

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Whiddon Down Village Hall
On
Wednesday 7th May 2008

Present: Cllrs Ridgers (Chair), Savage (Vice), Power, Mudge, Hardie, Hester, Dyke and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Gosnay and Cllr Chadney

In attendance: No members of the public

ACTION

53.08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Hardie and Hester declared a personal interest on the planning application at Post Inn due to living near the Pub. Cllr Power also declared a personal interest in the same application as she works for Rendells.

Cllr Ridgers declared a personal interest in the Boundary Commission item on the agenda as he is a West Devon Borough Cllr. All present were happy for him to continue with this item.

54.08 BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

Various discussions took place in respect of the concepts put forward for the Boundary Committee review of local government in Devon. It was the general opinion that the Cllrs supported the Devon County Council proposal, and would like to see Devon remain as a whole and not see it broken up further. The Cllrs have concerns over the mechanics and expense of it. They wish for the rural voice to remain and not to be dominated. There are various concerns, one of which is that they wish to remain in association with rural parishes of a similar composition as Drewsteignton and have concerns that we could be dominated by a large Market Town. The Cllrs have concerns as to where Drewsteignton would be placed with the 28 Market and Coastal Towns. The Cllrs felt that the current governance works well and is reasonable value for money. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter to the Boundary Committee to be sent to Cllr Ridgers and Cllr Savage for approval.

Clerk

55.08 PLANNING

DNPA 0295/08 Post Inn Whiddon Down – Change of use of closed public house to dwelling. There was an overwhelming objection to this application from all Cllrs, for the following reasons;

1. The Pub is the focal point of the village and was a very busy public house. It is the only pub in the Village and for a radius of at least 4 miles. The Post Office closed approximately 9 years ago.
2. The Parish Council heard of the closure of the pub and were planning to debate this closure prior to the application being received. Many residents and ward members expressed concern over this closure.
3. It is the belief of the Villagers and the Parish Council that this public house is still a licensed premise and not former licensed premises.
4. Question 3 of the application asked if building worked has started. The answer from the applicant is No. However we are aware of a public sale on the 14th May of the contents. It would appear there may be inaccuracies on the application.
5. The removal of the public house facilities would have a negative effect on the village and surrounding area inhabitants due to the detrimental social and leisure impact.
6. The Post Inn provided food and refreshments to holiday makers making use of the A30 trunk road. Hence providing valuable income to the area.
7. The Post Inn is a business and as such provided employment, very important to the area.
8. The Landlord has closed the pub on Tuesdays and has kept irregular hours and has closed for long periods during certain parts of the year for the last 4 years.
9. The Post Inn in the past was always a thriving Village Pub and attracted Patrons from far and wide with Darts teams, Pool team and Skittles.
10. The Pub is part of the heritage of the area and is on the Trafalgar Way, which we recently celebrated.
11. The New Car park for the domestic house is not the current car park for the Pub, and has never been so in living memory. If this car park is used it has access onto a very busy A road and directly onto a junction with a history of road problems.
12. The Landlord appears to have a disregard for the local community.

The Clerk was instructed to draft a letter to DNPA, a copy of which would be sent to DCC Highways dept and WDBC Licensing dept. The Chair to approve letter prior to sending. DNPA 0281/08 Pixies Cottage Sandsgate. Removal of 2 storey extension and erection of new rear 2 storey extension. Cllrs agreed to make no comment in this case. Clerk to advise all the relevant authorities.

ACTION

Clerk

Clerk

56.08 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 19th May 2008 at 7.30pm at Drewsteignton, to incorporate AGM.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.22pm