

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF  
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL  
Drewsteignton Village Hall  
On  
Monday 14 December 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Imrie (Chair), Savage (Vice Chairman) Brooks, Hardie, Ridgers, Hunt, Brown and the Clerk.

Apologies None

In attendance Iain McCallum (RES), 2 members of the public

**134/15 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Unanimous approval of the minutes for Ordinary meeting held on Monday 16 November 2015

**135/15 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. Cllr Savage has been previously contacted by the applicant for planning item DNPA 0626/15.

**136/15 MATTERS ARISING:**

Council owned **benches**: Volunteers are still waiting for a weather window to carry out this work.

**Churchyard lamp post**: repair works have started. The lamp post is now straight and secure, replacement bolts will be installed shortly, and painting will be done when the weather allows. Thanks to DNPA ranger Pete Rich, and his volunteer rangers,

Nomination for **Community Assets** - these will be dealt with as required. The administration to nominate a community asset is quite extensive. Clerk to contact those who dealt with the Drewe Arms nomination for advice. Also Cllrs agreed it would be important to discuss the matter with any current owners before embarking on the procedure. Official information will be circulated to Cllrs describing how the process takes place.

**Barn Close open space**, Whiddon Down, the residents group have been put in direct contact with Rob Sekula (WDBC) to try to find a way forward, and Chair Cllr Imrie has offered to meet concerned residents.

**Public WC's**: The National Trust have installed a new fence around the building and provided some timber for new barge boards. Mike Rowe will install and paint the boards, and replace the guttering.

The **new website** is in draft format and Andy Parrott will train the Clerk and Chairwoman on its facilities, before the hand-over is completed. Cllr Savage told the meeting about a Facebook page featuring What's On near Whiddon Down, Clerk to investigate, to add a link to the website, if suitable.

**137/15 HIGHWAYS:**

**Whiddon Down link road**: Iain McCallum (RES site manager) addressed the meeting regarding the **temporary closure of A3124** which has been changed from 3 weeks in December to some days of one way traffic lights and a few nights closure, all during January. Details to be finalised after the period of public consultation is completed this week. The landscaping promised to help pedestrians access Hole Farm is more complicated than hoped, Cllrs expressed their earnest concern that this aspect of the project should be kept. A stakeholder meeting is being held at Whiddon Down village hall on Wed 16 December 3.00pm -5.00pm.

**Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down; traffic calming measures**; Steve Dawe, (Neighbourhood Highways Officer) has recommended bollards which his team can install. This Council will need to pay £420 for the installation of bollards, and request a grant contribution from Devon County Cllr James McInnes' Locality fund. The Clerk has completed the grant application paperwork. Cllrs agreed it was time to do something to try to alleviate the problem at Chapel Hill, and this proposal is a step in the right direction.

**Road repairs needed**; Several finger posts are missing or damaged. Couples Corner to Preston is full of potholes.

**138/15 PLANNING**

**Decisions received;**

**DNPA 0536/15** Listed Building Consent at 8 Stonelands, Crockernwell - **granted**

**WDBC 00715/2015** Solar array at Whiddon Down - **granted**

**DNPA 0524/15** Advertisement consent at Castle Drogo, Drewsteignton - **granted**

**Applications;**

**DNPA 0626/15** 8 x live work units and 2 x commercial storage/distribution units at land adjacent to EX6 6NA, Crockernwell.

Cllr Savage said that a few years ago he was contacted by the applicant regarding potential housing development on this site. Cllr Savage referred the applicant to WDBC as they were assessing housing needs at the time. No further contact was made.

Four letters have been sent to this Council objecting to this major proposal. Cllr Savage summarised their contents: The proposal is a major change from the current agricultural use with barns. The proximity of the proposed 24 hour distribution unit to residential properties is not suitable, due to noise and pollution issues. The highway access is detrimental to road safety. There is no mains drainage near the site, and discharge from any treatment plant has nowhere to go.

Dartmoor National Park Development Management Document states (DMD 3.17.4) that Crockernwell is not a designated settlement in the Core Strategy, meaning that, for planning purposes it falls under policy principles applying to development in the open countryside.

Other relevant policies are DMD2 page 15, DMD4 page 20, DMD5 page 23, DMD23 page 46, and possibly DMD16(ii) page 45. Also Core Policies 1, 2, 4 and 18 may apply to this application.

Cllrs unanimously agreed to **OBJECT** to this application on these grounds. Clerk to respond to DNPA.

#### **Further planning matters.**

Advertising sign on Venton straight, Cllrs are not satisfied with the reduced signage, Clk to contact DNPA to express the concerns raised.

Advertising sign at Whiddon Down for Chagford restaurant. Clerk to contact owners.

#### **139/15 FINANCE;**

##### **a) Payments to be made in December 2015**

Cllr Savage proposed and Cllr Hardie seconded the following payments to be made;

Ms B Snook – Salary - £379.16

Ms B Snook - general expenses - 2 months - £53.28

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning & materials - £126.85

Whiddon Down Village Hall - Hall hire - £10.00

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

Steve Carter - mowing car park (annual cost) - £595.00

Devon Association of Local Councils - Cllr training - £30.00

Information Commissioner's Office - Data protection registration - £35.00

b) **Income from honesty boxes** - (car park £6.39) (WCs £3.60) Total £9.99

c) Transparency Code **grant application**, the Clerk has completed the form following research into budget laptops and printer/scanners. A total of £1112.00 has been requested. This will enable the Council to adhere fully to the new Transparency Code, and discontinue the current unsustainable use of the Clerk's personal office equipment.

#### **140/15 General correspondence**

**Agenda letters:** None

##### **LATE LETTERS:**

Cllr Savage has received an anonymous letter complaining about the proliferation of **unofficial signs** in various locations. Cllrs and the Clerk do follow up these issues as ongoing matters.

**Illegal parking in bus stops:** CM Coaches have passed on a complaint about parents parking in the bus stop at Whiddon Down when collecting children from the 5.00pm bus service from Exeter School. This is an ongoing problem. The village hall have kindly offered use of their car park for these drivers, which gives a safe lit pavement route from the bus stop. Clerk to contact the school concerned, Devon County Council highways safety department, and the police, and the coach company to suggest they also follow this up.

#### **141/15 Delegates Reports:**

Cllr Savage attended a recent **Eastern Links** meeting, which covered several relevant issues, he will forward the minutes to the Cllrs when they are published. He also mentioned the responsibility of the council as an employer to provide a pension for employees.

Cllr Hunt attended **New Cllr Training** provided by Devon Association of Local Councils, and found it incredibly helpful, and interactive. Cllr Brown has still to attend one of these sessions.

Cllr Brooks says the **car park** has one taxed, but apparently abandoned, car, which will be reported to authorities in the New Year. Cllr Brown will re-install the 'No camping' sign to reinforce the regulations of the car park.

**142/15 Comments on information circulated** – None

**143/15 Future agenda items** – Chagford expansion, DALC Local council Awards, Chapel Hill expenditure for traffic calming, winter pothole repairs, car-park signage update, budget and precept planning. Employer responsibility re pension provision. School bus parking at Whiddon Down.

**DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING** – **Monday 18 January 2016** at Whiddon Down

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

