

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Drewsteignton Village Hall
On
Monday 19 August 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Savage (Chairman) Walker, Power, Imrie, Riches, Hardie, Hester, Dyke and the Clerk.
Apologies Cllr Ridgers
In attendance 1 member of the public

106/13 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cllr Hardie proposed and Cllr Power seconded approval of the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15 July 2013.

107/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded the Cllrs present of the need to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in respect of any items included on the Agenda. Cllr Savage said the applicant for the planning applications DNPA 0398/13 & DNPA 0399/13 is a customer of Cllr Savage's wife's business.

108/13 MATTERS ARISING

A site visit to **Chapel Hill**, Whiddon Down took place with Cllr Hester, Steve Dawe (Neighbourhood Highways Officer), James Anstee (Devon County Council Highways Design) and DCC Cllr James McInnes on Tuesday 30 July, to investigate the options for traffic calming. The first requirement is to count the traffic technically. Clerk to ask Steve Dawe how these figures will be interpreted allowing for the legal traffic accessing Barn Close etc. Also suggested was an extension of the footpath from the end of Barn close, right round to the main road past the Methodist Chapel, incorporating a protrusion to slow down traffic. The Highways team will bid for this in next years funding as it is a safety issue.

There is no report from Devon County Council on the **Travellers Site**. The site appears to be empty, this would be an ideal time for the landowner to enhance security measures. (Cllr Walker)

The sale of the **Throwleigh Centre** is progressing.

The police have been unable to trace a culprit for the criminal damage to the **bus shelters at Whiddon Down**, the case is now files pending any new evidence. The future decoration of the bus shelters was discussed. Clerk to obtain quotes, and technical information.

The **sale of the Fingle Woods** to the Woodland Trust and National Trust made the national TV news. The Woodland Trust will look after the trees, gradually felling the conifers and allowing the native broadleaf trees to regenerate. The National Trust will look after the access points. A question and answer sheet is available. The shoot will continue for this coming winter only.

Weed-killing in Drewsteignton, Mr Dines has updated the council on his progress, and Cllrs agreed on the basis of a response for the Clerk to compile and send.

109/13 PLANNING

Decisions received;

DNPA 0262/13 – refused

DNPA 0221/13 – granted

DNPA 0194/13 – granted

DNPA 0212/13 - granted

Applications;

DNPA 0398/13 & DNPA 0399/13 to demolish and rebuild the kitchen extension and convert the garage to accommodation at **Hillside House**, Drewsteignton.

It should be noted that the applicant has acted as internal auditor for the Parish Council on a voluntary basis. Cllrs carried out a site visit on 17 August. The applicant spoke to the meeting and explained that the house is Grade II listed and in a conservation area. The current kitchen is small and in poor condition. The applicant's personal circumstances make the garage conversion necessary. The outside appearance will not change. Cllrs discussed this thoroughly, and voted **NEUTRAL VIEW X 2 & SUPPORT X 6**, citing Planning policy COR 1, the proposal is not harmful to the National Park, COR 2, it is a householder development, COR 4, the scale and layout is sympathetic to the listed building. There is also a housing need for the conversion of the garage for a disabled person and their carer. Clerk to respond to the authority. The applicant left the meeting.

Parish Council Planning Policy

This discussion was to clarify the Council's planning policy.

Site visits help inform Councillors of the proposal.

It was agreed that each application should be taken on individual merit.

All the response detail must be agreed at the meeting.

If it is difficult to find suitable policy to quote in the response the authority will accept descriptive text.

110/13 HIGHWAYS:**Potholes & problems to be reported;**

Clifford to Preston, Couples Corner, Upperton
Woodbrook to Wallon

Wedesden Hill edges are failing (Higher Fingle to Veet Mill)

Also it was noted that on the old A30 from Crockernwell to Hooperton Cross the **double white lines** are not reinforced by 'throwing' arrows to direct the traffic back to it's own side of the carriage way.

The white lines at the junction of Chapel Hill and Turnpike Road are very faint.

The signage going up the hill at Sandy Park is overgrown.

Clerk to report to the relevant authorities.

111/13 FINANCE;**a) Payments to be made in August 2013.**

Cllr Power proposed and Cllr Dyke seconded the following payments to be made;

Ms B Snook – Salary & general expenses - £395.99

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning - £73.50

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

Whiddon Down Village Hall – hall hire - £10.00

South West Water – playing field tap - £20.13

Grant Thornton – Audit fee - £120.00

(EDF – WC electricity - £152.76) Payment of this item has been deferred because the amount is much higher than usual and is being investigated.

b) **Income from honesty boxes** (car park £61.34) (toilets £34.74)

c) The **external auditors Grant Thornton** have approved and returned the paperwork. The summary has been on the notice-boards for the required time.

112/13 World War 1 memorial; with the centenary of the start of World War I next year Cllr Imrie had asked about a memorial for the victims of World War I. There is a war memorial on the back wall of the church.

113/13 General correspondence**Late letters;**

The Drewe Arms has had external lighting installed without the necessary permissions. Dartmoor National Park Authority are investigating, and will keep the Council informed of their progress.

West Devon Borough Council have received an application to list the **Drewe Arms as a Community Asset**. This means that the local community can be given six months to prepare a bid to buy a Community Asset ('The Community Right to Bid') on it coming up for sale on the open market. They also want to know what other community assets there are in the village. Clerk to respond noting the Village Hall, and shop/Post Office.

The police have sent some **speeding data**, with 34 mph recorded in Whiddon Down at around 11.00am.

Whiddon Down Cllrs pointed out that the problem was during the rush hour. Clerk to contact the police to make this point. Speed recording in Crockernwell showed that 85% of traffic was doing over 45pmph and this means safety cameras can be used here for enforcement.

The **water pump** at the corner of Knowle Lane has fallen over, due to rotted timbers. The pump needs to be removed for safekeeping. Clerk to get quotes for the repair works.

Agenda letters;

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have written to thank the Parish for the congratulation sent on the birth of their son Prince George.

Castle Drogo have invited the Council to hold a meeting on the estate, however this is not suitable as it is not a public place. Clerk to respond.

114/13 Delegates Reports – Cllr Imrie has attended a playing field committee meeting. They are an active group and hope to hold a firework display in November, subject to insurance cover, including nearby thatched buildings. Cllr Imrie asked about future funding of their projects, and it was stated that the playing field should be self funding. Cllr Savage mentioned the Devon Association of Playing Fields as a useful tool. There is new volunteer cutting the grass, and the insurance needs to be checked for this. A copy of the Council insurance is to be sent to the Playing Field Chair Alison Chapman.

115/13 Comments on information circulated – None

116/13 Future agenda items – Whiddon Down speeding

117/13 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING – **Monday 9 September 2013 at Whiddon Down**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.37 pm