

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Whiddon Down Village Hall
On
Monday 21 March 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Imrie (Chair), Savage (Vice Chairman) Brooks, Hunt, Hester and the Clerk.
Apologies Cllr Hardie
In attendance 2 member of the public

026/16 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Unanimous approval of the minutes for Ordinary meeting held on Monday 15 February 2016.

027/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Graham Hester declared a possible interest regarding the communication from Dee Douglas regarding parking in Whiddon Down village centre.

028/16 MATTERS ARISING:

To co-opt Graham Hester as Cllr: Cllr Savage proposed, Cllr Brooks seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. Cllr Hester completed the Register of Interests and Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Clerk to process.

Late school bus at Whiddon Down: The Clerk has asked the bus company which brings children from Exeter School at 5.00pm if they would stop by the village hall (to encourage parents to park there). However the bus drivers point out that there is a more suitable bus stop nearby.

Resident Dee Douglas has written concerning the parking in Whiddon Down village centre. The Highway Code forbids parking within 10 metres of a junction. This rule is being ignored by long and short term parking, which creates a dangerous situation for pedestrians. The long term parking of a horse box and commercial vehicles block access to the post box and phone box. There is an apparently abandoned (allegedly untaxed & no MOT) white car near the Turnpike road bund, the Clerk will report this to the authorities. We have had approval grant funding towards some bollards to be installed near the Methodist Church, to slow drivers using Chapel Hill.

Barn Close open space, Whiddon Down: Dee Douglas has now got a volunteer to cut the grass for the play area.

The **new website** hand-over has now happened, and the Clerk is gradually adding items and links. Cllr Ridgers has been unable to test the site, so Chris Gosnay (former councillor and host of previous website) will be asked to check before payment is released.

The **new bus stop** near Whiddon Down has now been installed, the Clerk will publicise this facility. Thanks will be sent to former councillor John Dyke who started this project.

The Queen's birthday beacons: There has been no success yet in finding a venue for a beacon bonfire site. Cllr Hester has one possibility that he will follow up.

WC decoration, Cllrs agreed that this work should go ahead now it's spring. Clerk to confirm with Jake Rowe.

Carpark railings: Cllrs agreed to Jake Rowe's estimate. Clerk to confirm.

029/16 HIGHWAYS:

Whiddon Down link road: The Traffic Order has been published to effect a No Left Turn into the residual road at the village centre junction and No Right Turn from the A3124 link road) and is being progressed by Devon County Council. There is no news on the safety audit. Cllrs suggest chevron boards at the new junction with A3124 to emphasise sharp deviation in both directions. Also Cllrs think a secondary direction sign at the new junction with the A382 emphasising the North Tawton and Winkleigh direction might be beneficial.

Devon County Council Highways say a land purchase is not required to arrange a **permissive path** towards Hole Farm. The Bonnett family are now hoping to obtain permission from Saunders to set up a safe footway. Cllr Imrie will continue to try to progress this project.

Lengthsman project: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Cllr Imrie and possible lengthsman.

Devon County Council Highways will not replace **missing finger posts** on minor routes, so it will have to be a self help project.

South West Highways have been seen dumping **contaminated road scrapings** in the layby west of Whiddon Down. The Clerk will photograph the heaps, and contact West Devon Borough Council (fly tipping) the Environment Agency (contaminated waste) and Devon county Council (they contract SW Highways).

030/16 PLANNING

Decisions received: None

Applications: None

Further planning matters:

Advertising sign at Whiddon Down for Chagford restaurant, the Clerk has contacted Devon County Council's Highways who agree this sign is unauthorised and a possible driver distraction. They will follow up when their schedule allows.

The Drewe Arms' advertising easel has been removed from the grass triangle.

031/16 FINANCE;

a) Payments to be made in March 2016

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

Ms B Snook – Salary - £379.24

Ms B Snook - general expenses - deferred to next month

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning - £80.00

Drewsteignton Village Hall - Hall hire - £10.00

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

South West Water - Playing field tap - £11.21

Cllr Savage - travel expenses - £9.00

b) **Income from honesty boxes** - (car park £26.92) (WCs £6.24) Total £33.16

c) **Other financial matters:** through prudent management the financial position at the year end is comfortable, and Cllrs agreed to trial the lengthman project for 1 year. The budget cuts being made by Devon County Council means more road and verge maintenance will fall to Parish Councils.

Cllrs agreed that we should remain opted in to the current **external auditor** provision for the next financial year. The **Playing field** committee have gained a grant of £4,800.00 from Dartmoor National Park's Community Fund, towards a major new piece of play equipment. This Council will support the committee with some administration to comply with the conditions imposed.

032/15 General correspondence:

Agenda letters: West Devon Borough Council are consulting regarding the future of **waste collection**. The very short time window does not allow for promotion in the Parish Post. The Clerk has sent the link to Cllrs.

North Devon Wind Energy Development Policy Consultation, the area concerned nearest our parish is over 10 miles away so Cllrs agreed no response was needed.

Sandy Park **notice-board**, needs renovation, Clerk to get estimates.

Playing field trees at risk, Cllr Savage has a contact who will do the job for the logs, and no money. Clerk to arrange with the playing field team to mark the trees concerned.

LATE LETTERS: The grant towards the **Chapel Hill bollards** has not yet arrived. Clerk to chase grant and progress with DCC Highways.

The **Superfast Broadband** project is progressing well with planning permission for masts in other parishes submitted to Dartmoor National Park.

033/16 Delegates Reports: Cllr Savage attended an **Eastern Links** meeting, and said that there is £1389.00 of Town & Parish grant fund unspent, they hope to carry it forward to next year. The Tour of Britain cycle race is passing through this area again this year, a good opportunity local businesses to benefit with potential additional income from spectators. The annual crime figures are up 32% in the Eastern Links area, mainly thefts from outbuildings. Another Parish Council warned of fraudulent applications at the Land Registry, and recommended that we all check our Council owned lands are properly registered. Clerk to carry out this check.

Cllr Hester reported from the **Throwleigh School Trust:** the monies have been received from the sale of the building, and are being invested. When some interest has been earned the Trust will welcome applications from young people of the 4 parishes concerned for modest funding to help further their education. A schedule of meetings has been arranged.

034/16 Comments on information circulated – None

035/16 Future agenda items - road safety on A382, daffodils, playing field signs

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING –Monday 18 April 2016 at Drewsteignton and the **Annual Parish Meeting at Whiddon Down on Monday 25 April** at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.47 pm.