

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Drewsteignton Village Hall
On
Monday 15 February 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Imrie (Chair), Savage (Vice Chairman) Brooks, Hardie, Hunt, and the Clerk.
Apologies Cllr Ridgers & Brown
In attendance 1 member of the public

016/16 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Unanimous approval of the minutes for Ordinary meeting held on Monday 18 January 2016, and the Additional meeting held on Wednesday 3 February 2016.

017/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None stated

018/16 MATTERS ARISING:

Churchyard lamp post: repair works have started, and the light is working.

Barn Close open space, Whiddon Down: Dee Douglas has had a site meeting with Drewsteignton Playing Field Chairwoman Alison Chapman, to get advice for the ongoing project.

The **new website** hand-over planned for 25 January did not take place, however this should be any day now. Clerk to chase Andy Parrott. Payment will not be released until the website is live to Cllrs satisfaction.

The **car park's** off the peg 'no camping' signs are still to be purchased. The Clerk contacted the owner of the leisure trailer and they have removed it. Cllrs suggest an ad in the Parish Post for the trailer owner to find a suitable private parking space for the trailer. This Council cannot charge for parking as this brings liability issues, donations are still very welcome!

The **new bus stop** at Whiddon Down has still not appeared, Clerk has chased up Stagecoach, to no avail. Clerk to approach Stagecoach direct in case current contact is no longer relevant.

The Queen's birthday beacons: Clerk to contact the Parish Council Playing Field committee Chair, Alison Chapman, to suggest a beacon bonfire at the field on 21 April, & contact other possible options re a beacon site.

Late school bus at Whiddon Down: parents continue to park inconsiderately at best. Cllr Imrie had a site meeting with Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC David Pickles, who was unable to help except suggesting residents appear in Hi Viz clothing as a deterrent, and the Clerk will renew appeals for responsible parking via the school and PTA. Clerk to contact the coach company to suggest dropping the students at the entrance to the village hall car park, as this junction is quieter now. Another option is a typed paper note (explaining the concerns) to be given directly to the drivers concerned.

019/16 HIGHWAYS:

Whiddon Down link road: following the Additional meeting on this matter the solution suggested by resident Graham Hester (a No Left Turn into the residual road at the village centre junction and No Right Turn from the A3124 link road) is being progressed by Devon County Council. Cllrs thank Mr Hester for his input. The 'New Road Layout' signs need to be larger. A temporary sign at the new junction facing traffic approaching from the A30 might help drivers. Cllrs were distinctly unimpressed with the manner of Devon County Council's Highways representatives at the additional meeting (3 February 2016).

The landscaping to help pedestrian safety has not succeeded, as traffic is now moving much faster. The Bonnett family are now hoping to obtain permission from Saunders to use or buy a slice of land inside the hedge as a safe footway. Cllr Imrie will contact the parties concerned to try to progress this project, and ask RES to help with funding.

Chagford PC have sent information about their **Lengthsman project**. It appears successful, covering a range of duties. This may be a good way to spend our modest financial surplus. Clerk to seek further details.

The **resurfacing at the Whiddon Down roundabout** has been completed well. Clerk has thanked highways. Dee Douglas' roundabout gardening is looking attractive. Cllrs agreed a nominal grant (maximum £50.00) for Dee to buy more plants for her various community projects.

Several **finger posts** are missing, which is an increasing problem as the tourist season approaches. Clerk to contact Devon County Council Highways to ascertain whether they will deal with this, or whether this needs to be a self help project.

020/16 PLANNING

Decisions received: DNPA 01626/15 Live/work & industrial units at **Crockernwell - withdrawn**

Applications: DNPA 0029/16 & 0030/16 Planning Permission & Listed Building Consent for an extension at **Narracott Close**, Drewsteignton. This application is reduced in scale from the previous application (DNPA 0595/13) which was supported by the Council and approved by DNPA. Cllrs unanimously **SUPPORTED** this revised proposal, because the family have farmed there for generations, the extension is discreetly sited and subservient to the original building. The scale and finishes are appropriate and have no detrimental effect to the

listed building or National Park. Clerk to respond to DNPA

Further planning matters:

Advertising sign on Venton straight, has been removed.

Advertising sign at Whiddon Down for Chagford restaurant. West Devon Borough Council have registered this as unauthorised and will investigate. Cllr Savage reminded us that it is Devon County Council's Highways responsibility to deal with these matters. Clerk to contact Highways.

The Drewe Arms' advertising easel on the junction in Drewsteignton is still unauthorised. Cllr Hunt said that Cllr Brown approached the pub landlord, whose response was 'unhelpful'. Clerk to contact DNPA.

021/16 FINANCE;

a) Payments to be made in February 2016

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 £34.60

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning - £80.00

Whiddon Down Village Hall - Hall hire x 2- £15.00

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

b) **Income from honesty boxes** - (car park £19.36) (WCs £3.45) Total £22.81

c) Other financial matters

Transparency Compliance **grant income** received £1104.00 from Devon Association of Local Councils.

Grant for Queen's birthday celebrations in Crockernwell. Cllr Savage requested that the Council consider a modest grant to fund hiring a bouncy castle (or other similar facility) to entertain the 23 younger children in the village at the proposed event for 11th June. Cllrs agreed in principal to a maximum figure of £150.00. Cllr Savage to research further.

022/15 General correspondence:

Agenda letters:

Communication from **Stuart MacDonald** regarding Cllr Savage. The clerk read the message complaining about Cllr Savage to the meeting. Cllr Savage explained that his conversation with Mr MacDonald was as a private individual and not in any official capacity relating to this Council.

Communication from **Stuart MacDonald** requesting this Councils policy on Vulnerable people. Devon Association of Local Councils has advised we do not need such a policy. Clerk to reply to Mr MacDonald on both matters. This Council have been sympathetic and have spent time on suggesting possible solutions to Mr MacDonald's highway difficulties even though it is outside Parish Council remit.

Local Government Boundaries Commission final recommendations have been sent out. There are no changes within our immediate area.

LATE LETTERS:

Moretonhampstead District Hospital Health & Social Care Hub League of Friends have written an open letter stating their disappointment at the total lack of progress made by North Devon Healthcare Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group over 3 1/2 years regarding the proposed Health Hub. MDHHSCLF have withdrawn their support. A copy of the letter is available from the Clerk.

Phil Metcalfe from North Devon Biosphere Reserve is investigating the distribution of **Himalayan Balsam** across the area. Clerk will make an initial response. A mention in the Parish Post may bring further information.

A **storm damaged tree** in Whiddon Down has been reported to West Devon Borough Council, who will check their records, and take follow up action.

Ex Cllr **Graham Hester** has expressed a willingness to stand as Cllr again. His experience and attention to detail will be very welcome. The two Casual Vacancies following the May elections were advertised, and no one came forward at the time.

023/16 Delegates Reports:

Cllr Hunt told us that she understands from DNPA ranger Pete Rich that there is some funding for gravel to enhance the **track to the Drewsteignton Playing Fields**. Clerk to ensure communications lines are open between Pete Rich and playing field committee Chair Alison Chapman.

Cllr Brown still needs to attend New Cllr Training provided by Devon Association of Local Councils. The next available session is in March. Cllr Brown has been notified.

024/16 Comments on information circulated – None

025/16 Future agenda items – car park railings, WC decoration

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING –Monday 21 March 2016 at Whiddon Down

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.17 pm.

The Clerk would like to thank Jackie Bowden for standing in as Clerk for the Additional Meeting, especially for no charge.

