

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
DREWSTEIGTON HELD ON MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2008 AT 7.30PM AT
CASTLE DROGO DREWSTEIGTON

Present: Cllrs Ridgers (Chair), Savage (Vice), Power, Mudge, Hardie, Hester, Chadney, Gosnay, Dyke and the Clerk.
Cllr James McInnes (DCC) Mr D Bailey (National Trust) and 22 Parishioners, including representatives of local organisations.

Apologies: Mrs J Hocking, Mrs P Allen, Mr M Hall and Miss M Smith

The Chairman of the PC welcomed all present and thanked Mr D Bailey and the National Trust for hosting the Drewsteigton Parish Annual meeting at the Castle.

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2007 had been made available to those present and, after a proposal from Cllr Savage, seconded by Cllr Chadney, were signed by the Chair as a true record.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The current Chairman Cllr Paul Ridgers introduced the Cllrs and the wards they represented and pointed out that there were only two Cllrs remaining from the previous Council. In 2007/08 the council has been active. The Gypsies and travellers situation has been stabilised. The car park is up and running smoothly. Planning – there has been a high level of applications – which the volunteer Cllrs have continued to inspect. Few parish councils do this. Creating a parish website. More recently a submission to the Boundary commission on the future shape of local government. The Parish Council has the ability to communicate its news via the Parish Post and thanks Brenda Lunt for all her hard work and the team of volunteers who help distribute. This year has also seen the inception of the Village Hall committee, with special thanks to Tony Thomas and his team who have contributed enormously to this project. The Parish council is committed to supporting the Parish rooms committee in the continuing activity. The Parish Council continue to manage the parish's affairs prudently with the local parish precept rising by 4.5%. Although time demanding Cllr Ridgers said it had been a pleasure taking the chair this year but he will be standing down at the May AGM meeting as Chairman.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk made available copies of audited accounts for the year 2006/07, giving details of receipts obtained and the breakdown of expenditure within the various cost centres of the council.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr James McInnes gave his report on the Devon County Council budget for the forthcoming year, together with an update on the highways issues within the county. He also gave a report on the Boundary Committee being asked to look at alternative unitary proposals for Exeter city area and the remaining Devon County area.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Paul Ridgers presented a report on the Borough Council Budget for the next year and changes that will be taking place.

DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

WPC Nadine Wilson presented a report on behalf of the Constabulary. She introduced Police Community Support Officer Lee Walker who assists her within the Parish. She requested that the public let her have details of any public events taking place as they will do their best to attend. They will be attending Teignton Fayre again this year.

DNPA SIMON LEE

Simon Lee gave his report on the past year. All rights of way have been surveyed with the help of Sarah and Simon Eakins and any problems noted. This year will hopefully see the problem of flooding at footpath 2 near Budbrooke being resolved. Various gates and stiles have been replaced. The National Park has recently entered into an access agreement with the landowner of 2 large coniferous plantations south of the river Teign. This means that you can now walk from Steps Bridge to Clifford Bridge and down the other side.

DREWSTEIGNTON VILLAGE HALL

Mr Tony Thomas gave an update on the charitable status of the Village Hall which has not yet been granted but is imminent due to the Inland Revenue lethargy! He thanked various people for their help to complete the formalities. The next objectives are to raise funds to update the Hall. Mr Tony Thomas requested Parishioners to continue to use the Hall as much and as frequently as possible.

CHAGFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report was received from the Chair of Governors. The School roll is stable and projections for the next two years show a possible increase to around 145. The number of pupils is linked directly to the income for the school and every effort is being made to maintain the roll to at least its present levels.

GARDENERS CLUB

Mr Philip Evans submitted a report on the work of the Gardeners Club. The Club enjoyed another successful year, with various meetings, trips and shows. The Club continues to maintain the public garden. A very enjoyable year.

BRITISH LEGION (WOMENS SECTION)

Angela Thomas presented a report from Miss Marjorie Smith. Eleven members have worked hard supporting the Benevolent Fund with various fund raising events having taken place.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Angela Thomas presented a report from Miss Marjorie Smith. The magnificent seven as they are often called, are fighting to keep the Post Office and Shop open. All Councils will be expected to support the WI's needs as it is a life line for the current President.

PARISH LANDS NON-ECCLESIASTICAL CHARITY

Mrs Angela Thomas reported that the bungalows at Fox Close remain in good state of repair and the gardens as always beautifully maintained. There has been a change in Tenant for number 2. A list of Trustees is in the Church Porch and the audited accounts are available to anyone who wishes to view them.

DREWSTEIGNTON PLAYING FIELDS

Mr Simon Eakins gave a report on behalf of the Playing Fields committee. Various fund raising events took place during the year and a total of £1024 has been raised so far this year. A maintenance day was held in June with a group of people helping. Thanks were made to those who help maintain the playing fields on a regular basis.

1st DREWSTEIGNTON /CHAGFORD SCOUTS

Another great year with 11 Cubs and 14 Scouts. The Scouts are now up and running very successfully. They are hoping to have an explorers club up and running by the end of the year. They will be helping at Chagford's Tinnors Fayre in May and at this year Teignton Fayre.

TEIGNTON FAYRE

Mr Adrian Bowden gave a report on behalf of Teignton Fayre. A total of £2,000 had been donated to Exeter and District Kidney Patients Association and a further £1,938 had been given to the Drewsteignton Village Hall committee towards the legal fees in respect of the recent transfer. This years Fayre is to be held on 7th June, with a live band.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Mr Tom Martineau gave reported on the Church year. Thanks were passed to Mr Tony Thomas for all his hard work in dealing with the paperwork in respect of the transfer of the Church Rooms to the new Village Hall committee. The restoration of the windows is now complete and the roof restoration is coming on well

Cllr Paul Ridgers thanked all organisations for their reports and commented on the number of local organisations existing in a relatively small community. Cllr Ridgers then introduced Mr David Bailey Property Manager of Castle Drogo who gave a report on Castle Drogo. 113,000 visitors passed through the gates last year which was approximately 3,000 visitors up on the previous year. 2,000 visitors came in the half term in February which took the Castle by surprise and they will be looking at the opening times for future years. 2008/09 will hopefully see an investment in the Tea Rooms by the Car Park, with the closure of the Tea Rooms in the Castle.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.41pm