

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Whiddon Down Village Hall
On

Monday 17 November 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Savage (Chairman), Power, Imrie, Dyke, Riches, Brooks, Hardie and the Clerk.

Apologies Cllrs Ridgers
In attendance 5 members of the public

125/14 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cllr Power proposed and Cllr Imrie seconded approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 20 October 2014.

126/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded the Cllrs present of the need to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in respect of any items included on the Agenda. None declared.

127/14 MATTERS ARISING;

The commemorative stone has been unveiled with a ceremony at 11 am on 11 November, with at least 40 people present. Chairman thanked Cllr Imrie for her work on this project. Cllr Imrie has kept a project file.

DNPA have been unable to help with **car-park policy**. This will be investigated by Cllr Ridgers at WDBC.

An item in the Parish Post by Stephen Emanuel regarding the **fruit trees** in the car park has been noted. Cllrs are grateful for the offer of replacement trees to be planted, and would like to make a plan with interested parties allowing for any future plans of the Council. Clerk to invite Mr Emanuel to the next meeting.

The appointment of the trustees for the **Providence School Charity** has been agreed, with Graham Hester and Bill Savage to represent Drewsteignton Parish. At the last meeting it was agreed that the PC Chairman should be a trustee, however the trustee roles will be on a different time-scale to the PC so Bill Savage will be a trustee as an individual rather than it being part of the Chairman's role.

There is more **graffiti** in the bus shelter at Whiddon Down, this is criminal damage and will be reported to the police. A long-term solution may to offer a graffiti wall, perhaps co-ordinating with 'On the Edge' youth group. Clerk to start contact.

Devon County Council have sent their Tough Choices proposals for **budget cutting in waste management**. To save £200,000 they propose charging the public for DIY waste such as UPVC windows at £3.50 per item. Cllrs are concerned that this could well lead to an increase in fly tipping which is the responsibility of West Devon Borough Council. Clerk to reply to Devon County Council with the concerns raised.

128/14 HIGHWAYS:**Road repairs outstanding**

Blocked drains from Crockernwell to Hooperton Cross

Road surface from Couples Corner to Preston

Hask Lane 100mm deep large hole (new)

Inconsiderate Parking in Drewsteignton opposite Hillside House forces traffic onto the wrong carriageway on a blind bend. Reminder for Parish Post and Clerk to contact police to pay passing attention to the matter.

DNPA will support any works at **Chapel Hill** (Whiddon Down) as long as they are sympathetic to the Dartmoor environment. No other progress yet. Clerk to chase DC Highways

The **drain** at the junction of Chapel Hill and Turnpike Road is still causing problems, with Highways clearing it once a year and residents clearing it more frequently. A permanent gully would help.

129/14 PLANNING**Decisions received;**

DNPA 0499/14 - Works at Castle Drogo – approved

DNPA 0551/14 - Hillside House, Drewsteignton - refused

DNPA 0552/14 - Hillside House, Drewsteignton refused

Applications;

DNPA 0635/14 – **Change of Use** of part of agricultural building to holiday let at **Westford Farm**, Drewsteignton.

Cllrs discussed this matter, and unanimously agreed to **OBJECT** to the proposal as the farm only has a licence for 5 caravans, and this development is inappropriate. Cllrs also requested an update on previous enforcement notices on this site.

Further planning matters.

West Devon Borough Council have informed us that the business use at Martin Park Farm, Whiddon Down is clerical use only. No news on the unauthorised barn at High Wynds, Whiddon Down. Clerk to chase WDBC.

Shoot Lane field shelter; the applicant and his agent have contacted DNPA and this Council to inform us that an application is being prepared and should be submitted in January.

The **banner** sited opposite the service station at Whiddon Down promoting Chagford has been re-installed. Cllrs to make approaches to Chagford Traders Association and the landowner, before contacting DNPA.

Cllr Power passed on a parishioner's concern about the new restaurant at **Whiddon Down services**, which will be licensed to serve alcohol. The new set up will be on the same basis as the previous occupant, with a major refurbishment. There is a considerable amount of signage at the entrance to the services, which needs to be checked by WDBC, Clerk to contact WDBC.

The signage at **Drewe Arms** has not yet all been corrected, Clerk to chase the planning authority.

130/14 FINANCE;

a) Payments to be made in November 2014.

Cllr Power proposed and Cllr Imrie seconded the following payments to be made;

Ms B Snook – Salary - £379.16

Ms B Snook - general expenses – £32.60

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning & materials - £73.50

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

Drewsteignton Village Hall – hall hire - £10.00

EDF – WC electricity - £51.30

SPC Landscaping – car-park maintenance - £595.00

Drewe Arms – S137 – Coffee etc for 35 people following Commemorative Stone unveiling - £61.25

Fingle Farm Buildings – Playing Field Shed extension - £2916.00

The playing field committee have made a grant to the Council for the full amount above

RBL Poppy Appeal – wreath - £17.00

b) Income from honesty boxes - (WCs £8.36) (car park £51.73)

c) Budget planning - The Clerk issued Cllrs with a draft spreadsheet outlining essential expenditure for the financial year 2015-16. Suppliers are continuing with no or minor price increases. The car-park loan has been repaid, so the financial situation is more comfortable.

131/14 General correspondence

Agenda letters;

West Devon BC have offered **sand and bags** for flood protection free of charge. Cllr Brooks to offer to Fingle Bridge Inn.

Cllr Walker has sent her resignation to the PC Chairman. She will be much missed by the team. Clerk to send thank you letter, and start the Casual Vacancy process. Cllr Hardie needs the snow warden kit from Joy Walker to enable him to fulfil the role, and Cllr Brooks will take over monitoring the car park. The Vice-Chairman role is not a requirement, so will be deferred for now.

Dr & Mrs Hall have written to the Chairman regarding the planning application at **Woodland Springs**, Venton. The Chairman read out the letter, which is an addendum to these minutes. Cllrs agreed the responses; which is an addendum to these minutes. the application was discussed at the Ordinary meeting 15 September, 7 days before the Halls contacted this Council. The consultation followed the correct procedures. Bolder signage may help to avoid traffic problems. Clerk to contact Woodland Springs and Tordown Storage for their input. Cllr Savage to reply to the Halls, (which is an addendum to these minutes)

'Dee's garden' at Whiddon Down; Dee attended the meeting to request support regarding adding some improvements to the **garden area alongside the pub car park**. She has worked hard to make this area attractive, and would like to add some standing surface for families using the school bus service. Also to make the kerb wider so people getting out of parked cars do not stand on the flowers. Cllrs unanimously supported this project, and suggested Dee contact Jo Rumble, Communities Officer at DNPA for advice and support.

Late letters;

Chris & Jan Patrick of Venton have written to comment on the proposed charges by DNPA and WDBC for **preplanning advice**. This matter was discussed at the Ordinary meeting 20 October. The Clerk has referred the writers to the planning authority.

132/14 Delegates Reports – the Playing Fields bonfire night event went well raising £960 for their funds.

133/14 Comments on information circulated – None

134/14 Future agenda items –Chapel Hill, Denbrook Wind Farm & WD link road, Car-park policy, furniture and effects stored at the Drewe arms

135/14 The proposed dates for the **meetings during 2015** have been prepared by the Clerk and sent to Cllrs and village halls, and will be published in due course.

136/14 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 15 December at Drewsteignton

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



Drewsteignton Parish Council

Bella Snook
Clerk to the Council
1 Tumpike Road
Whiddon Down
EX20 2QW

Phone: 01647 231046
Email:
clerk@drewsteigntonparish.co.uk

19th November 2014

Mr & Mrs Hall,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Michael and Ann

I refer to your letter to me dated 28th October 2014 and subsequent correspondence.

This letter was read out at our meeting last Monday evening and this reply is unanimously authorised by the seven Parish Councillors present. We understand from Mrs Sowrey you were unable to attend our meeting and hope she was able to communicate the full details of our debate.

We agree the access to Woodland Springs is good & wide. The drivers of any vehicle joining the lane from the private track have the responsibility to give way to any traffic on the lane, but as always the prudent driver should be aware of the potential dangers which are presented to them and take appropriate action. This means that residents should perhaps take a little extra care when approaching the junction. We are all aware of the dangers presented by drivers, especially in the summer, who are unfamiliar with our rural roads.

There are three signs at the end of the lane, the give way and no parking/turning signs appear to be home made and the all routes sign appear to be a highways sign. We agree that if this junction was a normal highway the give way sign would be placed as you describe, but quite frankly if a driver chooses to ignore the advice what more can the Parish Council or anyone else for that matter do?

Similarly this applies to those drivers wishing to access Woodland Springs ignoring the direction sign, as Cllr Power observed, the sign couldn't be much bigger! We are however, writing to the owners of Woodland Springs & Tordown Storage to ask if they could improve their signing

At the risk of increasing signage in your rural hamlet, residents might consider funding an oblong blue information sign supplied by Devon Highways with "unsuitable for vehicles" or similar to be placed on the lane outside Tordown to discourage driving further down the lane.

In the third paragraph you say the park is doubling in size, this is not correct. You ask how cars only will be enforced, we suggest that as those visitors are to be campers they will only be using cars and at the very worst may tow a small light weight camping trailer, so it will be self enforcing, anyone with a caravan or camper van will use the present site.

Tordown vehicle & caravan storage facility has been operating for several years and Councillors are unaware of any objection from residents when change of use from agriculture was applied for, nor are they aware of any current problems.

Drewsteignton Parish Councillors

Bill Savage, (Chair), Joy Walker, (Vice Chair), Paul Ridgers, John Dyke, Stuart Hardie, Sue Power, Anna Imrie, Mike Riches and Debi Brooks

The question of drainage is a specialist subject and Councillors are happy that Dartmoor National Park & the Environment Agency are far better qualified than us to decide on the subject. The Council have not been informed of the green lane becoming muddy or difficult otherwise we would have taken some action. It has recently been walked by a councillor, as have all the footpaths in the Parish, which you know is an annual task undertaken by Councillors.

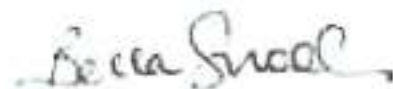
We agree that visitors will travel far & wide when on holiday but that is the nature of tourism. We are not sure what evidence you have to suggest visitors to Woodland Springs rarely go to Drewsteignton village. As Councillors we not only know that visitors are encouraged, but do in fact attend Fingle Bridge & Drogo for walking and refreshments and the Post Inn, Sandy Park and Drewe Arms are all used for food by visitors.

Your comments in the final paragraph may have been true when you served on the Parish Council but the present council is a different organisation, not only in the amount of work central government has devolved to us but also because of the considerable voluntary commitment of current councillors. Having just checked the minutes for the last twelve months I see we have considered 22 planning applications, supporting 17, objecting to 3 and only taking a neutral view on 2 – one being at Drogo and the second at Crockernwell, so your allegation against us once again is unfounded.

This reply may not meet with your approval, but as I said at the beginning, it is the view of all Councillors present. We will not revisit our decision on the planning application 0490/14 which has been fully explained to you already and will not enter into any further correspondence on the subject.

Yours sincerely

pp



Bill Savage

Chairman Drewsteignton Parish Council