

MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Whiddon Down Village Hall
On
Wednesday 3 February 2016 at 5.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Imrie (Chair), Savage (Vice Chairman), Hardie, Hunt, and the acting Clerk.

In attendance Cllr McInnes, Brian Hensley and Phil Townsend representing DCC Highways and various members of the public.

Cllr Imrie opened the meeting stating the reason for the meeting to discuss the Whiddon Down Link Road and the resulting problems this has caused and asked members of the public that if they wished to speak at the meeting would they please restrict this to 3 minutes.

012/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Hardie declared that he currently lives close to the Residual road being discussed. No other declarations were made.

013/16 Acting Clerk

Cllr Imrie stated that Jackie Bowden was prepared to act as Clerk for the meeting. Cllr Savage proposed that Jackie Bowden act as Clerk for the evening and Cllr Hardie seconded this.

014/16 A3124 'Hole Farm Bend' on the link road (North West corner)

Various members of the public spoke. 1 resident has to walk children to Whiddon Down to catch the school bus and now finds the road more dangerous due to the speed of vehicles and some vehicles mounting the curb. Another resident had farmland near the corner and stated that it would be very difficult to load stock and exit the field and manoeuvre livestock trailers safely due to the speed of vehicles and there is little viewing distance now. The bend is seen to be too sharp. Cones have now been placed by the bend and both the police and the safety auditors have confirmed this to be safe.

Phil Townsend responded that the Safety Auditors had carried out a safety audit on Wednesday 27th January and the results were not yet available. When the results are published it is anticipated that they will recommend that new signage is erected of some kind which might include chevrons. Brian Hensley who is the Highways Development Manager who looks at designs and inspects them, confirmed that he will go back to the Safety Auditors notifying them of the public's concerns. It is possible that a further Safety Audit known as 3b may be required.

015/16 Residual Road (old A3124, between Post Inn junction and link road)

Various signs have been erected and taken down which has added to the confusion of motorists using this road. Originally no entry signs were erected but were not covered by a traffic order and were taken down. Road markings are also incorrect. The first phone call Highways had of a problem along this road was from the Police to say that they had driven the wrong way down the road as they did not see the signs. It is not currently anticipated to move the current 30mph speed restriction which will terminate at the start of commencement of the new link road and at C J Saunders yard.

Various discussions followed to include putting in a gate and sleeping policeman. C J Saunders need access from Whiddon Down for lorries to unload and it was decided that the best option would be to erect no right turn from North Tawton and no left turn onto A3124 by the Post Inn with improvements needed at each end for access. It was thought this would be the best solution to police if motorists try to use this as a short cut.

Phil Townsend will look into this and hopefully get back to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

The new link road was seen to be an improvement to the existing road and not a new road so compromises have had to be made. RES the developer offered to finance this. The Parish Council have worked well with RES who declined to attend the meeting as thought this appropriate.

Highways take over the maintenance of the road from RES after 12 months following a stage 4 audit which takes place 12-36 months after opening and looks at personal injuries, collision data and makes any further recommendations.

Brian Hensley will let the Parish Council have the results of the Safety Audit as soon as these are available and notify the Parish Council of any proposed changes in order that the Parish Council can speak to the residents affected.

Cllr Imrie thanked everyone for attending and promised to keep those residents affected informed and hopefully a resolution would be found quickly.

The meeting closed at 6.37pm

