

# Drewsteignton Parish Council.

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.30pm in Whiddon Down Village Hall.

**Present:** Peter Brennan (Chair), Anna Imrie (Vice-Chair), Andrew di Battista, Julie Macey, Paul Ridgers, Ian Rowe, and John Redman

**Also in attendance:** 4 members of the public.

### BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

#### 1.2.23: Welcome.

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked the members of the public for attending.

#### 2.2.23 Apologies for absence:

Apologies received from the Clerk due to illness. Chair agreed to write the notes of the meeting.

#### 3.2.23: Declarations of Interest – None declared at this time.

#### 4.2.23: Public Speaking Time (max. 3minutes/person. Session time: 10 minutes).

The Public Speaking Time was extended to hear views and concerns regarding the Planning Inspectorate's decision to allow an appeal against the refusal of planning permission, for the development of a farm shop at the Whiddon Down A30 junction. The appeal (APP/Q1153/W/22/3309313) has been allowed, based on the appellant's claim the site is not of exceptional status. Cllr Ridgers noted that WDBC are investigating a legal counter, that would treat the appeal, as a vexatious action against the planning process. Members of the public argued the development was in open countryside and was contrary to the Local Plan. Concerns were also raised that local businesses, recovering from the impact of the pandemic, would be affected. Cllrs noted Highways had raised no objections, despite members of the public concerns regarding the poor design of the junction. Cllrs determined the location, at the edge of Dartmoor, is an exceptional site and therefore, development would have a negative impact. Cllrs agreed to include links to the Appeals Portal [acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk](http://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk) in the Parish Post.

Members of the public advised that an informal group was seeking to secure the future of the Drewe Arms. The group have agreed to form a Community Benefit Society and will shortly be publishing details of their plans. The group are happy to support the establishment of the pub as an Asset of Community Value and will provide information required by WDBC to initiate the process. Cllrs expressed their appreciation and encouraged the group to keep the PC informed of progress.

#### 5.2.23: To receive reports (if any) from County Cllr. McInnes & Borough Cllr Ridgers.

No reports received from County Cllr McInnes. Borough Cllr Ridgers advised that WDBC Council Tax increase would be 3%, in line with DCC.

#### 6.2.23: Planning (Chair):

- a) **New Planning Application: WDBC: [0029/23/FUL Change use of Plant Hire Depot to holiday accommodation \(one unit\) at Land adjacent to Martin Farm, Exeter Road, Whiddon Down](#) – Target determination date 14-03-23.**

Cllrs agreed to arrange a site visit and request an extension to the 14/03/23 determination date.

#### 7.2.23: Current & New Business

- a) **Finger post Survey – Cllrs to report on findings (Chair)**

Cllrs agreed to undertake a survey in their wards and report at next meeting.

- b) **Black Aller Quarry, Drewsteignton (Chair/ Cllr di Battista)**

To include discussion and resolution on the Councils official position.

Cllr di Battista provided an update on parishioner's actions to address the continued site clearance and habitat disturbance at Black Aller Quarry, Drewsteignton. MP Mel Stride had responded to

requests by stating the response of DNPA was poor. Formal complaints have been lodged with DNPA however, responses to date have been limited to acknowledging receipt. No update was available regarding parishioners' complaints to the RSPB, Devon Birds and the Wildlife Trust. Cllr Ridgers noted the WDBC EH Team will visit the site and report their observations. Cllr Brennan proposed that the Parish Clerk should write to DNPA of PC's objections to the habitat disturbance at the quarry, seconded Cllr di Battista. All in Favour – Motion Carried. (RR2022/060)

**8.2.23: Finance (Documents as Presented at the meeting) (Clerk)**

- a) To consider approval of the financial schedule. – Deferred due to Clerks absence.

**9.2.23 Clerk & Cllr Reports & items for future agendas: This is not for discussion/decisions.**

- a) **Chagford Show Community Fund** – Application deadline 28<sup>th</sup> February – Noted.  
b) Cllrs Imrie reported the loss of the Stone Lane Gardens brown tourist sign in Whiddon Down. Cllrs raised concerns, regarding the increased theft of signs in the countryside. Chair agreed to include a report in the Parish Post.  
c) Cllr Rowe advised DCC Highways are aware of a vehicle parked at Turnpike Road and are taking actions to restore full access.  
d) Cllr Rowe advised Whiddon Down Methodist Chapel has been sold.  
e) Cllr Ridgers advised that the Drewsteignton Community Store was now open.

**10.2.23: Confirmation of the next Council meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm at Whiddon Down Village Hall - Any changes will be posted on the Website.**

**11.2.23: Confidential matters (PART II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2)**

- a) **Resolution required to move the Council into Part II.**  
Cllr Brennan proposed that the Council move to Part II, seconded Cllr Redman. All in favour– Motion Carried. (RR2022/061).  
b) **To discuss Solicitors Quotes in relation to Drewsteignton Toilet Block lease and Deed of Surrender from Trustee of the Drewsteignton Playing Fields Association (Chair/Clerk)**  
*Contains commercially sensitive information.*  
c) **To discuss request from Cleaning contractor (Clerk)**  
*Contains commercially sensitive information.*  
d) **Chair to return the meeting to public session to hear resolutions.**  
**Item b):** Cllr Ridgers proposed that the Clerk to obtain new Quotations fees for the Parish Council to receive legal advice in relation to Drewsteignton Toilet Block lease and Deed of Surrender from Trustee of the Drewsteignton Playing Fields Association, seconded Cllr Macey. All in favour– Motion Carried. (RR2022/062).  
**Item c):** Cllr Brennan proposed the Approval of additional expenses totalling £64.19 from the cleaning contractor, seconded Cllr Redman. All in favour– Motion Carried. (RR2022/063).

There being no further business the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed: Cllr Peter Brennan Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023