ensures the accounting records are kept up to date;
  - seeks economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of council resources; and
  - produces financial management information as required by the council.
- 1.6. **The council must not delegate any decision regarding:**
  - **setting the final budget or the precept (council tax requirement);**

- **the outcome of a review of the effectiveness of its internal controls**
- **approving accounting statements;**
- **approving an annual governance statement;**
- **borrowing;**
- **declaring eligibility for the General Power of Competence; and**
- **addressing recommendations from the internal or external auditors**

1.7. In addition, the council shall:

- determine and regularly review the bank mandate for all council bank accounts;
- authorise any grant or single commitment in excess of £500;

## **2. Risk management and internal control**

- 2.1. **The council must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control, which delivers effective financial, operational and risk management.**
- 2.2. The Clerk shall prepare, for approval by the council, a risk management policy covering all activities of the council. This policy and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.
- 2.3. When considering any new activity, the Clerk shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration by the council.
- 2.4. **At least once a year, the council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control, before approving the Annual Governance Statement.**
- 2.5. **The accounting control systems determined by the RFO must include measures to:**
- **ensure that risk is appropriately managed;**
  - **ensure the prompt, accurate recording of financial transactions;**
  - **prevent and detect inaccuracy or fraud; and**
  - **allow the reconstitution of any lost records;**
  - **identify the duties of officers dealing with transactions and**
  - **ensure division of responsibilities.**
- 2.6. At least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member will verify bank reconciliations for any accounts produced by the Clerk. The member shall sign and date the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of this. This activity, including any exceptions, shall be reported to and noted by the council.
- 2.7. Regular back-up copies shall be made of the records on any council computer and stored either online or in a separate location from the computer. The council shall put measures in place to ensure that the ability to access any council computer is not lost if an employee leaves or is incapacitated for any reason.

### 3. Accounts and audit

- 3.1. All accounting procedures and financial records of the council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.2. **The accounting records determined by the RFO must be sufficient to explain the council's transactions and to disclose its financial position with reasonable accuracy at any time. In particular, they must contain:**
  - **day-to-day entries of all sums of money received and expended by the council and the matters to which they relate;**
  - **a record of the assets and liabilities of the council;**
- 3.3. The accounting records shall be designed to facilitate the efficient preparation of the accounting statements in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
- 3.4. The RFO shall complete and certify the annual Accounting Statements of the council contained in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with proper practices, as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year. Having certified the Accounting Statements, the RFO shall submit them (with any related documents) to the council, within the timescales required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.5. **The council must ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and internal control system in accordance with proper practices.**
- 3.6. **Any officer or member of the council must make available such documents and records as the internal or external auditor consider necessary for the purpose of the audit** and shall, as directed by the council, supply the RFO, internal auditor, or external auditor with such information and explanation as the council considers necessary.
- 3.7. The internal auditor shall be appointed by the council and shall carry out their work to evaluate the effectiveness of the council's risk management, control and governance processes in accordance with proper practices specified in the Practitioners' Guide.
- 3.8. The council shall ensure that the internal auditor:
  - is competent and independent of the financial operations of the council;
  - reports to council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one written report during each financial year;
  - can demonstrate competence, objectivity and independence, free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships; and
  - has no involvement in the management or control of the council
- 3.9. Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances:
  - perform any operational duties for the council;

- initiate or approve accounting transactions;
  - provide financial, legal or other advice including in relation to any future transactions; or
  - direct the activities of any council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor.
- 3.10. For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as described in The Practitioners Guide.
- 3.11. The RFO shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the accounts, including the opportunity to inspect the accounts, books, and vouchers and display or publish any notices and documents required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, or any superseding legislation, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.12. The RFO shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all councillors any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

#### **4. Budget and precept**

- 4.1. **Before setting a precept, the council must calculate its council tax requirement for each financial year by preparing and approving a budget, in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 1992 or succeeding legislation.**
- 4.2. Budgets for salaries and wages, including employer contributions shall be reviewed by the council at least annually in October for the following financial year and the final version shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Clerk and the Chair of the Council.
- 4.3. No later than November each year, the RFO shall prepare a draft budget with detailed estimates of all income and expenditure for the following financial year along with a forecast for the following three financial years, taking account of the lifespan of assets and cost implications of repair or replacement.
- 4.4. Unspent budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year. Unspent funds for partially completed projects may only be carried forward by placing them in an earmarked reserve with the formal approval of the full council.
- 4.5. Each committee (if any) shall review its draft budget and submit any proposed amendments to the council not later than the end of October each year.
- 4.6. The draft budget with a three-year forecast, including any recommendations for the use or accumulation of reserves, shall be considered by the council.
- 4.7. Having considered the proposed budget and three-year forecast, the council shall determine its council tax requirement by setting a budget. The council shall set a precept for this amount no later than the end of January for the ensuing financial year.

- 4.8. **Any member with council tax unpaid for more than two months is prohibited from voting on the budget or precept by Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and must and must disclose at the start of the meeting that Section 106 applies to them.**
- 4.9. The RFO shall **issue the precept to the billing authority no later than the end of February** and supply each member with a copy of the agreed annual budget.
- 4.10. The agreed budget provides a basis for monitoring progress during the year by comparing actual spending and income against what was planned.
- 4.11. Any addition to, or withdrawal from, any earmarked reserve shall be agreed by the council.

## **5. Procurement**

- 5.1. **Members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times.** Any officer procuring goods, services or works should ensure, as far as practicable, that the best available terms are obtained, usually by obtaining prices from several suppliers.
- 5.2. The RFO should verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before it is made and in the case of new or infrequent purchases, should ensure that the legal power being used is reported to the meeting at which the order is authorised and also recorded in the minutes.
- 5.3. Every contract shall comply with these the council's Standing Orders and these Financial Regulations and no exceptions shall be made, except in an emergency.
- 5.4. **For a contract for the supply of goods, services or works where the estimated value will exceed the thresholds set by Parliament, the full requirements of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or any superseding legislation (“the Legislation”), must be followed in respect of the tendering, award and notification of that contract.**
- 5.5. Where the estimated value is below the Government threshold, the council shall (with the exception of items listed in paragraph 6.12) obtain prices as follows:
- 5.6. For contracts estimated to exceed £3,000 including VAT, the Clerk shall seek formal tenders from at least three suppliers agreed by the council OR advertise an open invitation for tenders in compliance with any relevant provisions of the Legislation. Tenders shall be invited in accordance with Appendix 1.
- 5.7. **For contracts estimated to be over £30,000 including VAT, the council must comply with any requirements of the Legislation<sup>1</sup> regarding the advertising of contract opportunities and the publication of notices about the award of contracts.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Regulations require councils to use the Contracts Finder website if they advertise contract opportunities and also to publicise the award of contracts over £30,000 including VAT, regardless of whether they were advertised.

- 5.8. For contracts greater than £3,000 excluding VAT the Clerk shall seek at least 3 fixed-price quotes;
- 5.9. where the value is between £500 and £3,000 excluding VAT, the Clerk shall try to obtain 3 estimates which might include evidence of online prices, or recent prices from regular suppliers.
- 5.10. For smaller purchases, the Clerk shall seek to achieve value for money.
- 5.11. **Contracts must not be split into smaller lots to avoid compliance with these rules.**
- 5.12. The requirement to obtain competitive prices in these regulations need not apply to contracts that relate to items (i) to (iv) below:
- i. specialist services, such as legal professionals acting in disputes;
  - ii. repairs to, or parts for, existing machinery or equipment;
  - iii. works, goods or services that constitute an extension of an existing contract;
  - iv. goods or services that are only available from one supplier or are sold at a fixed price.
- 5.13. When applications are made to waive this financial regulation to enable a price to be negotiated without competition, the reason should be set out in a recommendation to the council. Avoidance of competition is not a valid reason.
- 5.14. The council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.
- 5.15. Individual purchases within an agreed budget for that type of expenditure may be authorised by:
- the Clerk, under delegated authority, for any items below £500 excluding VAT.
  - the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Council, for any items below £2,000 excluding VAT.
  - the council for all items over £2,000;
- Such authorisation must be supported by a minute (in the case of council or committee decisions) or other auditable evidence trail.
- 5.16. No individual member, or informal group of members may issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of the council.
- 5.17. No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the budget for that type of expenditure other than by resolution of the council except in an emergency.
- 5.18. In cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises, the clerk may authorise expenditure of up to £2,000 excluding VAT on repair, replacement or other work that in their judgement is necessary, whether or not there is any budget for such expenditure. The Clerk shall report such action to the Chair as soon as possible and to the council as soon as practicable thereafter.

- 5.19. No expenditure shall be authorised, no contract entered into or tender accepted in relation to any major project, unless the council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available and that where a loan is required, Government borrowing approval has been obtained first.
- 5.20. An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained, along with evidence of receipt of goods.
- 5.21. Any ordering system can be misused and access to them shall be controlled by the RFO.

## **6. Banking and payments**

- 6.1. The council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the RFO and authorised by the council; banking arrangements shall not be delegated to a committee. The council has resolved to bank with Lloyds bank. The arrangements shall be reviewed annually for security and efficiency.
- 6.2. The council must have safe and efficient arrangements for making payments, to safeguard against the possibility of fraud or error. Wherever possible, more than one person should be involved in any payment, for example by dual online authorisation or dual cheque signing. Even where a purchase has been authorised, the payment must also be authorised and only authorised payments shall be approved or signed to allow the funds to leave the council's bank.
- 6.3. All invoices for payment should be examined for arithmetical accuracy, analysed to the appropriate expenditure heading and verified to confirm that the work, goods or services were received, checked and represent expenditure previously authorised by the council before being certified by the RFO.
- 6.4. Personal payments (including salaries, wages, expenses and any payment made in relation to the termination of employment) may be summarised to avoid disclosing any personal information.
- 6.5. All payments shall be made by online banking/cheque, in accordance with a resolution of the council, unless the council resolves to use a different payment method.
- 6.6. For each financial year the RFO may draw up a schedule of regular payments due in relation to a continuing contract or obligation (such as Salaries, PAYE, National Insurance, pension contributions, rent, rates, regular maintenance contracts and similar items), which the council may authorise in advance for the year.
- 6.7. A list of such payments shall be reported to the next appropriate meeting of the council for information only.
- 6.8. The Clerk shall have delegated authority to authorise payments only in the following circumstances:
- i. any payments of up to £500 excluding VAT, within an agreed budget.
  - ii. payments of up to £2,000 excluding VAT in cases of serious risk to the delivery of council services or to public safety on council premises.

- iii. any payment necessary to avoid a charge under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 or to comply with contractual terms, where the due date for payment is before the next scheduled meeting of the council, where the Clerk certifies that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council.
  - iv. Fund transfers within the councils banking arrangements up to the sum of £10,000, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council].
- 6.9. The RFO shall present a schedule of payments requiring authorisation, forming part of the agenda for the meeting, together with the relevant invoices, to the council. The council shall review the schedule for compliance and, having satisfied itself, shall authorise payment by resolution. The authorised schedule shall be initialled immediately below the last item by the person chairing the meeting. A detailed list of all payments shall be disclosed within or as an attachment to the minutes of that meeting.

## **7. Electronic payments**

- 7.1. Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the RFO shall be appointed as the Service Administrator. The bank mandate agreed by the council shall identify a number of councillors who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts and a minimum of two people will be involved in any online approval process. The Clerk may be an authorised signatory, but no signatory should be involved in approving any payment to themselves.
- 7.2. All authorised signatories shall have access to view the council's bank accounts online.
- 7.3. No employee or councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the council or its banking, to anyone not authorised in writing by the council or a duly delegated committee.
- 7.4. The Service Administrator shall set up all items due for payment online. A list of payments for approval, together with copies of the relevant invoices, shall be sent by email to two authorised signatories.
- 7.5. In the prolonged absence of the Service Administrator, an authorised signatory shall set up any payments due before the return of the Service Administrator.
- 7.6. Two councillors who are authorised signatories shall check the payment details against the invoices before approving each payment using the online banking system.
- 7.7. Evidence shall be retained showing which members approved the payment online.
- 7.8. A full list of all payments made in a month shall be provided to the next council meeting and appended to the minutes.
- 7.9. With the approval of the council in each case, regular payments (such as gas, electricity, telephone, broadband, water, National Non-Domestic Rates, refuse

collection, pension contributions and HMRC payments) may be made by variable direct debit, provided that the instructions are signed/approved online by two authorised members. The approval of the use of each variable direct debit shall be reviewed by the council at least every two years.

- 7.10. Payment may be made by BACS or CHAPS by resolution of the council provided that each payment is approved online by two authorised bank signatories, evidence is retained and any payments are reported to the council at the next meeting. The approval of the use of BACS or CHAPS shall be renewed by resolution of the council at least every two years.
- 7.11. If thought appropriate by the council, regular payments of fixed sums may be made by banker's standing order, provided that the instructions are signed or approved online by two members, evidence of this is retained and any payments are reported to council when made. The approval of the use of a banker's standing order shall be reviewed by the council at least every two years.
- 7.12. Account details for suppliers may only be changed upon written notification by the supplier verified by the Clerk. This is a potential area for fraud and the individuals involved should ensure that any change is genuine. Data held should be checked with suppliers every two years.
- 7.13. Members and officers shall ensure that any computer used for the council's financial business has adequate security, with anti-virus, anti-spyware and firewall software installed and regularly updated.
- 7.14. Remembered password facilities other than secure password stores requiring separate identity verification should not be used on any computer used for council banking.

## **8. Cheque payments**

- 8.1. Cheques or orders for payment in accordance with a resolution or delegated decision shall be signed by two members.
- 8.2. A signatory having a family or business relationship with the beneficiary of a payment shall not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to that payment.
- 8.3. To indicate agreement of the details on the cheque with the counterfoil and the invoice or similar documentation, the signatories shall also initial the cheque counterfoil and invoice.
- 8.4. Cheques or orders for payment shall not normally be presented for signature other than at, or immediately before or after a council meeting. Any signatures obtained away from council meetings shall be reported to the council at the next convenient meeting.

## **9. Payment cards**

- 9.1. Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the Clerk and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of £500 unless authorised by the council in writing before any order is placed.

- 9.2. Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used except for expenses of up to £250 including VAT, incurred in accordance with council policy.

## **10. Petty Cash**

- 10.1. The council will not maintain any form of cash float. All cash received must be banked intact. Any payments made in cash by the Clerk (for example for postage or minor stationery items) shall be refunded on a regular basis, at least quarterly.

## **11. Payment of salaries and allowances**

- 11.1. **As an employer, the council must make arrangements to comply with the statutory requirements of PAYE legislation.**
- 11.2. **Councillors allowances (where paid) are also liable to deduction of tax under PAYE rules and must be taxed correctly before payment.**
- 11.3. Salary rates shall be agreed by the council, or a duly delegated committee. No changes shall be made to any employee's gross pay, emoluments, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the council.
- 11.4. Payment of salaries shall be made, after deduction of tax, national insurance, pension contributions and any similar statutory or discretionary deductions, on the dates stipulated in employment contracts.
- 11.5. Deductions from salary shall be paid to the relevant bodies within the required timescales, provided that each payment is reported, as set out in these regulations above.
- 11.6. Each payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded in a payroll control account or other separate confidential record, with the total of such payments each calendar month reported in the cashbook. Payroll reports will be reviewed by the council to ensure that the correct payments have been made.
- 11.7. Any termination payments shall be supported by a report to the council, setting out a clear business case. Termination payments shall only be authorised by the full council.
- 11.8. Before employing interim staff, the council must consider a full business case.

## **12. Loans and investments**

- 12.1. Any application for Government approval to borrow money and subsequent arrangements for a loan must be authorised by the full council and recorded in the minutes. All borrowing shall be in the name of the council, after obtaining any necessary approval.
- 12.2. Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from the Secretary of State (such as Hire Purchase, Leasing of tangible assets or loans to be repaid within the financial year) must be authorised by the full council, following a written report on the value for money of the proposed transaction.
- 12.3. The council shall consider the requirement for an Investment Strategy and Policy in accordance with Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments, which must be written in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy shall be reviewed by the council at least annually.

12.4. All investment of money under the control of the council shall be in the name of the council.

12.5. All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.

12.6. Payments in respect of short term or long-term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank, shall be made in accordance with these regulations.

### **13. Income**

13.1. The collection of all sums due to the council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.

13.2. The council will review all fees and charges for work done, services provided, or goods sold at least annually as part of the budget-setting process, following a report of the Clerk. The RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all amounts due to the council.

13.3. Any sums found to be irrecoverable and any bad debts shall be reported to the council by the Clerk and shall be written off in the year. The council's approval shall be shown in the accounting records.

13.4. All sums received on behalf of the council shall be deposited intact with the council's bankers, with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary. The origin of each receipt shall clearly be recorded on the paying-in slip or other record.

13.5. Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the council.

13.6. Any repayment claim under section 33 of the VAT Act 1994 shall be made quarterly where the claim exceeds £100 and at least annually at the end of the financial year.

13.7. Where significant sums of cash are regularly received by the council, the RFO shall ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted in the first instance, that there is a reconciliation to some form of control record such as ticket issues, and that appropriate care is taken for the security and safety of individuals banking such cash.

### **14. Payments under contracts for building or other construction works**

14.1. Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments, which shall be made within the time specified in the contract based on signed certificates from the architect or other consultant engaged to supervise the works.

14.2. Any variation of, addition to or omission from a contract must be authorised by the Clerk to the contractor in writing, with the council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the contract sum by 5% or more, or likely to exceed the budget available.

### **15. Stores and equipment**

15.1. The Clerk or Member in charge of each section shall be responsible for the care and custody of stores and equipment in that section.

15.2. Delivery notes shall be obtained in respect of all goods received into store or otherwise delivered and goods must be checked as to order and quality at the time delivery is made.

15.3. Stocks shall be kept at the minimum levels consistent with operational requirements.

15.4. The RFO shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores, at least annually.

## **16. Assets, properties and estates**

16.1. The Clerk shall make arrangements for the safe custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the council.

16.2. The RFO shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date, with a record of all properties held by the council, their location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held, in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations.

16.3. The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register shall be verified at least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.

16.4. No interest in land shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required by law. In each case a written report shall be provided to council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case (including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate where required by law).

No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased or otherwise disposed of, without the authority of the council, together with any other consents required by law, except where the estimated value of any one item does not exceed £500. In each case a written report shall be provided to council with a full business case.

## **17. Insurance**

17.1. The Clerk/RFO shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the council and the property and risks covered, reviewing these annually before the renewal date in conjunction with the council's review of risk management.

17.2. The Clerk/RFO shall give prompt notification to the council of all new risks, properties or vehicles which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.

17.3. The Clerk/RFO shall be notified of any loss, liability, damage or event likely to lead to a claim, and shall report these to the council at the next available meeting. The RFO shall negotiate all claims on the council's insurers.

17.4. All appropriate members and employees of the council shall be included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the

maximum risk exposure as determined annually by the council, or duly delegated committee.

## **18. Charities**

18.1. Where the council is sole managing trustee of a charitable body the Clerk and RFO shall ensure that separate accounts are kept of the funds held on charitable trusts and separate financial reports made in such form as shall be appropriate, in accordance with Charity Law and legislation, or as determined by the Charity Commission. The Clerk and RFO shall arrange for any audit or independent examination as may be required by Charity Law or any Governing Document.

## **19. Suspension and revision of Financial Regulations**

19.1. The council shall review these Financial Regulations annually and following any change of clerk or RFO. The Clerk shall monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and advise the council of any need to amend these Financial Regulations.

19.2. The council may, by resolution duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations, provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been presented to all members. Suspension does not disapply any legislation or permit the council to act unlawfully.

19.3. The council may temporarily amend these Financial Regulations by a duly notified resolution, to cope with periods of absence, local government reorganisation, national restrictions or other exceptional circumstances.

## **Appendix 1 - Tender process**

- 1) Any invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Clerk shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases.
- 2) The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Clerk in the ordinary course of post, unless an electronic tendering process has been agreed by the council.
- 3) Where a postal process is used, each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract. All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Clerk in the presence of at least one member of council.
- 4) Where an electronic tendering process is used, the council shall use a specific email address that will be monitored to ensure that nobody accesses any tender before the expiry of the deadline for submission.
- 5) Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to Standing Order [insert reference of the council's relevant standing order] and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
- 6) Where the council, or duly delegated committee, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated and the council requires further pricing, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate or quote who was present when the original decision-making process was being undertaken.

# Neighbourhood CIL Annual Report 2025/2026

## Drayton Bassett Parish Council

This report is required by CIL Regulation 121B of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended). It must be published by **31 December** each year and made available on the Parish Council website, and the District Council website.

The Town or Parish Council must send a copy of the report to Lichfield District Council no later than **31st October 2026** and the District Council must publish this on their website no later than **Wednesday 23rd December 2026**. Please email your report to [cil@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:cil@lichfielddc.gov.uk) or post to Spatial Policy and Delivery, Lichfield District Council, Frog Lane, Lichfield, WS13 6YY.

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Name of Clerk: Robert Pritchard

### a) CIL receipts

Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2025/26	£650.13
Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2024/25	£0
Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2023/24	£0
Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2022/23	£0
Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2021/22	£0
Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2020/21	£0
Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2019/20	£1,583.01
Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2018/19	£0
Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2017/18	£0
Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2016/17	£0
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>£2,233.14</b>

### b) CIL expenditure

Total amount of CIL spent in financial year 2025/26	<b>1759.25</b>
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### c) Items on which CIL has been spent

Infrastructure Scheme/Project	CIL expenditure (amount)
Play area repairs 25/26	1085.00
Public Bench 25/26	674.25
Speed watch Equipment (23/24)	497.53

### d) Monies requested/recovered from Parish Council (Regulation 59E, 59F)

Monies which have been requested, or recovered, from the Parish Council in the financial year 2025/26	£0
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**e) CIL retained**

Total amount of CIL received in financial year 2025/26 and retained (unspent) at the end of the reported year 2025/26	<b>0</b>
Total amount of CIL received in previous year(s) and retained (unspent) at the end of the reported year 2025/26	0
<b>TOTAL CIL RECEIPTS RETAINED (UNSPENT)</b>	<b>0</b>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Verified: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**Drayton Bassett Parish Council**

**RISK REGISTER**

<b>Date Created</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<b>Date Adopted</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<b>Date Last Reviewed</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	<b>Next Review Date</b> May 2026
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<b>Very likely</b>	<b>Acceptable Risk</b> <b>(medium – 2)</b>	<b>Unacceptable Risk</b> <b>(high – 3)</b>	<b>Unacceptable Risk</b> <b>(extreme – 5)</b>
<b>Likely</b>	<b>Acceptable Risk</b> <b>(low – 1)</b>	<b>Acceptable Risk</b> <b>(medium – 2)</b>	<b>Unacceptable Risk</b> <b>(high – 3)</b>
<b>Unlikely</b>	<b>Acceptable Risk</b> <b>(low – 1)</b>	<b>Acceptable Risk</b> <b>(low – 1)</b>	<b>Acceptable Risk</b> <b>(medium – 2)</b>
<b>Occurrence / Impact</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>

## 1 Organisation

Ref	Risk	Probability	Impact	Policy	Responsible Person
1.1	Loss of Parish Clerk	Medium	High	Maintain continuity via SPCA details of Locum Clerk Service Current Clerk to ensure all records are up to date and passwords are secure and a copy taken. Use of Scribe, Unity and external payroll to minimise disruption.	Clerk Council
1.2	Loss of RFO	Medium	High	The RFO is also the Parish Clerk. Ensure that Internal Audit occurs x 2 per year. Maintain continuity via SPCA details of Locum Clerk Service. Use of Scribe, Unity and external payroll to minimise disruption.	Clerk Council
1.3	Loss of IT Data	High	High	New laptop in place. Emails are accessed through the website providers. Files are secured on the laptop and backed up on the cloud.	Clerk Council
1.4	Loss of Councillor	Medium	Low	Guide to filling casual vacancy obtainable from SPCA. Notify LDC on vacancy and advertise when able.	Clerk

## 2 Community Space

Ref	Risk	Probability	Impact	Policy	Responsible Person
2.1	Incorrect use of Village Park	Low	Low	Use policies on in place and agreements with sports teams. Reliance on councillors and public to report issues.	Councillors
2.2	Breach of Dog Ban in park	Low	Low	Use policies on in place. Reliance on councillors and public to report issues.	Councillors
2.3	Incident due to flooding	Low	Medium	Issue remains under review and observation. Engage with adjacent landowners as required.	Whole council
2.4	Damage of play equipment	Medium	High	Ensure that annual playground checks are undertaken. Ensure that risks identified are rectified. Damaged high risk items would be isolated until the repairs could be done.	Clerk Councillors

### 3 Finance and Management

Ref	Risk	Probability	Impact	Policy	Responsible Person
3.1	Loss of Council Assets	Low	Low	Secure storage for assets not in use. Ensure full record of items is kept up to date. Write of old items no longer required. Internal Auditor to review Asset Register and insurance.	Clerk Internal Auditor
3.2	Theft / Fraud	Low	High	Regular scrutiny by councillors of financial records. Proper recording in minutes of all approved spend. Regular budget monitoring reports. Review of letter of appointment of Internal Auditor to include areas of risk eg VAT, PAYE, cheque signing. Two signatories required for BACS transactions. Separation of roles in Unity	Clerk, Councillors, Internal Auditor
3.3	Non compliance with Standing Orders / Financial Regulations	Low	Low	Annual scrutiny of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations by councillors.	Councillors Clerk
3.4	Loss of Income	Low	Low	Regular budget monitoring by councillors. Full budget appraisal to be undertaken prior to Precept request submission.	Clerk Councillors
3.5	Propriety – Cllr Abuse of position	Low	Low	Maintain Register of Interest for councillors. Gifts and Hospitality to be declared. Code of Conduct to be agreed by Full Council. Training Policy in place and training encouraged.	Councillors Clerk
3.6	Cash Security	Low	Low	Petty Cash facility has been closed and money placed into bank account. No cash to be held.	Clerk Internal Auditors

<b>3.7</b>	Inadequate insurance	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Assess risk to Assets and liabilities. Use established UK based insurance company. Ensure Employers Liability in place for +£10m.	Clerk Internal Auditors
<b>3.8</b>	Budget set too High / Low	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	Use historic data to work out an agreed forecast programme. Work to realistic estimated or accurate quotes.	Clerk Councillors
<b>3.9</b>	Problems with Contracts	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	Ensure full tender documentation in place to get quotes. Agree price and costs before letting any contract. Cllrs to consider unforeseen work. Ensure contractors are fully insured and get copy of their risk assessment and method work prior to starting the work along with their public and employers liability insurances prior to engagement.  Keep up to date records of all contracts held by the parish council in accordance with the Contractors Policy.	Clerk Councillors
<b>3.10</b>	Salaries and Associated Costs	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	Clerk uses external provider to undertake payroll – this calculates tax, NI etc. Ensure all NALC updates are regularly monitored and implemented.	Clerk
<b>3.11</b>	Annual Return	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	Ensure that all sections of AGAR are completed with the Internal Auditor. Ensure all notices are posted on website and notice boards.	Clerk

#### 4 Democratic

Ref	Risk	Probability	Impact	Policy	Responsible Person
4.1	Defamation	Low	High	Libel and Slander Insurance of £250,000. Councillors to periodically undergo Code of Conduct training.	Councillors Clerk
4.2	Compliance with Code of Conduct	Low	High	Completion of signed acceptance of office forms. Annual review of Councillors Interests.	Councillors Clerk
4.3	Inaccurate Minutes	Low	Low	Drafts to be passed to councillors before placing on website. Minutes to be approved at next meeting.	Councillors Clerk
4.4	Loss of Minutes	Low	Medium	Electronic back up on to the computer and signed hard copies kept in file with the Clerk and County Archive.	Clerk
4.5	Loss of paperwork in Clerks home or Sports hall	Low	Medium	Review records held in pavilion – need to send to archive if they are for public record.	Clerk Councillors
4.6	Deficient Standing Orders	Low	Low	Standing Orders to be reviewed once per year by Full Council.	Councillors Clerk
4.7	Unacceptable behaviour by members of public towards councillors/staff.	Medium	High	Public conduct rules distributed at each meeting. Vexations complaints policy introduced. Training can be sought Refer to Standing Orders on how to manage disruption. Records of incidents kept is required. Police contacted if required.	Clerk & Chairman

## Drayton Bassett Parish Council Data Audit

This data audit details what data the council holds, how it is used, the basis for its retention and security provision in place for the data.

### Council members

<b>Personal Data Processed</b>	<b>Purpose of Processing</b>	<b>How Processed</b>	<b>Lawful Basis</b>	<b>How Stored</b>	<b>Security/Access</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Register of interests	Legal requirement	Displayed on website; sent to monitoring officer	Legal Obligation	Electronically, password protected.  Paper in secure storage.	Clerk holds key / passwords	Ensure only holding current councillors' data
Contact information	Admin of council	Held by clerk for admin duties	Public Task	Electronically, password protected.  Paper in secure storage.	Clerk holds key / passwords	Ensure only holding current councillors' data
Councillors' names in minutes	Legal requirement	Appears in minutes	Legal Obligation	Electronically and paper; publicly accessible on website, minute book.	Public access	None
Telephone numbers	Communication with residents	Appear on Annual Report and website	Public Task	Electronically; publicly accessible	Public access	None

## EMPLOYEES

<b>Personal Data Processed</b>	<b>Purpose of Processing</b>	<b>How Processed</b>	<b>Lawful Basis</b>	<b>How Stored</b>	<b>Security/Access</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Personal details	Legal obligation	HMRC/pension, payroll	Legal Obligation	Electronically, password protected.  Paper in secure storage.	Clerk holds key	Ensure former employees' data only retained for legislative maximum time
Employment details/contract	Legal obligation	Payroll	Legal Obligation	Electronically, password protected.  Paper in secure storage.	Clerk holds key	Ensure former employees' information only retained for legislative maximum time
Bank details	Process payroll	Input for electronic banking	Legal Obligation	Electronically, password protected.  Paper in secure storage.	Clerk holds key	Ensure only holding current employees' data

**ELECTORS / PARISHIONERS**

<b>Personal Data Processed</b>	<b>Purpose of Processing</b>	<b>How Processed</b>	<b>Lawful Basis</b>	<b>How Stored</b>	<b>Security/Access</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
E-mail addresses	Communication with PC	Used to communicate response	Public Task	Stored until matter dealt with. Electronically, password protected.  Paper in secure storage.	Electronically on password protected computer.	State what e-mail address will be used for in reply (Privacy Notice)
Letters - contact details	Communication with PC	Used to communicate response	Public Task	Stored until matter dealt with, Electronically, password protected.  Paper in secure storage.	Paper in locked storage; clerk holds key	None
Planning applications	Statutory consultee/legal obligation	Used solely to aid response to Local Planning Authority	Public Task	Not stored (accessed via planning portal)	Public access	None
Address and telephone number	Communication with PC	Used to communicate	Public Task	Stored until matter dealt with, Electronically, password protected.  Paper in secure storage.	Electronically on password protected computer	None

## DONATIONS

<b>Personal Data Processed</b>	<b>Purpose of Processing</b>	<b>How Processed</b>	<b>Lawful Basis</b>	<b>How Stored</b>	<b>Security/Access</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Names, addresses, e-mail	Processing donation by parish council	Used to respond to and process grant application	Public Task	Electronically, password protected.  Paper in secure storage.	Clerk holds key / passwords	None

## CONTRACTS & FINANCE

<b>Personal Data Processed</b>	<b>Purpose of Processing</b>	<b>How Processed</b>	<b>Lawful Basis</b>	<b>How Stored</b>	<b>Security/Access</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Names, addresses, e-mail	Correspond with contractor and administer contract	Correspond with contractor and administer contract	Contractual necessity	Held in line with statutory requirements and retention policy; paper in locked cabinet; electronically password protected	Clerk holds key	None
Supplier and Customer Bank Details	Financial transactions	Used in banking and financial software.	Contractual necessity	Held in line with statutory requirements and retention policy; paper in locked cabinet; electronically password protected	Clerk holds key	Redact invoices if required for public inspection.

### CUSTOMERS (Pavilion)

<b>Personal Data Processed</b>	<b>Purpose of Processing</b>	<b>How Processed</b>	<b>Lawful Basis</b>	<b>How Stored</b>	<b>Security/Access</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Names, addresses, e-mail. Payment data.	Correspond with contractor and administer contract	Correspond with contractor and administer contract	Contractual necessity	Held in line with statutory requirements and retention policy; paper in locked cabinet; electronically password protected	Clerk and 1 councilor holds key	None

Adopted May 2026

Next Review 2027

**Drayton Bassett Parish Council**  
**Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments**

Asset Description	Date Acquired	Purchase Value	Current Value	Location /Responsibility	Estimated Life	Usage/Capacity	Charges
Benches	2012		1,176.00				
Bus stop	2000	2,000.00	2,000.00	Opposite Club			
City Rota Bounce	2013	1,914.58	1,914.58	Playing fields			
City swing barrier	2013	398.00	398.00	Village Playing Fields			
City Swing Orange	2013	1,640.58	1,640.58	Playing Fields			
Compacted stone path	2023	20,099.20	20,099.20	Village Playing fields			
Concrete Bench	2011	450.00	450.00	Village Park			
Directional Fingerposts	2013	1,280.35	1,280.35	Junction of Drayton Lane			
Dog Waste Station	Unknown	400.00	400.00	By WI Hall			
Dog Waste Station	2026	508.80	508.80	Playing fields			
Dog Waste Station		400.00	400.00	Mayfield Drive			
Flag pole	Unknown	1.00	1.00	Village Green			
Freestanding notice board	2013	1,554.55	1,554.55				
Goal Target	Unknown	1.00	1.00	Playing Fields			
Grasslok	2013	1,435.00	1,435.00				
Grit bin	212		109.00	Village Green			
Heritage Board	2023	1,200.00	1,200.00	Land off old Manor Close			
HP Laptop	2025	335.98	335.98	With Clerk			
Interpretation Board	2023	815.00	815.00	Village Park			
Jungle Gym wood	2023	15,533.00	15,533.00	Village Playing Fields			
Land deed SF167521	1981	1.00	1.00	Sports Field			
Land deed SF386529	1987	1.00	1.00	Old Manor Close public o			
Land deed SF428891	1992	1.00	1.00	Land off New Mill Lane, F			
Litter Bins x 3	Unknown		1.00	Village Park and Bus Stop			
Metal Memorial Bench	2014	634.00	634.00	Village Green			
Mobile Goal Posts	Unknown		200.00				

**Drayton Bassett Parish Council**  
**Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments**

Asset Description	Date Acquired	Purchase Value	Current Value	Location /Responsibility	Estimated Life	Usage/Capacity	Charges
Mushroom seat & table	2010	590.00	590.00	Village Park			
Noticeboard	2015	653.00	653.00	Pavilion			
Picnic Bench	2012	490.00	490.00	Village Playing Fields			
Planters	Unknown	835.00	835.00	Bus stop, Old Manor Clos			
Play Equipment - Various	2019	10,000.00	10,000.00	Village Park			
Roking Rider	2010	585.00	585.00	Playing Fields			
Roller Shutter	2011	1,136.75	1,136.75	Pavilion			
Sports Pavilion	Unknown	1.00	1.00	Sports Fields			
Tennis Courts	2023	34,175.00	34,175.00	Playing Fields			
War Memorial	Unknown	10,000.00	10,000.00	Church Grounds			
Wooden Table & Bench x 3	2023	1,773.60	1,773.60				
		<b>110,843.39</b>	<b>112,329.39</b>				
<b>Grand Total:</b>		<b>110,843.39</b>	<b>112,329.39</b>				

# **Drayton Bassett Parish Council Logo Design Competition**

## **1. Introduction**

Drayton Bassett Parish Council is launching a community-wide competition inviting local school children to design a new logo (crest) for the parish. This is an exciting opportunity for young people to help shape the visual identity of Drayton Bassett while learning about its rich history, heritage, and community values.

The winning design will be used as the base for the official logo of Drayton Bassett Parish Council and used on publications, signage, and digital platforms.

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## **2. Objectives of the Competition**

The competition aims to:

- Create a distinctive and meaningful visual identity for Drayton Bassett Parish Council
  - Encourage creativity and artistic expression among local young people
  - Promote awareness and appreciation of the parish's history, landmarks, and environment
  - Foster a sense of community pride and belonging
- 

## **3. Eligibility**

- Open to children attending local primary schools within or near Drayton Bassett or children living in the parish of school age (primary to secondary school).
  - Individual entries only
- 

## **4. Design Brief**

Participants are invited to create a logo that represents Drayton Bassett. Designs should reflect the parish's identity and may draw inspiration from:

### **Local History & Heritage**

- The parish's longstanding rural history
- Historic buildings and landmarks (e.g. St Peter's Church)

- Agricultural traditions and countryside heritage
- The “Bassett” family connection reflected in the village name

### **Environment & Landscape**

- Local fields, farmland, and natural surroundings
- Canals, waterways, or nearby features
- Wildlife and nature found in the area

### **Community & Culture**

- Village life and sense of community
  - Local events or traditions
  - The parish’s character as a close-knit rural community
- 

## **5. Design Guidelines**

- Designs should be original and created by the entrant
  - Artwork may be hand-drawn or digitally produced
  - Must be suitable for reproduction in colour and black & white
  - Should be simple, clear, and easily recognisable at different sizes
  - Must not include copyrighted images, logos, or trademarks
  - Designs don’t need to be perfect as the winning design will go to a graphic designer to be recreated in high resolution.
- 

## **6. Submission Requirements**

Each entry should include:

- The completed logo design
- The entrant’s name, age, and school
- A short description (no more than 50 words) explaining the design and its inspiration

### **Submission formats:**

- Paper entries (A4 size recommended)
- Digital entries (JPEG or PNG format)

Entries should be submitted via schools or directly to the Parish Council by the stated deadline.

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## **7. Timeline**

- **Competition Launch:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026
  - **Submission Deadline:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026
  - **Winner Announcement:** September 2026
- 

## **8. Judging Criteria**

Entries will be judged based on:

- Creativity and originality
  - Relevance to Drayton Bassett's identity and history
  - Visual impact and clarity
  - Suitability for use as an official logo
- 

## **9. Prize & Recognition**

- The winning entrant will receive a certificate and a £300 donation to their school.
  - The winning design will become the official Parish Council logo (with any adjustments as required for reproduction)
  - Runners-up may also receive certificates or commendations
  - Selected entries may be displayed in the village
- 

## **10. Terms & Conditions**

- By entering, participants agree that their design may be used, adapted, and reproduced by Drayton Bassett Parish Council
  - The Parish Council reserves the right to make minor modifications to the winning design for professional use
  - Entries must be submitted before the deadline to be considered
  - The judges' decision is final
-

## **11. Promotion**

The competition will be promoted through:

- Local schools
  - Parish Council website and social media
  - Community noticeboards
- 

## **12. Contact Information**

For further details or queries, please contact:

Robert Pritchard

Parish Clerk & RFO

Drayton Bassett Parish Council

Email: [parishclerk@draytonbassett-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@draytonbassett-pc.gov.uk)

Web: [www.draytonbassett-pc.gov.uk](http://www.draytonbassett-pc.gov.uk)

Post: 48 Hints Road, Hopwas, Tamworth, B78 3AA

# Parents/Teachers Guide –

Here are **historically grounded symbol ideas** you can suggest to entrants, with brief explanations they can understand and use creatively. These will help produce designs that are meaningful, distinctive, and rooted in Drayton Bassett's identity.

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## Suggested Historical & Local Symbols for the Logo

### 1. St Peter's Church

#### Why it matters:

- The parish church is one of the oldest and most recognisable buildings in the village
- It has medieval origins and is a central landmark
- Sir Robert Peel (former Prime Minister) is buried there [\[genuki.org.uk\]](http://genuki.org.uk), [\[en.wikipedia.org\]](http://en.wikipedia.org)

#### Design ideas:

- Church tower or silhouette
  - A simple cross or arched window
  - Clock tower outline
- 

### 2. The Bassett Family (Norman Heritage)

#### Why it matters:

- The village name comes from the **Bassett (Basset) family**, who held the manor after the Norman Conquest [\[en.wikipedia.org\]](http://en.wikipedia.org)
- They were an important medieval noble family

#### Design ideas:

- A shield (heraldic shape)
- Traditional heraldic symbols such as:
  - Fleur-de-lis (linked to historic heraldry) [\[crestsandarms.com\]](http://crestsandarms.com)
  - A stylised animal (e.g. lion, bird, or unicorn motif inspired by coat-of-arms traditions) [\[coatofarmsof.com\]](http://coatofarmsof.com)

- Initials “DB” in a shield
- 

### **3. Drayton Manor & the Peel Family**

#### **Why it matters:**

- The manor estate was owned by the Peel family
- Sir Robert Peel (Prime Minister and founder of the Metropolitan Police) lived here

#### **Design ideas:**

- A grand house outline
  - Oak trees or estate parkland
  - Symbol of leadership or public service (e.g. scales, torch, or lamp)
- 

### **4. The Birmingham & Fazeley Canal**

#### **Why it matters:**

- The canal has run through the area since the late 18th century [\[geograph.org.uk\]](http://geograph.org.uk)
- It reflects Drayton Bassett’s links to trade and the Industrial Revolution

#### **Design ideas:**

- A narrowboat
  - Water waves or canal lines
  - A bridge over water
- 

### **5. Drayton Footbridge (Iconic Local Landmark)**

#### **Why it matters:**

- A distinctive Grade II listed structure with two turret-like towers [\[historicen...and.org.uk\]](http://historicen...and.org.uk)
- One of the most unique visual features in the parish

#### **Design ideas:**

- Twin towers (very recognisable shape)
- Arched bridge silhouette

- Turret shapes that resemble castle features
- 

## **6. Rural Landscape & Farming Heritage**

### **Why it matters:**

- Historically an agricultural parish with farmland and open countryside [[genuki.org.uk](http://genuki.org.uk)]
- Still retains a strong rural identity

### **Design ideas:**

- Fields or rolling hills
  - Wheat sheaves or crops
  - Trees, hedgerows, or wildlife
- 

## **7. Village Green & Community Life**

### **Why it matters:**

- Reflects the close-knit nature of the parish
- Represents continuity, tradition, and community

### **Design ideas:**

- Trees or a central green
  - Houses arranged in a village layout
  - People or symbolic figures (simple, not detailed)
- 

## **8. Water & Wetlands (Middleton Lakes Area)**

### **Why it matters:**

- Nearby lakes and wetlands form part of the landscape today
- Adds a modern environmental and wildlife element

### **Design ideas:**

- Birds (e.g. ducks, herons)
  - Reeds, water ripples, or lakes
  - Nature silhouettes
-

## **How These Can Be Combined**

Encourage children to combine **2–3 elements**, for example:

- Church + fields + canal
  - Footbridge + water + trees
  - Shield + fleur-de-lis + village name
  - Narrowboat + sun + countryside
- 

## **Simple Guidance for Children**

You may wish to summarise this for pupils as:

“Think about what makes Drayton Bassett special – its church, bridges, canals, countryside, history, and community – and turn those ideas into a simple picture or symbol.”

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