

Drewsteignton Parish Council.

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www.drewsteigntonparish.co.uk.

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Minutes for meeting of Drewsteignton Parish Council that took place on Monday the 17th of February 2025 at 7.30pm at Whiddon Down Village Hall.

Present, Peter Brennan, Andrew Di Battista, Ian Rowe, John Redman, and Julie Macey.

Also present, Lou Butler(clerk) 1 member of the public.

Business Transacted

1.2.25: Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that an audio recording would be taken from item 1 on the agenda to aid note taking and would be deleted once the draft minutes had been written.

2.2.25 Current Vacancies.

Chair reminded the council of the current vacancy in the Crockernwell ward.

3.2.25: Apologies for absence:

Anna Imrie sent her apologies prior to the meeting for personal reasons, Sue Hember sent her apologies with Cllr Rowe as she had been delayed travelling home from overseas, and Laurance Bennie was unable to attend which was also reported to Cllr Rowe. [Cllr Redman proposed the acceptance of the apologies from the Cllrs and Cllr Rowe seconded. All in favour motion carried. RR25/11](#)

4.2.25: Minutes of the Last Meetings. Draft Minutes were made available on the website.

Cllr Rowe suggested two amendments to the draft minutes reviewed by the pc at the meeting, which he had communicated to the clerk prior to the meeting. Cllr Macey requested clarification on which village hall had been discussed at the previous meeting as it was unclear in the minutes. This was corrected on the minutes to state Whiddon Down village hall. [Cllr Brennan proposed these were now a true reflection of the January meeting and Cllr Di Battista seconded, all in favour motion carried RR25/12](#)

5.2.25: Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs were invited to declare any interests they may have in items on this agenda, including the nature of the interest. Cllr Brennan declared an interest in the planning item (b) Crockernwell methodist chapel, and Cllr Di Battista declared an interest in planning item (a) as he is the applicant's neighbour. Cllrs were reminded of their responsibility to keep their Register of Interests.

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

Michael O'Connor director of Squirrel design attended the meeting to discuss the appeal of planning permission in principle 0345/24 land west of Crockernwell. Mr O'Connor outlined the plans for the

space, which is currently home to 2 industrial units and a field/paddock. With the landowner looking to have permission for a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 residential units and live/work units a minimum of two and a maximum of five. Cllrs asked questions relating to the site and agreed to add it as an agenda item at the next meeting in March.

Clerk then raised an email that had been received in the last few days of behalf of a local resident in Sandy Park. The resident wanted to make the Cllr's aware of the closure of the Sandy Park inn. He requested that the council looked to have the public house protected by an ACV. Cllr Brennan asked the clerk to check the West Devon register as they felt that it would still be covered by the previous application in 2017.

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

No reports had been received.

8.2.25: Planning (DNPA unless otherwise stated) (Chair):

- a) 0046/25 Full Planning, Brierley, Drewsteignton, EX6 6RD. Demolition of two sheds, relocation of greenhouse and construction of shed with roof mounted solar panels. Expires 02-04-2025

Cllrs discussed that application and were all in agreement that the solar panels were not encroaching on neighbouring properties or of alien nature to the surrounding landscape. They would be used to generate electricity for a heat pump. Cllr Macey proposed a positive response to the planning application due to the positive environmental implications. Cllr Brennan seconded, with all in favour and one abstention. Motion carried RR25/13

- b) 0049/25, Full Planning, Methodist Church, Crockernwell, EX6 6NE. Change of use from D1 place of worship to C3 residential dwelling together with the erection of single storey rear extension and front porch. Expires 03-04-2025

Cllrs were reminded that this was a revisit to a previous application that had received 2 previous site visits and had been re submitted to planning after being withdrawn last year. The application had only improved from the previous application which the council supported, with addition of park requested amendments of rainwater capture and cladding of the front of the building. The footprint of the property hasn't been changed from the original proposal. Cllr Redman Proposed a positive response would be given, as the building is currently redundant in its current state. With the landowner also agreeing to the section 106 for affordable home in the village, which currently has none. Cllr Rowe seconded the positive response, with all in favour and one abstention. Motion carried RR25/14

9.2.25: Highway matters

- a) Speed survey results for Drewsteignton were forwarded to the council this month and are as follows.

Below is site 8118 (Drewsteignton West)

Direction	7-day average daily traffic flow	85 th percentile speed (mph)	Mean speed (mph)
Westbound	254	25.1	20.4
Eastbound	244	23.9	19.4
Both directions	499	24.5	19.9

Below is site 8119 (Drewsteignton East)

Direction	7-day average daily traffic flow	85 th percentile speed (mph)	Mean speed (mph)
Northwest bound	113	25.5	20.8
Southeast bound	106	26.1	21.1
Both directions	219	25.8	21

The results indicated that Drewsteignton unfortunately did not currently present an issue regarding speeding and therefore the parish council couldn't continue to pursue the speed limit decrease for the village. It was noted that the parish council would erect "20's plenty" signs around the village to remind motorists to slow down.

- b) MVAS device, Clerk made the council aware that she had been applying for quotes for a new speed device for the PC. With the information that had already been gathered it is obvious that the devices have moved on since the last one was purchased and that they now come with solar panels and the option to hire as well as purchase. The council agreed to continue to receive quotes and review the options at the next meeting in March.
- c) One road closure had been announced at the date of the meeting. Tuesday the 6th of May 2025 the road past spinster rock will be closed from 9.30-15.30 for pole replacement.

10.2.25 Current and new business

a) Clerk presented the 25/26 budget to the council to consider. Chair reviewed the budget headers with the council and explained the increase of the "communication" header which was due to a 5% increase on the parish post printing, plus extended colour editions. The parish reserves policy is due for review in April so we will park moving money from reserves to new projects until then.

b) April's meeting date was due to fall on Easter Monday, so the PC chose to move the date of the meeting until the 28th of April to help the clerk have more time to complete year end.

c) Clerk updated the council on a recent maintained day at Drewsteignton playing field. Where a group of volunteers, cut grass and bushes and painted the wooden play equipment with protective stain. They also installed the new toddler swings, which are now fully ready to be used. Clerk was asked at the day if it would be possible for the landing lights that are on the playing field to be used for events. On inspection of the electricity account for the playing field the clerk confirmed that they are currently £240 in credit. So, with monitoring of the usage there would be no reason why the light can't be used for events.

d) Whiddon Down village hall have put in a grant application to the PC for an A30 Emergency shelter kit. In the past the village hall has been used as a refuge stop for stranded motorists that have been stuck in Whiddon Down due to heavy snowfall. The kit would include blankets and a storage box to keep them in. The Cllr's discussed how this was an emergency kit for non-parishioners and that it would be better handed to the highway's emergency fund for a request for funds. Clerk agreed to contact the relevant authorities to request grant funding of £540 for the kit.

11.2.25 Annual review of Council Policies & Procedures:

Cllr's reviewed the following policies and [Cllr Brennan proposed to carry them forward for the next 12 months without change. Cllr Rowe seconded, all in favour. Motion carried RR25/15](#)

DPC 020 Press & Media Policy

DPC 021 Removable Media Policy

DPC 022 Cllr Email & Own Device Policy

12.2.25: Finance and Consideration for approval of purchases.
See attached

14.2.25: Confirmation of the next Council meeting:

Chair confirmed that the next council meeting would take place at Whiddon Down village hall on the 17th of March 2025 at 7.30 - Any changes will be posted on the website.

Drewsteignton pc online payment log February								
Voucher number	Date	Supplier	Description	Amount £	VAT reclaim	signature 1	signature 2	transfer date
64	17/02/2025	Louise Butler	Salary and costs	404.48	N			
66	17/02/2025	Parish Mag Printers Ltd	Parish Post	195.00	N			
67	17/02/2025	fry and son	carpark maintenance	65.09	Y			
68	17/02/2025	Scribe Accounting (Starboard Systems Limited)	scribe	238.80	Y			
69	17/02/2025	Scribe Accounting (Starboard Systems Limited)	scribe	28.80	Y			
65	17/02/2025	Paul Lethbridge (me garden Maintenance)	Lengthsman	930	N			

Clerk introduced a new system to cover payments made each month from the PC account. This chart above will be signed by 2 cllr's at each meeting and then the RFO will complete the transactions the following day.

Cllr Macey proposed the payments for goods and services and Cllr Di Battista seconded, all in favour. Motion carried. RR25/16