

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Drewsteignton Village Hall
On
Monday 20 April 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Savage (Chairman), Power, Riches, Dyke, Brooks, Hardie, Hunt, Ridgers, Imrie and the Clerk.
Apologies None
In attendance One member of the public

040/15 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Unanimous approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 16 March 2015 and the Additional Meeting of 14 April 2015.

041/15 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 Brooks' husband has sent further information regarding general planning issues.

042/15 MATTERS ARISING;

Car park - policy, there has been no positive progress, however it appears that someone is living in a blue van in the car park, which is not permitted. Clerk to contact Jo Rumble, Communities Officer at Dartmoor National Park for advice on managing this problem.

Denbrook wind farm and Whiddon Down road improvements; The campaign group have not been given leave for a judicial review. RES have replied to the Clerk's request for an update saying that they hope to start works in the autumn.

Alan Brooks has circulated a newspaper article claiming that other areas have similar **planning difficulties**.

LATE LETTER;

We have been notified that several vehicles are now parked on the site of the **illegal traveller's camp at Whiddon Down**. The Clerk has notified Devon County Cllr James McInnes and the Parish Cllrs. The travellers have verbally abused the landowner and a neighbour. The police have been called and attended, to little effect. This is an illegal encampment, a forced entry has been carried out when there are spaces elsewhere in the Borough for travellers to stay. Devon County Council's Assistant Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer Jenny Rayner is aware of the situation, but she and West Devon Borough Council seem confused about the ownership of the land. The landowners are Devon County Council and Mr & Mrs Robinson, neither of whom have given permission for this encampment.

Following this discussion Cllr Ridgers left the meeting at 8.08pm to attend another meeting

043/15 PLANNING

Decisions received;

DNPA 0062/15 Field shelter off Shute Lane, Drewsteignton - granted with the condition that it is removed if the approved use ceases.

DNPA 0690/14 Camping pods at Woodland Springs, Venton - granted with conditions; a detailed landscaping scheme must be approved, planted, and maintained into the future; a new sewerage system to be working before any occupation takes place, a maximum stay of 3 weeks in any 3 month period, no additional accommodation (tents/ caravans etc) can be added to this area, no lighting except what has been approved, the same road surface as exiting roadways within the site, the specified wildlife provision must be in place, the Pod area can only be used with the existing business and cannot be sold off separately.

Applications; None

Further planning matters.

Clerk to research specification of '**Prior Notification**' applications.

044/15 HIGHWAYS:

There is no progress on **Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down**. Clerk to chase Steve Dawe (Neighbourhood Highways Officer) and Devon County Councillor James McInnes, again.

A parishioner has asked if it would be possible to get a **new bus stop** just across the A30 from Whiddon Down, because the reduction in routes serving the village is a problem. The new route 6/6A come off the A30 at Whiddon Down, but immediately proceed eastwards on the old A30, without visiting the village. Cllr Dyke contacted Devon County Council's 'Devonbus' department on 10 April and has not received any reply. The clerk will contact the Customer relations department at Stagecoach and John Richardson-Dawes at DCC to discover what procedure will be involved

Road repairs needed in the Parish;

Veet Mill drain is collapsing, at least 4" deep, not a pot hole; multiple potholes in **Hask Lane** 2' x 1' x 6" deep; pothole/edge collapse at **Rushford Gate** near sandy Park, now 2' x 6'; **Whiddon Down roundabout** is now dangerous, particularly for motorbikes, which are now in their main season; **France Hill**, near the SLOW sign painted on the road surface; **Spinsters Rock Lane** at the southern end, and the road between **Preston and Couples Corner** is now in a very poor state, this is a main route to a major local tourist attraction Fingle Bridge. Clerk to chase Highways.

045/15 FINANCE;

a) Payments to be made in April 2015

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

Ms B Snook – Salary - £379.24

Ms B Snook - general expenses – £43.30

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning & materials - £73.50

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

Whiddon Down Village Hall – hall hire - £10.00

Devon Association of Local Councils – membership fee - £169.27

Holy Trinity Church – Burial grant – £305.00

Whiddon Down Methodist Chapel – Burial grant – £65.00

Gardeners Club grant – maintenance of public garden – £200.00

Whiddon Down Village Hall – grant – £100.00

Drewsteignton Village Hall – grant - £100.00

b) **Income from honesty boxes** - (car park £59.72) (WCs £12.72)

c) **Precept payment** £6912.50 will be paid in during April from WDBC.

c) **Financial year end;** The Clerk explained the year-end situation and processes.

The **bank reconciliation** was checked and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The **audit paperwork** was outlined, including the annual governance statement and Cllrs assessed the risks to the council and agreed that the main risk was the playing field liability which is covered by appropriate insurance brokered by Community First a body dealing with Councils. The Chairman and Clerk signed the audit form. Tony Thomas has agreed to act as internal auditor, and the Council unanimously approved this.

d) **The VAT reclaim** has been completed and submitted to HMRC, we expect back £963.59 of which £486.00 is due back to the Playing Field committee. The VAT is much higher than in recent years due to more repairs and maintenance works.

046/15 General correspondence

Agenda letters;

Election nomination results and vacancies for new Councillors. Cllr Savage will represent Crockernwell, Cllrs Hardie and Imrie will represent Whiddon Down, Cllr Ridgers will represent Venton, Cllrs Brooks and Hunt will represent Drewsteignton. Vacancies exist at Whiddon Down, Drewsteignton, and Crockernwell. Any member of the Parish Council team will welcome expressions of interest. Candidates do not have to live in the area they wish to represent.

LATE LETTERS see above

Dog fouling has been a problem in Drewsteignton village, particularly the square and churchyard. WDBC have recently stated that any dog waste not picked up by the owner in any area of WDBC constitutes an offence. Clerk to request official signage from WDBC. The WDBC dog warden now charges for visits.

047/15 Delegates Reports – The playing field committee held a fun night of skittles and raised £290 towards their £8000 target for a major new piece of play equipment.

048/15 Comments on information circulated – None

049/15 Future agenda items – car park railings, bus shelter graffiti, travellers, new bus stop, dog fouling,

050/15 Annual Parish Meeting – budget of £50 approved as Section 137 spending for refreshments

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 18 May 2015 at Whiddon Down, to include the Annual General Meeting of the Council

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Cllrs for their input; Cllr Dyke for many years of service, with hard work and knowledge, Cllr Power for her local work, and Cllr Riches too. The Chairman also congratulated the Cllrs staying on for another term.