

**DRAFT** MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF  
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL  
Whiddon Down Village Hall  
On  
Monday 21 September 2015 at 7.30pm

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

**102/15 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING;** this was deferred to the next meeting.

**103/15 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.

**104/15 MATTERS ARISING;**

**Car park misuse,** the no camping sign has been removed and put in the bin by persons unknown. Clerk to contact Cllr Brown to chase the maintenance needed to the sign. Clerk to check with Jo Rumble (Communities Officer at Dartmoor National Park) whether their bye laws apply to DNP owned/ managed car-parks only, or to all car parks within the DNP area.

**Whiddon Down illegal travellers site** follow up; The Clerk has discovered that the police have never contacted the Cannons to discuss the lack of police action. This Council are disappointed at this poor service. **West Devon Borough Council** have now replied regarding the noise levels, and explained that as the travellers moved on soon after the event they didn't bother to follow up the complaints made. An officer attended at the time and declared the noise was not excessive. Clerk to write to WDBC Chief Executive to complain about the service received by residents.

**Public WC's;** Mike Rowe has agreed to add some regular 'gardening' maintenance to his routine and bill, but he cannot do the more major work that is currently needed. The building belongs to the National Trust and is leased to the Village Hall on a full repairing lease. The Clerk will get some quotes for this work to be done and contact the Village Hall committee to see what can be achieved together.

Council owned **benches** - the benches Cllrs are aware of are; Sandy Park- metal- condition- ok, Post Office- wood- ok, Crockernwell- 1-wood & 1-metal- condition- TBA, Drewsteignton pump- metal- condition- poor, Whiddon Down- metal- condition- TBA, Castle Drogo-to-Drewsteignton road- metal- condition- poor. We may be able to get some volunteer labour for this project and only have to pay for the paint. This isn't cheap but Cllrs agreed it would be sensible to maintain these assets.

**Churchyard lamp post;** the Clerk has got copies of excerpts of the Parochial Church Council minutes from 1994 to 2000 showing that the Parish Council paid for the lamp post and it's installation. Clerk will visit Devon Record Office in Exeter to check the relevant PC minutes and ascertain ownership, and responsibility for future maintenance. A modern replacement could be a better option. Footpaths through the church yard are the responsibility of Devon County Council Highways department.

Whiddon Down **Barn Close open space.** West Devon Borough Council have said they can only offer a shortish lease, Clerk to enquire the likely conditions to be imposed. A meeting with Dee Douglas, interested residents, local Cllrs and Alison Chapman who chairs the Drewsteignton Playing Field committee might help clarify the input needed to make this project a reality. Clerk to arrange.

**105/15 HIGHWAYS:**

**Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down; traffic calming measures.** Mike Jones (Devon County Council Highways) has agreed to a site visit, exact date to be agreed. He will also look at the possibility of a **footpath to Hole Farm,** (Whiddon Down) to improve pedestrian safety.

**RES** are holding an **open day** at Whiddon Down Village Hall on Wednesday 23 September 3.00pm to 8.00pm to show residents what will be happening, and when, with the Denbrook Wind Farm build and the associated Whiddon Down link road. Available Cllrs agreed to attend at about 6.00 pm.

**Alternative bus stop near Whiddon Down,** Stagecoach have confirmed there will be no cost to this Council for the new bus stop poles. work should proceed shortly.

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

The diversion to accommodate the **BT road works on Netherton Hill** has been amended to a more suitable route. Posters have been put on the notice-boards.

**106/15 PLANNING**

**Decisions received; DNPA 0321/15** Sewerage works at **Ford House,** Drewsteignton - **granted**

**Applications; DNPA 0442/15 & 0443/15** Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent for conversion of piggery to domestic accommodation at **Knowle Cottage,** Drewsteignton. Several Cllrs carried out a site visit. The

building is unlikely to revert to its original use, the proposal will not impact negatively on the listed building, and will only enhance the Conservation Area. Unanimous vote to **SUPPORT**. Clerk to send response.

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

Alan Brooks has called another public meeting regarding the handling of planning issues within Dartmoor National Park.

West Devon Borough Council have said they will no longer contact Parish Councils regarding **Prior Approval Applications**, or send paper copies out. Other nearby Parishes have objected to this approach and Cllrs agreed that this Council also object to this lack of communication. Clerk to write supporting existing objections.

#### **107/15 FINANCE;**

##### **a) Payments to be made in September 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 to next month

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning - £73.50

Drewsteignton Village Hall - Hall hire - £10.00

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

David Endacott - replacement light in WC - £47.39

South West Water - playing field tap - £9.49

b) **Income from honesty boxes** - (car park £59.24) (WCs £9.41)

c) Devon Association of Local Councils have sent information regarding **grant funding** opportunities to enable small Councils to satisfy the new Transparency Code, which will require all Council information to be accessible on a website, or other publication method. Clerk to research information required to complete the application.

**108/15 Website overhaul** - Three proposals for the website maintenance and future overhaul have been received. These need closer study prior to our October meeting. Cllr Ridgers has suggested a matrix format to help evaluate the proposals.

#### **109/15 General correspondence**

##### **Agenda letters;**

**Broadband update** - needs chasing by Clerk

Nomination of potential **Assets of Community Value** will be deferred to the October meeting

**Dog fouling** in Whiddon Down, a complaint has been received about dog fouling in Whiddon Down. A reminder will go into the Parish Post that it is an offence not to pick up after your dog (or any dog you are walking) on any land in the West Devon Borough Council area.

Devon County Council have sent a **Minerals Plan Consultation**, but there is nothing within our Parish.

West Devon Borough Council have sent a **Licensing Policy Consultation** document. No Cllrs are aware of any issues on this within the Parish. The Clerk will distribute posters for public consultation, open until 6 November.

Devon County Council have sent a message regarding **grass cutting**. Their tough Choices has meant that roadside verges will only be cut for road safety reasons. Local Councils can take on further works if they wish.

Cllrs agreed that this was an unnecessary expense. Cllrs will monitor the Highways contractors fly-tipping road waste problem. It was noted that rag-wort is hazardous waste and should be disposed of properly. Treated human waste is also being carelessly transported within the Parish when the transport supplier is liable for this.

Clerk and Cllr Hunt to follow up with the Environment Agency.

##### **LATE LETTERS;**

A parishioner has asked for thanks to be passed to the Parish Lengthsmen for thorough work in **gully clearing**.

The Clerk has sent the message to the Highways team.

Devon Association of Local Councils have sent their Annual Report and an invitation to their **Conference** and AGM, no one available to attend.

**110/15 Delegates Reports** – Cllr Savage will be attending the Superlinks meeting, and the next eastern Links meeting will be held at Whiddon Down Village Hall on Thursday 19 November.

**111/15 Comments on information circulated** – None

**112/15 Future agenda items** – car park railings, bus shelter graffiti, speed enforcement, Cheriton Bishop Speedwatch, tree preservation order at Fox Close, Drewsteignton, Chagford expansion, possible formal nomination of Assets of Community Value, DALC Local council Awards.

**DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 19 October 2015 at Drewsteignton.

The December meeting will be held on **Monday 14 December 2015** at Drewsteignton

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

