

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Whiddon Down Village Hall
On
Monday 20 July 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Imrie (Chair), Savage (Vice Chairman) Brooks, Hunt, Brown, Ridgers, Hardie and the Clerk.
Apologies None
In attendance Eric McCarthy (RES) and 3 members of the public

078/15 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cllrs unanimously approved the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 15 June 2015.

079/15 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 Brown has a decorator doing work at his home, who has bid for the WC decoration job.

080/15 MATTERS ARISING:

Car park misuse, Dartmoor National Park are unable to help with adopting the car park. There are no signs of camping when Cllr Brooks has visited, but some unsavoury meat was in the bin. Cllr Brooks needs protective equipment to deal with the rubbish.

Allocation of representative to DNPA, Cllr Savage agreed to take on this role.

Denbrook Wind Farm and Whiddon Down road improvements; Eric McCarthy from RES addressed the meeting. The road works will take place from 6 October for 3 months, planning to complete before Christmas. RES have started individual house visits and hold an open day at the village hall in the middle of August for residents to ask questions. Further information is available at www.renewableuk.com. The works at Denbrook will start on 17 August and take about 15 months. The old road will be one way, head south towards the village junction.

Whiddon Down illegal travellers site follow up; Jeremy Robinson (one of the landowners concerned) spoke to the meeting, and explained that the land was to be transferred from Devon County Council & Highways ownership to Mr Robinson, which will ensure much quicker legal action is possible should the situation re-occur. The travellers' rave caused serious distress to livestock. The police were not interested because there were not enough participants to constitute a rave. Complaints about the noise have been made from several miles around. WDBC Environmental Health department said they could not respond until Monday morning. WDBC have never replied to emails about this matter. As the travellers left they set fire to gas canisters which resulted in the fire brigade attending, but the police won't prosecute anyone. Devon County Council have some funds to clear the mess left behind, but have not yet carried out the work. The waste is potential hazard due to health and fire risks. Cllrs suggested that Mr Robinson complains to the Chief Constable, and this Council will back him up. The Clerk will complain to WDBC regarding their lack of response, DCC about the delayed clear up, and the police Chief Constable regarding the lack of police activity during this time. Also Clerk to get police definition of a rave, and their policy on action to deter or stop these events. Police & Crime Commissioner Tony Hogg will also be contacted as dealing with these problems were part of his manifesto.

Mr Robinson will now own the gate, and will have full control over the site's security. RES need somewhere to site their portacabins for the duration of the build of the link road. Clerk to put RES in touch with Jeremy Robinson.

081/15 HIGHWAYS:

Cllrs agreed that, despite the difficulties encountered, **Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down** is still a priority matter. In part due to the fact that the Parish Plan showed 69% of Whiddon Down residents want some action. Closure is off the agenda as the likely public enquiry would add about £20,000 to the cost. Mike Jones, (from Devon County Council's Traffic Management Team) cannot give a breakdown of the £8,000 suggested cost of speed humps on Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down, without the Engineering Design Group charging £50 per hour for a site visit and plans, resulting in design costs alone of between £1000 - £1500. Devon County Councillor James McInnes has expressed surprise at this level of charging. Mike Jones mentions a substantial amount of construction, which seems to be overstating the case.

Clerk to contact DC Councillor James McInnes to clarify the wishes of this Council, and Mike Jones to enquire what legal processes are required.

Cllr Imrie suggested we ask RES if they can help with this project by using their contractors while they are nearby working on the link road. Clerk to contact Eric McCarthy to see if this is possible.

The **finger post** at Ford Road's junction with the old A30 has disappeared, also the finger post at Ash Cross, Whiddon Down. Clerk to report to Highways.

Cllrs agreed that the **alternative bus stop near Whiddon Down** should go ahead with minimum infrastructure, and see what use it gets before committing to further expenditure. Clerk to contact Mark Phillips (Integrated Public Transport at County Hall), who has also informed us there will be further cuts to bus services in September, but no details are available yet.

Footpath check walks were allocated to each of the team, to be reported back at the October meeting to a DNPA ranger. Maps were issued to Cllrs.

082/15 PLANNING

Decisions received;

DNPA 0250/15 Retention of lighting scheme at The Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton - **refused**

DNPA 0204/15 Extension to storage barn at Tordown storage, Venton – **granted**

DNPA 0236/15 Restraint straps to outbuilding at Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton – **granted**

DNPA 0244/15 Display of photographic images in Castle Drogo garden & woodland – **granted**

DNPA 0241/15 Fire safety improvements at Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton – **granted**

Applications;

DNPA 0321/15 new sewerage system at Ford House, Drewsteignton. Cllrs agreed to **SUPPORT** this application as the system needs updating, and will improve sustainability of an important parish property. It should be noted that the applicant is Chair of the Drewsteignton Playing Field committee, a sub committee of this Council.

Further planning matters.

Hillside House – Appeal – DNPA 0067/14

Middle Venton – Appeals – DNPA 0064/12, 0209/13, 0332/14

Cllrs agreed not to change their comments on any of these appeal cases.

The **new sign on the A30** advertising the restaurant at the Whiddon Down services is now sited on the north side of the A30, which may cause safety concerns to Highways England, and WDDB will be informed regarding Advertisement Consent.

DNPA have planned some **planning training** for Cllrs, an evening session to be held in the autumn, exact date to be arranged.

083/15 FINANCE;

a) Payments to be made in July 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 - deferred

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning & materials - £122.05

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

Cllr Imrie – training travel expenses - £22.50

DALC – Cllr training - £30.00

South West Water – Playing field tap - £12.55

EDF – WC electricity - £51.21

b) Income from honesty boxes - (car park £93.33) (WCs £12.97)

c) Unanimous approval for Cllrs Brown and Hunt to become bank signatories. Clerk to process. Ex Cllrs Dyke, Power and Riches have been removed from the bank account.

084/15 Cllrs agreed that the **website** needs maintenance and an overhaul, which will now incur costs. Two estimates with suggestions have been submitted, but we need to set a specification to be clear on what we need, and what it will cost. Cllrs agreed we need a 'responsive design' so pages are readable on any size screen, 'open source' software so we are not tied to one provider long term. Cllrs will each look at other Parish websites for ideas, and Cllrs Imrie, Ridgers and the Clerk will set a brief/specification, and re-circulate to interested parties.

085/15 The WCs are looking scruffy and two estimates for redecoration have been submitted, Cllrs agreed to accept Jake Rowe's estimate.

086/15 The local DNPA volunteer ranger has offered to reinstate the **village pump** in Drewsteignton, to ornamental level only, for nominal cost. Cllr Imrie to progress.

087/15 General correspondence

Agenda letters;

WC use during **Dartmoor Arts** event, Mike Rowe has agreed to do the extra cleaning for £25. Clerk to notify event organisers, and thank them for the offered donation.

Car-park signage, the Clerk has obtained two quotes for replacement signs. Cllr Brown suggested getting the existing sign repainted, and he will investigate this option.

Questions for the **Police & Crime Commissioner** who is attending the forthcoming Superlinks meeting; Cllrs agreed recurring issues are travellers, rural crime, and speeding traffic. Clerk to word questions for approval at the next meeting of this Council.

Parish Council report for the Parish Post, Cllr Savage sought confirmation that his wording regarding the ongoing Chapel Hill issue was a fair representation of the situation, as this has been raised by Devon County Cllr James McInnes. Cllrs confirmed the wording used was appropriate.

Parking in Drewsteignton village, Cllr Brown asked about the parking problems within Drewsteignton Square, Cllr Savage outlined the history of this matter, and the latest situation, which is that this Council have worked hard to co-ordinate all parties concerned.

LATE LETTERS;

The Sandy Park Inn has been closed for two weeks, with internal works going on. This closure is a great loss as a local amenity and employment opportunity.

In Whiddon Down a parishioner has expressed concern over the possible change of use of the **phone box**. As 21 calls were made there in the last year there is reason to keep the status quo.

Also in Barn Close Whiddon Down, the suggestion of a **play area** has re-emerged. Clerk to offer advise and contact with the Drewsteignton playing field committee.

Whiddon Down bus shelter graffiti; the clerk has made contact with On The Edge youth group leader Wes Cutler to invite the group to paint something more positive, there is interest, and Dee Douglas would like to help with this project. Clerk to link up the participants.

Drewsteignton churchyard lamppost Cllr Savage has made the lamp post safe, but no other progress is visible.

088/15 Delegates Reports – Cllr Savage reported from Eastern Links that DNPA have given a community grant of £4000 to **Drewsteignton Village Hall** to carry out much needed repairs to the hall doors.

A somewhat delayed police report shows **7 burglaries** in Drewsteignton last October.

Several parishioners have reported unusual activity with strangers calling door to door, even at very remote properties, offering various machinery for sale. These people are wandering around properties without invitation. Vehicle registration numbers have been given to the police. **PLEASE ENSURE ALL TOOLS & MACHINERY ARE STORED SECURELY, AND SHEDS & BARNs ARE LOCKED.** Clerk to distribute posters within and beyond the parish to highlight this matter.

Cllr Hardie attended the **AGM of Whiddon Down Village Hall**, they are busy with bookings, and updating facilities as required. The committee are active, and achieving some success with grant applications.

089/15 Comments on information circulated – None

090/15 Future agenda items –car park railings, bus shelter graffiti, new bus stop, speed enforcement, benches, **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 17 August 2015 at Drewsteignton.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.08 pm.