

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Drewsteignton Village Hall
On
Monday 17 August 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Imrie (Chair), Savage (Vice Chairman) Brooks, Hunt, Brown, Ridgers, Hardie and the Clerk.
Apologies None
In attendance 11 members of the public

091/15 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cllr Savage pointed out a typo, then Cllrs unanimously approved the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 20 July 2015.

092/15 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. None stated.

093/15 MATTERS ARISING;

Car park misuse, the rubbish was normal this month and no evidence of camping. The Clerk issued Cllr Brooks with some protective equipment for the bin emptying. The **car park signage** will be renovated on a DIY basis by Cllr Brown. Clerk to contact Jo Rumble (Communities Officer at Dartmoor National Park) regarding the item in the Okehampton Times regarding camping policy, as the article is unclear whether the rule applies to car-park owned by the National Park or car-parks within the National Park area. Cllrs would still like to adopt National Park bye-laws to help enforce this no camping policy.

Denbrook Wind Farm and Whiddon Down road improvements; residents have asked about a footpath to Hole Farm from the village centre. The Clerk has checked previous communications and it appears that RES do not own any additional land to allow a footpath. Eric McCarthy (RES) has agreed to install some signage warning drivers of pedestrians. Cllrs Imrie and Hardie to visit the site. Clerk to reply to residents.

Whiddon Down illegal travellers site follow up; The Clerk made an official complaint regarding lack of police response to the situation to Devon and Cornwall police which was sent back to Neighbourhood Beat Manager Dave Pickles. The Clerk contacted residents most affected by the encampment. several wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals from the travellers, however the Robinsons and the Cannons agreed to meet the police to discuss the matter. Dave Pickles passed the details up the line and Inspector Mark Sloman has now met the Robinsons. They say he was sympathetic, but unable to make any firm promises should the situation recur. We await details of the next discussions.

WDBC have only sent a holding reply to this Council's complaint regarding their lack of response to the noise complaints made during the Bank Holiday weekend of 25/26/27 May. The Clerk will chase this up and keep Cllr Ridgers copied in to the communications.

Parking in Drewsteignton; the Clerk has sent Cllr Brown details of the last discussions on this matter, which was during 2012, saying that this Council have arranged several meetings to collect the various parties together.

Public WC's; when Cllr Hunt and a DNPA volunteer ranger did some work on the building removing excess greenery they found the building to be very damp, with rotten fascia boards, and gutters and a down pipe apparently leading nowhere. The Clerk asked Jake Rowe to hold off his decorating works until the damp problem is resolved. Tony Thomas has told us that the building belongs to the National Trust. Castle Drogo staff are not aware of this, and the Clerk is trying to contact James Fuller at NT Killerton for clarification. Cllrs agreed that Jake's budget could be spent on exterior works rather than the less urgent decoration. More clearance of heavy overgrowth is required. Cllrs also agreed that Mike Rowe should be asked to add some regular 'gardening maintenance to his routine and bill.

Questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner at the Superlinks meeting, Clerk to word and send to Cllrs for approval.

Council owned **benches** - defer to next meeting.

Churchyard lamp post; no proper repair has been made, and the post looks unsafe. Clerk to raise Cllrs concerns with the Parochial Church Council. Cllr Savage pointed out that his temporary fix was not necessarily 'safe' as worded in the last minutes.

Phone boxes; no one has come forward to adopt any phone boxes, and some recent use has been noted. The clerk has also notified BT that the Drewsteignton and Sandy Park boxes are listed buildings.

094/15 HIGHWAYS:

Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down; The Clerk has been in contact with Eric McCarthy to see if RES can help with speed humps while they have a suitable workforce nearby. While he is not the decision maker he did not rule it out. He has asked for supporting information; traffic data, residents approval and confirmation from the police that

they are unlikely to attend. Clerk and Cllr Hardie are progressing this work.

The Clerk heard from Stagecoach that the **alternative bus stop near Whiddon Down** will go ahead. We need confirmation that we will not be charged for the sign poles. Clerk to check.

Road repairs needed; Veet Mill drainage, Whiddon Down roundabout, potholes across the parish, details to be emailed from Cllrs to the Clerk.

The closure of Netherton Hill for BT works proposed for late September shows the **diversion** going from Greystone to Preston and Couples Corner back up to Drewsteignton. Cllrs cannot understand how this route will be possible for the buses, and due to the very poor state of the road surface. Clerk to contact Highways.

095/15 PLANNING

Decisions received;

DNPA 0251/15 Listed Building Consent for lighting scheme at **Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton - granted**

DNPA 0275/15 Advertisement Consent for information signs at **Fingle Bridge - granted**

DNPA 0278/15 Certificate of Lawfulness at **Fingle Farm, Drewsteignton - granted**

Applications; WDBC 00715/2015 Solar array at Martin Farm, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QL.

The Clerk has received 2 letters objecting to the proposal. Five Cllrs carried out a 2 hour site visit. The landowner Julian Courtier addressed the meeting to explain this proposal has been made to support the farm and his family, and that the scale of the array has been considerably reduced from initial thoughts.

Whiddon Down residents spoke both against and for the application; Glen Johnson is concerned about the scale of the works and it's impact on his house and local wildlife. Trudy Trippett from Hollycombe raised concerns about wildlife being disrupted during the build, deer routes being blocked by fencing, and that the panels will block sun and rain from the land. Mr Courtier said that the works will not disturb hedgerows, and that the area has been under constant cultivation for many years. Chris Trippett said that the land is being turned from agricultural to industrial with the installation of so much metal and plastic. Mr Trippett was also concerned about water run off as he lives below the area concerned. Mr Courtier said the new grassland will absorb rainfall better than current cultivated surface. Residents also raised concerns about the access track and it's future reinstatement. Mr Courtier said this was covered in the plans. Laurence Bennie has experience of solar arrays elsewhere, and felt this was a positive proposal. There were no other comments from the other residents present.

Cllrs commented; that the plans were thorough, with relevant surveys included, and that farmers are custodians of the landscape, but that there is lots of other Grade 3 agricultural land nearby. Concerns were raised about flood risk particularly about heavy rainfall flushing the area. While the proposal was not over intrusive, further hedging to screen panels from nearby homes would be helpful. The proposal would support the farming economy, and that local wildlife may well adapt. That the site's visibility when driving along the A30 is only for 30-40 seconds, and that the panels have a non reflective surface reducing the visual impact. The Council support agriculture wherever possible. Cllrs Savage and Imrie mentioned the project may offer the Community a long term financial benefit.

Cllrs voted as follows; Support - Cllrs Ridgers, Hunt, Brooks, Brown, Imrie & Savage. Cllr Hardie voted Neutral View. Cllrs reasons are inline with the National Planning Framework Policy. Cllrs also requested additional planting to better screen the panels, and that the Environment Agency are consulted regarding the drainage plan. Clerk to process the response.

Further planning matters. None

096/15 FINANCE;

a) Payments to be made in August 2015

Cllr Brooks proposed and Cllr Ridgers seconded the following payments to be made;

Ms B Snook – Salary - £379.16

Ms B Snook - general expenses - 2 months - £40.46

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning & additional cleaning - £98.50

Whiddon Down Village Hall - Hall hire - £10.00

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

DALC – Cllr training - £30.00

Grant Thornton - audit fee - £150.00

b) Income from honesty boxes - (car park £80.31) (WCs £17.43)

c) A donation of £30.00 has been received from the Dartmoor Arts event, towards the additional use of the public WCs. This Council appreciate the gesture

097/15 Cllrs Ridgers prepared a modest spec for **website** maintenance and future overhaul, Clerk to send to interested parties.

098/15 General correspondence

Agenda letters;

Cllrs have researched the **Dartmoor Society** and agreed to have website link installed.

The Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service have written offering **fire prevention & safety advice sessions**, Clerk to request they write a piece for the Parish Post.

An update on the **Superfast Broadband** situation is needed. Cllr Ridgers will know more by October. Clerk to contact 'Connecting Devon & Somerset' to see what can be done, as surrounding areas have achieved the service.

The **Sandy Park Inn** has reopened, which is good news for the local community.

Cllr Ridgers left the meeting.

The Clerk is awaiting a reply from WDBC regarding the **open space in Barn Close**, Whiddon Down regarding its possible future.

LATE LETTERS;

A complaint has been made regarding **parked cars in Crockernwell**, however Cllr Savage said they slow traffic to a safer level.

099/15 Delegates Reports – None

100/15 Comments on information circulated – None

101/15 Future agenda items –car park railings, bus shelter graffiti, speed enforcement, benches, Cheriton Bishop Speedwatch, tree preservation order at Fox Close, Drewsteignton, Parish Post delivery delays, Chagford expansion, possible formal nomination of Assets of Community Value.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 21 September 2015 at Whiddon Down.

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