

# Drewsteignton Parish Council.

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## **Draft Minutes for meeting of Drewsteignton Council that took place on Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.30pm at Whiddon Down Village Hall.**

**Present**, Peter Brennan, Andrew Di Battista, Anna Imrie, and Julie Macey.

**Also present**, Lou Butler (clerk) County Cllr. McInnes & Borough Cllr Guthrie plus one member of the public.

### **Business Transacted**

#### **1.1.24: Welcome.**

Chair opened the meeting & reminded everyone that an audio recording maybe taken to aid with taking the minutes, the recording will be deleted once the minutes are drafted.

#### **2.1.24 Co-option Vacancy – Crockernwell (Chair)**

Chair reminded council of the position still available for the Crockernwell ward.

#### **3.1.24 Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Rowe gave his apologies at the previous meeting due to a foreign holiday.

Cllr Ridges gave his apologies before the meeting with illness.

Cllrs Redman and Bennie had work commitments.

#### **4.1.24: Minutes of the Last Meetings. [Draft Minutes available on the website.](#)**

Cllrs considered the approval of Minutes of the meetings held 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 They were agreed to an accurate record of the previous meeting. [Cllr Di Battista proposed and Cllr Macey seconded this, all in favour. Motion carried RR2024/01](#)

#### **5.1.24: Declarations of Interest.**

Cllrs were invited to declare any interests they may have in items on this agenda, including the nature of the interest. Cllrs were reminded of their responsibility to keep their Register of Interests updated. Cllr Imrie declared a personal interest in item 8.1.24 (d) unofficial signage in Whiddon Down. Therefore, they would abstain from discussion.

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

An update was given to the council by a parishioner who had attended the November meeting and spoken about the plethora of unofficial signage in Whiddon Down. The parishioner informed the council that the signs had been removed and were being stored until the owners requested them back. It was noted that the majority of signs were for expired events or developments outside of the Parish and unlikely to be required again. The Chair reminded the council that unofficial signage is permitted by DCC however, signs should be erected 48 hours before an event, and removed promptly afterwards. Following discussion, Cllrs agreed to restore the small brown directional signs installed by Stone Lanes Gardens, and the parishioner agreed to do this. Cllr's noted the directional signs did not fully comply with DCC guidance and therefore, could be reported and removed by Highways.

#### **7.1.24: To receive reports (if any) from County Cllr. McInnes & Borough Cllr Guthrie.**

Cllrs McInnes and Guthrie both attended the meeting.

County Cllr McInnes took the floor first with his update on the latest county council news. He provided a detailed report on the efforts of DCC to reduce the budget deficit in 2023 and the expectation of a 2.99% council tax increase in 2024. Funding for adult care, child services and highways would be increased however, mobile library and other services would be cut. He also reminded everyone that we need to report potholes on the [DCC website](#). Borough Cllr Steve Guthrie also attended the meeting and shared WDBC's priorities for 2024 – affordable housing and tackling the climate emergency.

#### **8.1.24: Highway Matters**

- a) Clerk updated Cllrs on positive feedback from Dartmoor national park with regards to setting up a 30mph speed limit through Drewsteignton. Clerk will action request to Devon highways with the support of county Cllr McInnes.
- b) Chair requested that Cllrs photograph finger posts that need attention, so highways could repair them.
- c) Clerk gave details of road closure due to happen in the parish on the 22/01/24 from Sandy Park to Combe.
- d) Unofficial signage was covered in section 6.1.24 and therefore was not revisited at this time.

#### **9.1.24: Current & New Business**

- a) The budget for 2024/2025 was discussed with this year's precept being set at £12,000. Which is equal to last year. [Cllr Brennan proposed the precept and Cllr Di Battista seconded. All in favour. Motion carried. RR2024/02](#)
- b) Chair made the council aware that they are now in a position to put a defibrillator at Sandy Park. After speaking with BT, the phone box has been suggested as the location for this. Cllr Brennan would like to engage with parishioners to see if the loss of the public telephone would be acceptable, to house this life saving equipment.
- c) Cllrs were reminded to encourage the use of the Ashburton outreach post office, which is located outside the Drew arms every Wednesday between 12.00-13.30
- d) Clerk forwarded link to the museum of Dartmoor life survey, which she had completed that day. The survey was a public consultation for future ventures for the museum.

#### **10.1.24: Finance and Consideration for approval of purchases.**

- a) Retrospective approval of 4 new toilet seats for the Drewsteignton WC. [Cllr Brennan proposed the payment of £118.08 PM24063 Cllr Di Battista seconded. All in favour. Motion carried RR2024/03](#)
- b) Payment of parish Lengthsman for previous year and discussion of new quote for 2024/2025 Cllrs were happy with the work carried out in the previous year. They also accepted the added workload for maintenance of the footpath next to "Dee's roundabout" in Whiddon down. [Cllr Brennan proposed payment of invoice and acceptance of new quote, but asked the clerk to discuss extra duties within the playing field. Cllr Di Battista seconded all in favour. Motion carried. RR2024/04](#)
- c) Cllrs approved the budget at section 9.1.24

- d) Financial schedule was produced for the meeting with payments for January. Cllr Brennan proposed the Schedule and Cllr Di Battista seconded. All in favour. Motion carried. RR2024/05

**11.1.24: Confirmation of the next Council meeting was made by chair: Monday 19th February 2024 at 7.30pm at Whiddon Down Village Hall - Any changes will be posted on the Website.**

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

- a) Cllr Brennan proposed to move the meeting to part 2 seconded by Cllr Macey. All in favour. Motion carried RR2024/06 clerk left the room.
- b) Cllrs discussed the appointment of the clerk on completion of her probationary period with Drewsteignton Parish council.
- c) Cllr Brennan returned the meeting to public session for conclusion. Cllr Brennan proposed that Cllrs were happy with the positive contribution that the new clerk had made in her transition and would like to offer them a contract of employment, with a funding provision for further training. Cllr Macey seconded. All in favour. Motion carried. RR2024/06

Chair closed the meeting.