

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING
Of
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Drewsteignton Village Hall
On
Monday 18th February 2008

Present: Cllrs Ridgers (Chair), Savage (Vice), Dyke, Power, Mudge, Hardie, Hester and the Clerk

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Gosnay and Chadney

In attendance: Mr J Packer and 11 members of the public

ACTION

16.08 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Cllr Savage stated that he was unhappy with the detail included within these minutes. He felt that all the accusations made at the meeting in connection with the Highways issue at Venton should have been listed. Cllr Ridgers and the Clerk confirmed that advice had been sought from the Devon Association of Parish Councils, who advised against including anything within the minutes of which the true facts had not been determined and could lead the Parish Council being sued for slander. The Chair confirmed that the meeting could not proceed without the minutes being approved or amended.

Cllr. Hester proposed and Cllr.Hardie seconded, the Minutes of 21st January 2008 and these were signed by the Chair as a true record, with no amendment. Cllr Savage was against the recording of these minutes.

17.08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Savage declared a prejudicial interest in the Venton matter, with Cllr Power declaring a personal interest in Venton as she lives within the hamlet.

18.08 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr Ridgers welcomed several members of the public were present in respect of the Venton Highways issue raised at the previous meeting. (5.08 refers) Cllr Savage left the room at 7.50pm. Mr Ken Drew was invited to speak in respect of the various allegations previously made against him. Dr Hall also spoke in response to the issues raised, stating that the residents who spoke at the 21st January 2008 meeting were not speaking on behalf of all of the residents of Venton. Cllr Ridgers confirmed that several letters had been received in support of the business run by Drew and Sons. Cllr Gosnay had also e-mailed a report of a recent visit to Venton. Cllr Ridgers proposed that copies of this correspondence should be sent to WDBC and DNPA for their information. Cllr Mudge seconded this proposal. Cllr Ridgers stated that he hoped the residents of Venton were now able to resolve their differences. Cllr Savage returned to the room at 8.01pm. Cllr Hester confirmed he had made contact with South Tawton Parish Council in respect of their Parish Plan.

Clerk

19.08 JOHN PACKER - WDBC - AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cllr Ridgers welcomed Mr John Packer from West Devon Borough Council. Mr Packer explained that of the 2 surveys undertaken in Drewsteignton Parish it would appear that there were 10 people with housing needs. 5 new houses had recently been offered for occupation at Whiddon Down, however, somewhat disappointingly; only 3 were let to people within Drewsteignton Parish. 2 of the houses were let to people outside the parish. Mr Packer asked Cllrs why the thought this was. It was the general consensus of opinion that this was because residents were afraid to put their name forward for Whiddon Down, knowing there was a chance of houses being built in Drewsteignton. Cllrs agreed that if the houses had been built in Drewsteignton first there would not have been a problem letting all the Whiddon Down houses to Drewsteignton Parish residents. Mr Packer explained that the section 106 money amounted to £120,000 and had to be repaid in 2012 by WDBC with interest if the houses in Drewsteignton Village were not built.

Mr Packer stated that he will get a housing association to look at the Lamb Park site to see what could be developed. He then suggested that he would return to a future Parish Council meeting, when the results of the Parish Plan have been received to decide the way forward.

Cllr Ridgers thanked Mr Packer for attending.

20.08 HIGHWAYS

Potholes, in Drewsteignton Village Square, Northdown and Preston were reported. Clerk to notify the Highways Authority.

Clerk

Cllr Savage confirmed that he had spoken to PC Nadine Wilson, who had informed him that the

traffic division were monitoring speeds along local roads and the Turnpike turning.

ACTION

Cllr Dyke reported problems with a sign on the junction past the Little Chef towards Okehampton, being too high for Tractors and other high vehicles being able to see clearly when pulling out having come over the bridge onto the road. Clerk to report to the relevant authority.

21.08 PLANNING

DNPA 0036/08 Higher Fingle Rushford House Crockernwell. This application was in respect of construction of a timber shed for storage of agricultural equipment. Cllrs agreed to make no comment for this application.

DNPA 0034/08 Bailiff's Cottage Furlong Sandy Park. This application was in respect of change of use and refurbishment of old coach house from workshop to a one bedroom holiday flat .Cllrs agreed to support this application for the preservation of this building.

WDBC 11428/2008/OKE Flood Cottage Drewsteignton. This application was for a 2 storey side extension, rear lean to extension and re-roof with water reed thatch with wheat reed ridge.Cllrs agreed to make no comment in this case.

Clerk to advise all authorities concerned.

Clerk

Planning Decisions received as follows;

0944/07 Erection of dwelling at Golden Lion House Crockernwell - refused

0859/07 Erection of dwelling at Barley Meadow Caravan Park – granted

Cllrs requested the clerk to write to DNPA for advice in respect of the Horsebox which is still in situ at Venton.

Clerk

Cllr Hester had received reports from a member of the public that it would appear that there might be someone living in a caravan at Martins Park. Cllr Dyke also reported large banners had appeared outside Dartmoor View Caravan Park. Clerk advised to contact the relevant authorities.

Clerk

22.08 FINANCE.

a) Proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr.Dyke, the following payments were authorised :

Mrs. J Bowden - Salary	£291.66	
Mrs. J Bowden - Expenses	£14.83	
SWWA – Drewsteignton WC's	£103.31	Clerk
SWWA- Lamb Park Trough	£9.14	
Mrs B Lunt – Parish Plan Expenses	£122.27	
M.J. Rowe - Toilet Cleaning	£73.50	
Southern Electric – Repairs to Lighting Unite re Clock	£74.44	
Drewsteignton Village Hall	£8.00	
WDBC- Council Tax re Toilet	£39.00	

Clerk

23.08 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

a) WDBC letter 22/1/08 in respect of future training and change of rules for complaints against Cllrs. Clerk to enquire into the possibility of a training course for Cllrs to be held of an evening or weekend.

Cllr Power

b) WDBC Local Development Framework – placed in circulation pack.

c) WDBC- The sixth Annual West Devon Mayoral Awards. Cllr Power suggested Mrs Jane Cox for all her hard work in the past. Cllr Power to make the necessary nomination.

d) Audit Commission – Notification of appointment of external Auditor – Placed in Circulation Pack

e) Mr and Mrs J Bonnett – letter in respect of dangerous walk for their children along the road beside C J Saunders to Whiddon Down. Following various discussions Cllrs requested the Clerk reply to Mr and Mrs Bonnet suggesting they write to the Schools Authority asking for possibility of the school bus re routing in order to collect the children from a safer location and confirming that this piece of road would continue to appear of the Council's agenda until a solution could be found to the problem.

f) Late Letters received from WDBC re Ethical Governance dated 14/2/08. Also letter from MDDC in respect of supplementary planning document 8.2.08. Both placed in circulation pack.

23.08 DELEGATES REPORTS

Cllr savage and Cllr Mudge recently attended a playing fields committee meeting. They are planning a St Georges Day Social 25 April and there AGM is 29 April. Cllr Savage had also made the committee aware of funding available via Cllr McInnes.

The next Eastern Parish Links meeting is 6th March at Whiddon Down, chaired by Cllr Savage.

Cllr Savage requested that the letter in last months circulation pack re government funding be sent to Brenda Lunt for summary and inclusion on the Parish Post.

Clerk

Cllr Savage also suggested that 'The Parish Councillors Guide' new edition book be purchased.

Clerk confirmed that this book had been placed in circulation pack for the first few months. Clerk to order the new edition.

24.08 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Drewsteignton Toilets - Mr A Thomas to be invited to attend.

Parish Plan

Comments on papers circulated

25.08 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 17th March 2008 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Vice Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.21pm