

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Whiddon Down Village Hall
On
Monday 16 January 2012 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Savage (Chairman), Gosnay (Vice Chairman), Walker, Hester, Hardie, Dyke, Mudge, Ridgers (arrived 7.43pm) and the Clerk
Apologies: Cllr Power
In attendance: Police Neighbourhood Team Leader Sergeant Corrine Sargent, PCSO Lisa Smith Tim Camborne (National Trust)
3 members of the public

Cllr Savage opened the meeting, then handed to Cllr Gosnay (Vice Chair) for the rest of the meeting.

001/12 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cllr Mudge proposed and Cllr Hardie seconded approval of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of 12 December 2011.

002/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded the Cllrs present of the need to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in respect of any items included on the Agenda. Cllrs Hardie and Hester declared personal interests, as they are both neighbours of the Post Inn. Cllr Ridgers declared a personal interest regarding Castle Drogo, and Wisdom Cottage as there are family connections.

003/12 MATTERS ARISING

Froggy Lane; Cllr Mudge has met with contractors to price the wall repairs estimated at 2½ days work at £10 per hour. The hedge laying will be done by a party of volunteers with subsistence provided by the Council, budget allowed £72.

004/12 Sergeant Corrine Sargent spoke to meeting outlining her role, and welcomed comments from the councillors about concerns in the Parish, which were mainly speeding in Whiddon Down, Crockernwell and on the Venton straight, which all need visible monitoring. The Devon & Cornwall police website has been updated.

005/12 PLANNING:

Decisions received; none

DNPA 0624/11 Castle Drogo Listed Building Consent for repairs and internal fire protection. Tim Camborne (NT) outlined the project; following successful waterproofing work in 2006/7 this work will continue throughout the remainder of the building. Also re-pointing and repairs to the windows. Internal fire precautions are also being installed to protect the building. The council fully support this application because Castle Drogo is a nationally recognised historical building and it is vital it's fabric is kept in good order. The Castle has a very positive effect on the local economy. Clerk to respond to DNPA.

DNPA 0632/11 Wisdom Cottage Retrospective change of use of land from grazing to domestic curtilage and erection of summerhouse. The council support this application as the area concerned has been in use as garden for over 15 years with no objections from neighbours to the Council's knowledge. Clerk to respond to DNPA.

Post Inn; an email has been received from Nick Savin at DNPA saying they intend to proceed with enforcement action. Mr Short says he is in dispute with the installer as the turbines are not working and that they may be removed. The councillors will monitor the situation and keep on the agenda, Clerk to thank Nick Savin for keeping the Council informed and ask to be updated before the next meeting.

Solar array on land adjacent to Esso petrol station at Whiddon Down. WDBC have not received a valid planning application for this installation. Clerk to enquire WDBC policy on ground level panels, and ask for WDBC to investigate.

Clerk to ask DNPA if the response form can be sent digitally so it can be completed typed rather than hand written.

006/12 HIGHWAYS;

Turnpike Road Closure; Cllr Hester outlined the background of the project, and the site meeting held 10 January 2012 with Robert Richards of Highways, Cllrs Gosnay, Dyke, and the clerk and DCC councillor James McInnes also present. Robert Richards explained that new proposals (building a bank with planting) were necessary for safety reasons, and that the costs had been carefully obtained, including tendering from regular suitable contractors. Total cost including the legal work £4,600. Of this £1,500 has already been paid, £1,000 has been budgeted from the forthcoming Precept, and promised donations from villagers should amount to just over £1,000. James McInnes offered £1,500 from Devon County Council, as match funding. This will require some paperwork confirming appropriate local consultation and project details. **Cllr Hester and the Clerk to follow up.** The traffic order will be published in January and the works will take place in April. A generous anonymous donation will be processed by Cllr Hester. **Clerk to check VAT situation.** Any surplus funds will be reallocated within the Parish Council budget.

The Whiddon Down **pedestrian crossing** proposal will go back on the agenda. This project is in the Parish Plan, and should be kept alive. **Clerk to contact James McInnes** to restart progress.

Parking on the verge at Turnpike Close has continued to cause problems with damage to said verge and associated debris. The previous communication with Sanctuary Housing needs to be restarted. Action Clerk. Drewsteignton **Post Office parking lines**; following contact from Simon Phillips (Highways) Tony Thomas will be seeking public donations to fund this action. Cllrs Mudge & Gosnay to meet the Maynards to clarify hours required for the parking restrictions. **Clerk to check costings with Highways, and confirm final amendments.**

007/12 FINANCE;

a) Payments to be made in January 2012.

Cllr Mudge proposed and Cllr Walker seconded the following payments to be made;

Ms F Snook – Salary & expenses

Mr M Rowe – Drewsteignton Public Conveniences £73.50

Parish Mag Printers £74.00

Drewsteignton Village Hall £8.00

South West Water £5.87

Loan payment due £1021.51

b) **Precept request** completion, report from committee. The committee, consisting of Cllrs Gosnay, Mudge, Walker and Hardie and the Clerk met on 11 January 2012 to prepare the budget for the forthcoming financial year, and therefore the likely precept required. The Clerk explained what the committee had discussed and answered questions on details from the councillors. The Precept request was approved by all councillors at £13,100.00. This is less than 5% increase on last year, and for a Band D property the additional cost will be £1.88 per annum. Thanks were expressed to the committee for their work. Clerk to send Precept Request to WDBC.

008/12 General correspondence

Late letters;

A complaint has been received by the Parish Post Editor Nigel Campbell that the Chairman's report was wrongly worded regarding the Travellers Camp. The Clerk has taken legal advice and no further action is required. DNPA has warned that the council need to progress the honesty boxes or the opportunity may disappear. Clerk to instruct DNPA to proceed with the work.

Workshop event re retailing & leisure – circ pack

Celtic solar offer presentation – clerk to contact the sender for more details

Fingle Shoot update – DNPA have written to all concerned saying that the landowners have served notice to the Shoot business to cease shooting. The landowners have agreed to work with the authority on the terms of any new lease. The authority have also been monitoring the shoot's activities. DNPA ask for the Parish's response. Nigel Padfield (on behalf of the Shoot's neighbours) addressed the meeting saying that DNPA are now monitoring and containing the shoot's operation, and are hoping to achieve a better balance for the business and local residents alike. The summary is shown below

a) That the shoot should be reduced in scale, ideally by about half, with reduction in release pen sizes/areas covered.

b) That there are no shooting stands on public footpaths, and shooting stands avoid sending birds onto neighbours' land.

c) The shoot provides a calendar to the Parish Council for selective distribution to persons affected.

d) That all remaining birds dead or alive are collected at the end of the season

The Council agree with these points and will respond to DNPA, stating that while the council support countryside pursuits and local enterprise, there is need for a balanced approach.

The council have been advised that any shoot operating following the good practise guide issued by the British Association of Shooting and Conservation would be less likely to meet opposition.

Many thanks to Nigel Padfield for his work on this issue. **Clerk to respond to DNPA.**

EDF – have again sent bailiff's letter for a bill that was paid in October, this time quoting a supply address in Scarborough. The Clerk requested and received an apology EDF.

009/12 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations – Cllr Walker has found a suitable artist for the proposed pictorial map.

Clerk to follow up. The information about the Special Service and garden party at Exeter Cathedral has been put in the circulation pack

010/12 Future Devolved Powers – The clerk has received and forwarded emails regarding the Localism Bill/Act during the autumn, but the council would like to know what education will be available to help with these changes. Clerk to contact Cllr Ridgers to forward the request.

011/12 Delegates Reports – None

012/12 Comments on information circulated – none

013/12 Future agenda items Devolution education, unofficial signs.

014/12 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING -

Monday 20 February 2012 at 7.30pm at Drewsteignton.

There being no further business, the acting Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm.