

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
OF DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
HELD ON Wednesday 15 May 2013 AT 7.30PM AT  
DREWSTEIGNTON VILLAGE HALL

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

Cllr James McInnes (DCC) and 16 Parishioners, including representatives of local organisations.

Apologies: Marjorie Smith, Nadine Wilson (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary) Pete Rich (DNPA ranger) Toby Rubbra (Chagford School) Dr Michael Hall (Whiddon Down Village Hall)

The Chairman of the PC welcomed all present and the councillors each introduced themselves.

Copies of the **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on 1 May 2012 were approved and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT;** The current Chairman Cllr Chris Gosnay said that in 2012/13 the council has again been active, Planning and highways take the majority of the meeting time. 31 planning applications were considered, key were the Sandy Park car-park, which was approved after a reduction in size. And the Whiddon Down by pass, which was approved but is dependant on RES for funding and so dependant on the Denbrook wind-farm project going ahead. Other issues during the year have been the closure of Turnpike Road, Whiddon Down, with works finally completed last month. Speeding has been an issue, but not enough support from parishioner to gain Community Speedwatch backing. The Teign Valley Shoot has caused problems for residents, but is acting within the requirements of DNPA. The saga of the travellers Site at Whiddon Down continues, albeit with only 4 caravans currently resident. One big success story is the installation of honesty boxes at the car-park and public toilets, raising nearly £400 since June 2012. Thank you to the councillors who have supported me a Chairman, and parishioners who have given time and commitment for the betterment of the parish.

**FINANCIAL REPORT;** The Clerk made available copies of audited accounts for the year 2011/12 giving details of receipts obtained and the breakdown of expenditure within the various cost centres of the council.

**COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT;** Cllr James McInnes gave his report on the Devon County Council who are implementing reductions in budgets like all other local authorities, and resulting in no increase in Council Tax. The net budget for the forthcoming year is £521 million. Some public health services will move from the NHS to DCC, including health advice on obesity, and substance misuse. £100,000 has been allocated for emergency training within parishes.

**BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT;** Cllr Paul Ridgers said that WDBC are sharing services with South Hams District Council to save costs.

**TEIGNTON FAYRE;** Gary Read said that Teignton Fayre support 2 main charities, this year Drewsteignton's Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, and the Force Cancer charity, as well as other local good causes. The Duck race raised over £1000 despite the drizzle, and the Fayre raised £800 despite the torrential rain. Many thanks to everyone who generously gave time, and spent money.

**NATIONAL TRUST CASTLE DROGO;** Heather Kay, the general manager (of 7 days), updated the meeting on the waterproofing works just starting at the castle. The interior protection is complete, and most of the visitors are fascinated by the project, all feedback is welcome. Scaffolding has been delayed due to the complexity of the site, but is expected any time soon. All contractors have clear instructions on the routing to avoid Drewsteignton village. All walkers are encouraged to use the car park, to allow the grass to recover and avoid spoiling the view as visitors approach along the drive.

Tom Wood said the new paths are now marked, and he would welcome any feedback. Families are invited to the Wild Tribe events held the first Sunday each month until October, booking recommended. On 22 June the UK Energy Challenge will be held on the estate with runners and cyclists from across the country, so a very busy day. Contact Tom on 01647 433356.

**DREWSTEIGNTON PLAYING FIELDS;** Jennifer Mullins gave a report on behalf of the committee. After a shaky start without enough support to operate 15 people came forward and established a new committee. Special thanks to Kevin Power, Jimmy and Chip for their work. A successful year for fund raising with various well-attended events, also OCRA ran 2 popular events. The team miss Paul & Fiona and their support from the Drewe Arms. The AGM is on Tuesday 21 May.

**CHAGFORD SCHOOL;** Toby Rubbra sent in a report saying that since Catherine Rees-Stephan took over the head-ship there has been more clarity and focus. Teaching throughout the school is now rated 'good' or 'outstanding'. Other changes are being considered; teaming up with other schools for some services, new draft curriculum, and new teaching standards. Work on insulating the buildings is underway, and the school is on a list for a rebuild.

**PARISH LANDS NON-ECCLESIASTICAL CHARITY;** Chairman George Gillard said that Mrs Elizabeth Fox has moved into 1 Fox Close, her late husband Freddie was instrumental in the planning and building of the bungalows and after whom the Close was named. The car-parking has been realigned for easier access. After 30 years service Angela Thomas has retired from the board. The accounts are available for inspection by contacting the treasurer Tony Thomas.

**DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY;** Pete Rich sent a report on the past year. The draft of the Management Plan Review will be sent for consultation soon. This is for everyone who cares about Dartmoor. The 'Moor than Meets the Eye' project has raised £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with possible further funding to improve conservation, access and community engagement. DNPA are seeking funding to supply broad band to the 9% who are not being covered by the main networks. The agreement for permissive paths in Teign Valley Woods has now finished, it is hoped that when the land is sold a new arrangement can be made. Any comments about the Public Rights of Way are welcome, as are volunteers. (Contact Pete on 077 300 4470)

**WHIDDON DOWN VILLAGE HALL;** Dr Michael Hall sent a report on behalf of the Committee read by Cllr Dyke. Of special concern this year is the roof, which urgently needs replacing. The cost will be around £15,000 including VAT. We have received support from many local sources including the Parish Council, West Devon Borough Council, Teignton Fayre, our Devon County Councillor, and the Big Lottery, so the work should be completed by the end of 2013. Thanks to all the committee for their hard work, in particular Peggy Reed who would now appreciate some help running the monthly whist drive.

**DREWSTEIGNTON VILLAGE HALL;** Alison Chapman gave an update; the new committee are; Hamish Dumbreck (Chairman) Alison (treasurer) Amy Hassell (secretary), and Daphne Greener (bookings). Many thanks to previous members for all their work. Any suggestions and comments are most welcome.

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH;** No report received.

**BRITISH LEGION (WOMENS SECTION);** A report by Miss Marjorie Smith said that £1000 was raised last year with great support from the villagers. More help and ideas would help raise money to help the lads who have lost limbs, and now have mental problems having returned from various war zones.

**WOMENS INSTITUTE;** This had now closed due to lack of members and increasing cost. Should a future group start the equipment is stored in the Church.

**DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY;** Neighbourhood Beat Manager Nadine Wilson sent a report saying there were 41 incidents in the parish in the last year. 4 burglary to farm buildings, 12 at Whiddon Down service station, mainly 'make off without payment', 13 miscellaneous, 4 theft by employees and 3 vehicle related. 'A non crime problem solving plan was recorded for traffic issues in Chapel Hill'

**GARDENERS CLUB;** Carol Mason gave a report on the work of the Gardeners Club. The public garden maintenance continues. The year included meetings with talks, outings and fund raising events, and was considered successful in spite of the poor weather. Membership is at about 30, and new members of all ages are most welcome.

Cllr Chris Gosnay thanked all organisations for their reports and hard work over the past year.

Reports which were not available at the meeting will be published in the Parish Post. All reports are available in full from the Clerk.

A motion from the floor to thank Tony Thomas for all his hard work in the community was carried unanimously. Clerk to write a letter of appreciation.

#### **Other matters raised by Parishioners**

Alan Brooks raised the issue of safeguarding of children travelling on the late school bus. This has been ongoing with the PC. Clerk to update Cllr James McInnes

Daphne Greener would like to plant a tree in the car park in memory of her late husband Paul, who wrote books about the Drewsteignton area, this will be discussed at the ordinary meeting on Monday 20 May.

The car park bin needs emptying more frequently. This is done voluntarily, but a larger bin is a possibility.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.52pm