

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF  
DREWSTEIGNTON PARISH COUNCIL  
Whiddon Down Village Hall  
On  
Monday 20 March 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Imrie (Chair), Savage (Vice Chairman) Hardie, Hester, Hunt, Ridgers & Brooks and the Clerk.  
Apologies None  
In attendance Ten members of the public

**021/17 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

The approval of the minutes for the Ordinary Meeting 20 February 2017 was deferred to the next meeting.

**022/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None declared

**023/17 MATTERS ARISING:**

**WC exterior works**, Cllrs agreed to accept the quote submitted by Julian Mesling. Clerk to contact him. Greenspace have sent an estimate of £3500 for an **information board**. Cllrs felt this was expensive. Clerk to seek some non local suppliers to quote, using the advert section of the Clerks & Councils newsletter. The **Sandy Park Inn** sale appears imminent. The Sandy Park Community Association have asked West Devon Borough Council to defer their consideration on the pub's registration as a Community Asset until 4 April 2017.

The new **Parish Council Awards** were discussed and Cllrs agreed the most deserving recipient, to be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Imrie has prepared a sample certificate which Cllrs approved. Cllr Hunt & the Clerk have done some work on enlivening the **website content**, including a message to go out to all local businesses and organisations highlighting the opportunity to promote themselves.

**024/17 HIGHWAYS:**

**Unauthorised signs:** Following feedback from a resident the unauthorised signage policy has been amended and will be published, locally and in the Whiddon Parishes magazine.

Darryl Jagger (Neighbourhood Highways Officer) has said that the data from the **speeding surveys** requested by this Council are not yet available, and a Freedom of Information request may be required. The Clerk has submitted such a request.

The Speed Compliance Action Review Forum (SCARF) meeting was brought forward and made no positive progress regarding road safety in our Parish. They hope to have more information to consider at the next SCARF meeting in May 2017.

South West Highways will no longer be **maintaining our local roads**, or making up road signs in Devon. The new road repair contract has gone to Skanska.

The lengthsman has been given the go ahead to start the **local direction sign improvement project**, Cllr Savage will purchase and prepare some posts for this work. The Clerk has completed & submitted an application for a **Communities Enhancement Fund** grant from Devon County Council to support this project. There has been no response to the Clerk's request for training for a **volunteer road warden** from Devon County Council Highways department. We now understand they only offer training during the summer months. Clerk to re-issue the request.

**025/17 PLANNING**

**Decisions received:**

**DNPA 17/0016** Tree work request at Ardonay Cottage, Drewsteignton - **approved**

**DNPA 0045 & 0046/17** Pay & display machines & signage at Castle Drogo, Drewsteignton - **approved**

**Applications:**

**DNPA 0100/17** Replacement extension at the **Old Smithy, Sandy Park**, Cllrs made a site visit, and agreed to **SUPPORT** the application as a householder development, the proposal will enhance the main house, removing an unsympathetic previous addition, and have no detrimental effect on the National Park.

**DNPA 0103 & 0104/17** Alterations & renovations at **8 Stonelands, Crockernwell**. Cllrs have previously visited this property, and voted to **SUPPORT** the application as it is sympathetic to neighbouring houses, is not harmful to the Conservation Area or National Park and is a householder development.

**DNPA 0108/17** Soil pipe at **Middle Venton Farm, Venton**. Cllrs have previously visited this property and voted to **SUPPORT** this proposal as it is a great improvement on the existing arrangement.

**DNPA 0131/17** Hinge on shippon door at **Middle Venton Farm, Venton**. Cllrs have previously visited this

property and voted to **SUPPORT** this application as will have no detrimental effect on the overall presentation of the building.

**Further planning matters:** None

**026/17 FINANCE;**

**a) Payments to be made in March 2017**

Cllr Hardie proposed and Cllr Hester seconded the following payments to be made;

Ms B Snook – Clerk's Salary - £398.99

Ms B Snook - general expenses - 2 months £27.50

Mr M Rowe – WC cleaning & materials - £80.00

Whiddon Down Village Hall - Hall hire - £10.00

Parish Mag Printers – magazine print - £74.00

**b. Income in:**

\* Income from honesty boxes - Car Park £12.93      WC: £9.97      TOTAL: £19.90

c) **Other financial matters:** The Town & Parish **funding application has been approved** gaining £1106 towards our expenses maintaining local roads.

Cllr Savage asked for clarification as to why, (when our budget had remained the same), the Precept request made to West Devon Borough Council has **increased by 0.3%**. This is because the portion of Parish funding from central government called the Council Tax Support Grant is gradually being reduced, hence the small increase in the amount from WDBC.

**027/17 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Agenda Correspondence:** Residents of **Lamb Park, Drewsteignton**, have contacted this Council regarding a tenant and his dog who are causing distress to the local community. Nine residents attended this meeting to express their concerns. They have contacted the police, the RSPCA, the local housing association (DCH) and West Devon Borough Council's Environmental Health department. All these organisations have been unable to actively resolve the escalating problems.

The tenant has been away undergoing health treatment, leaving his dog in the care of absentee dog sitters. The dog is distressed and barks/howls day & night. The flat is dirty with dog waste and there has been criminal damage and theft associated with this situation. The dog has also bitten a local farmer who was trying to protect his young livestock. It appears that one persons unfortunate circumstances have been allowed to blight a whole neighbourhood. This situation had been deteriorating over several months and the residents are desperate for some support. Clerk to write to all the organisations requesting relevant and prompt action and reminding them of their duty to the general public.

Cllr Hester raised the possibility of getting a **defibrillator** for Whiddon Down, Cllr Imrie suggested contacting Sam Peirce as she was instrumental in getting & maintaining the kit at Drewsteignton.

**LATE LETTERS:**

The nomination of Dee Douglas for a **Mayoral Award** was unsuccessful.

**Cllr Hardie resigned** as he his moving to France, the Parish Council team all thank him for many years service and wish him well in his new life.

We are now down to 6 Cllrs so are **seeking 3 replacements**, please contact the Clerk, or any Cllr, if you would like to know more about the role.

After over 5 years service, the Clerk Bella Snook also announced her intention to resign, but she is willing to work on a structured hand-over to a replacement.

**028/17 Delegates Reports:** Cllr Savage reported from the **Eastern Links meeting**, regarding the future of highways maintenance, see above.

Cllr Hunt reported from the **playing fields** committee meeting, they now have 8 pieces of equipment and want to check the liability insurance is correct. They have a plan for improved car parking for the November bonfire night event.

**029/17 Comments on information circulated** – None

**030/17 Future agenda items** - Sandy Park notice-board, churchyard lamp-post,

**DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING –**

Ordinary Meeting **Tuesday 18 April 2017** at Drewsteignton at 7.30 pm

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY 24 APRIL AT DREWSTEIGNTON at 7.30 pm**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm