

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Whiddon Down Village Hall
On
Monday 21 January 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Gosnay, Mudge, Hardie, Hester, Dyke, Savage, Walker, Power, Ridgers and the Clerk.

Apologies None

In attendance Paula Clarke (National Trust) 3 members of the public

001/13 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Walker proposed, and Cllr Hardie seconded approval of the minutes of the ordinary meeting 19 December 2012.

002/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and Register 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. Cllr Power stated her Prejudicial Interest in Planning Item at Tor Down Farm ref DNPA 0662/12 as she is the applicant.

003/13 Paula Clarke, Community Engagement Officer at **Castle Drogo** gave a brief update on the waterproofing project just starting there. Protective works have started, but the castle will remain open to visitors throughout the 5 year works. The main season starts on 9 March. The weekend of 15/16 March is offering free entry to locals, using the voucher printed in the Parish Post.

004/13 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk has again written to Lonsdale Forestry summarising residents' complaints to the council about **Fingle Shoot**. Still no reply has been received. Nigel Padfield (residents' representative for this matter) said the DNPA will invite comments and review the issue in March. A concerted effort will be needed to make any impact. Cllrs suggested a brief survey in the Parish Post may help co-ordinate a response. Nigel Padfield and Cllr Walker to draft neutral questions. Clerk to check previous correspondence and agendas, and to find dropping points for the completed surveys.

The insurance company have given the go ahead for Tim Cox to repair the **bus shelter** at Crockernwell, works should start this week.

The Clerk has written to DCCouncillor James McInnes objecting to the use of the proceeds from the **sale of the Throwleigh Centre**. He has briefly replied mentioning a public meeting when the matter will be discussed. Cllr Ridgers to follow up.

No reply has been received from Dartline bus company regarding the **illegal use of Chapel Hill**. Clerk to send reminder, and inform police and request action.

No reply has been received from Western Greyhound bus company regarding the **reduction in bus services** through the villages from Exeter <>Okehampton despite 2 letters being sent. Cllr Savage to take the issue to the Eastern Links group.

005/13 HIGHWAYS:

Turnpike Road closure; The Clerk wrote to DCCouncillor Stuart Hughes and Highways Chief Lester Wilmington outlining the problem; that the road closure is not 'fit for purpose.' A reply has been received from Cllr Stuart Hughes; he has asked Highways Steve Dawe to arrange a site visit with Parish Councillors to inspect the bund. Rob Richards from the Engineering Design Office has now asked for a site visit too. Cllrs Hester & Hardie to attend meetings arranged by the Clerk.

Okehampton School have asked for a site visit regarding the dropping point for the **late school bus** from Okehampton, to include Carmel coaches. Cllrs Hardie & Hester to attend as arranged by the Clerk.

The Clerk has contacted RES about the **Whiddon Down link road** planning application, expressing concern that the footpath northwards to Hole Farm is not on the plans. No reply received. Clerk to chase.

Crockernwell drainage problems were first reported on 21 November, despite a visit by Highways on 3 January the issue is not resolved. The delays have caused further damage. Water running across the main road has frozen solid and is very dangerous to all concerned. Highways have agreed the drain needs jetting. Clerk to chase.

Gulley clearing plant has sliced through all the salt/grit bags left on the verges from Castle Drogo drive down to Sandy Park. Clerk to complain to Highways.

006/13 PLANNING

Decisions received;

WDBC 03227/2012 Chapple Farm – approved

WDBC 03192/2012 Martins Park Farm - refused

Applications;

DNPA 0655/12 Conservatory at 8 Lamb Park, Drewsteignton. The applicant addressed the meeting and explained that sustainable materials from a local source were to be used. A site visit on Sat 19 January helped

councillors reach a unanimous **NEUTRAL VIEW**.

DNPA 0662/12 Renewal of Change of Use of agricultural building at Tor Down Farm, Venton. The applicant, Cllr Power, addressed the meeting to explain the proposal to make the permission permanent, then left the room. Councillors discussed the application and agreed a unanimous **NEUTRAL VIEW**. Cllr Power returned to the meeting.

Clerk to respond to the authority.

007/13 FINANCE;

a) Payments to be made in January 2013.

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

Ms B Snook – Salary & general expenses - £386.16

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning - £73.50

Drewsteignton Village Hall – hall hire £8.00

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

EDF – WC electricity - £32.11

SWW – playing field water - £16.96

Crockernwell bus shelter repair –

Public Works Loan Board – car-park loan - £1021.51

b) **Income from honesty boxes** (car park £11.67) (toilets £5.00)

c) **Income from map sales;** none

d) **Whiddon Down Village Hall's** request for some funding for their urgently needed roof repairs was considered, along with a financial summary of the hall's situation. Cllrs agreed that supporting both village halls was a priority because they provide an amenity for all the parishioners.

e) **Precept Planning;** The Clerk issued **dispensations** to all the Councillors (as advised by DALC) to discuss the budget and Precept Request without clashing with their Declaration of Interests. A spreadsheet prepared by the Clerk was presented, with a summary of the **year's essential spending**. The Clerk presented the financial information to the council. Councillors agreed a rise in the Clerk's salary of 25p per hour, which is £130 annually. Some parts of council expenditure will not rise in the forthcoming year. Other works are overdue and need funding. Discussion covered details and a Precept sum of **£13689.00** was agreed unanimously. This is a 4.5% increase on last year, and will be an increase of £1.36 to a Band D property. The Clerk completed the Precept Request form for WDBC.

008/13 General correspondence

Late letters;

DNPA ranger Pete Rich has looked into the **Parish Paths Partnership scheme**, but as DCCouncil already fund path maintenance in the National Park, they will not 'double fund' the same works.

WDBC's Outreach Service are teaming up with DNPA, and have asked for some local information to best help the community. Clerk to respond.

DNPA have sent a **tree works** permission request. Clerk to respond 'no comment' from the council.

009/13 Agenda letters; None

010/13 Annual Parish Meeting – date proposed Monday 29 April 2013 (at Drewsteignton). Clerk to invite a guest speaker to further enlighten attendees on the waterproofing works just starting at Castle Drogo.

011/13 The Drewe Arms is on the market as the current publican cannot make it pay, due the high rent charged by Enterprise Inns. The Council are disappointed as the tenants have served the needs of the Parish very well. Cllr Savage to write to Enterprise Inns stating this. Cc DNPA. The Parish Council do own some property within the building so this needs to be retrieved before the changes take place.

012/13 Travellers Site; The Council are long overdue an update on this matter. Clerk to contact DCCouncillor James McInnes.

013/13 Delegates reports – None

014/13 Comments on information circulated – None

015/13 Future agenda items – The Parish Post is looking rather lean, councillors need to update their profiles for publishing, please.

016/13 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING – **Monday 18 February 2013 at Drewsteignton**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.27 pm