

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Whiddon Down Village Hall
On
Monday 18 January 2016 at 7.30pm

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

001/16 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Unanimous approval of the minutes for Ordinary meeting held on Monday 14 December 2015

002/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None stated

003/16 MATTERS ARISING:

Council owned **benches**: Volunteers are waiting until spring to carry out this work.

Churchyard lamp post: repair works have started. The lamp post is now straight and secure, replacement bolts will be installed shortly, these need a blacksmith, and the painting has been done. Thanks to DNPA volunteer rangers.

Barn Close open space, Whiddon Down: The Chairwoman Cllr Imrie has met Dee Douglas and this council are pleased that Dee has such strong community spirit. The residents group have been put in direct contact with Alison Chapman (Chair of Drewsteignton Parish Council Playing Field Committee) for advice on progressing the project. Dee has also been clearing gullies, overgrown verges and other gardening projects within Whiddon Down. This Council are concerned about Health & Safety issues and cannot be held liable for these works. Dee continues at her own risk.

Public WC's: Mike Rowe has installed and painted the barge boards, and replaced the guttering.

The **new website** is almost ready and Andy Parrott has trained the Clerk and Chairwoman on its facilities, the hand-over is planned for 25 January 2016.

The **car park** 'no camping' sign has not materialised, the Clerk will obtain some budget off the peg signs to ensure the legal position is clear to motorists. A natural deterrent may be planted to keep the sign secure from vandals. The **railings** are sound, but tatty. Tenders are invited for their upgrade to be carried out in the spring. The new bus stop at Whiddon Down has not appeared, Clerk to chase up Stagecoach, as the project seems to have stalled.

The new **expansion of Chagford** is likely to mean more traffic locally, this will need to be monitored when the development is ready for habitation.

The Devon Association of Local Councils **Foundation Award** scheme is still something this Council would like to achieve.

004/16 HIGHWAYS:

Whiddon Down link road: The works should be finished by 4.30 am Wednesday 20 January 2016. The planting will be done in the spring. The landscaping promised to help pedestrians access Hole Farm has also been done, and the Bonnie family have thanked RES and this Council for the support. The 'Access Only' signage is not yet in place. Clerk to follow up.

Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down; traffic calming measures; Devon County Cllr James McInnes' Locality fund has approved the request for £420.00 towards the bollards to be installed at the junction of Chapel Hill and Turnpike Road. The next step is being progressed by Cllr McInnes.

Whiddon Down **late school bus parent parking**; the police have sent a reply suggesting the danger is perceived only, but have offered a site visit. They say their presence would only have a positive effect at the time, and the dangerous and inconsiderate parking would continue. Exeter School have put an item in their regular newsletter about this problem, but parents have not taken up the offer to use the village hall car park. Now the junction by the pub is quieter Cllrs suggested the bus could drop off the handful of students by the village hall, to encourage safer parental parking. Clerk to contact police for a site visit, and to request that the school repeat the message to parents.

Road repairs needed; the **Whiddon Down roundabout** repairs have been scheduled for the nights of 11-13 Feb with a major detour route shown. A map will be publicised.

Road scrapings have been dumped in the Whiddon Down lay by opposite Dartmoor View Caravan park. Cllr Savage asked that the Environment agency is contacted about this, and to get clarification on definitions of waste, contamination, licensed dumping sites etc.

005/16 PLANNING

Decisions received: DNPA 0535/15 8 Stonelands, Crockernwell, a revised application has been approved.

Applications: None

Further planning matters:

Advertising sign on Venton straight, Cllrs are not satisfied with the reduced signage, Clk to contact DNPA to re-iterate the concerns raised.

Advertising sign at Whiddon Down for Chagford restaurant. The owners have agreed to contact West Devon Borough Council to enquire about advertisement consent.

The advertising easel on the junction in Drewsteignton is still unauthorised. Cllr Brown to follow up again.

West Ford Farm's appeal re application DNPA 0635/14 (Appeal ref W/15/3022971) has been dismissed. Nick Savin (DNPA Enforcement Officer) will follow up with a site visit to ensure the unauthorised works are removed.

006/16 FINANCE;

a) Payments to be made in January 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 - deferred to next month £0000

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning - £73.50

Mr Mike Rowe- WC upgrade barge boards - £25.00

Drewsteignton Village Hall - Hall hire - £10.00

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

EDF - WC electricity - £58.24

South West Water - playing field tap - £13.53

Andrew Parrott - new website - £780.00 (cheque to be released when the website goes live successfully)

b) **Grant income** from Devon County Cllr James McInnes' Locality fund towards Chapel Hill traffic calming project £420.00

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

d) **Budget planning and Precept Request** paperwork: The Clerk has had only 1 salary increase in 4 1/2 years and requested that this be reviewed. Cllr Savage suggested taking expert advice from Devon Association of Local Councils, but Cllrs agreed that an increase was due, partly as the clerk will be updating the new website, a new aspect to the role. Other aspects of the budget for the forthcoming financial year were discussed. Through some years of prudent financial management the Council has a modest surplus part of which will be used for overdue maintenance, on the WCs, notice boards and car park railings.

Cllrs will also consider a part time lengthman, liasing with Chagford PC.

The precept request will remain the same as the last 2 years at £13825.00. The Band D equivalent is £37.21, per annum, per household. The paperwork was completed and signed by the Chairwoman and Clerk.

e) Employer **Pension** requirements: the Clerk has registered this Council with the Pensions Regulator as an employer and received some information from them saying that the starting salary level requiring pension provision is £833 monthly, so the Council are **not liable** for pension provision in the current circumstances.

007/15 General correspondence:

Agenda letters:

West Devon Borough Council have sent a nomination form for the **Mayoral Awards**. Cllrs agreed that Alison Chapman should be nominated for her community work.

Various opportunities are available this year to celebrate the **Queen's birthday**: beacons (or bonfires) can be lit, on 21 April or other date to suit (there are 2 historical beacon sites in the parish), there is also a Patrons lunch in London, in June. Other local events can register with www.lordlieutenantofdevon.org.uk and the themes suggested are charity, celebration and community. The Clerk will approach the Playing Field committee Chairwoman about organising a beacon bonfire in the Parish Council playing field, to be lit on 21 April as a community evening event.

LATE LETTERS:

Stuart MacDonald has again contacted this Council about **parking in Crockernwell** saying that the Methodist Chapel would not agree to residential parking in their car park. Joy Taylor has also written complaining about dangerous **parking in Drewsteignton** near the bend in the village centre. Cllrs agreed there was little more they can do about these problems and suggest that Joy Taylor contacts the police.

008/16 The 2016 Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday **25 April 7.30pm** at Whiddon Down village hall.

009/16 Delegates Reports: Cllr Hardie has an update from Whiddon Down village hall, they are having roof problems, which are under investigation, and are getting their car park potholes filled by the RES link road contractors.

Cllr Brown still needs to attend New Cllr Training provided by Devon Association of Local Councils.

010/16 Comments on information circulated – None

011/16 Future agenda items –

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING – **Monday 15 February 2016** at Drewsteignton

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.26 pm.

