

Drewsteignton Parish Council.

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Minutes for meeting of Drewsteignton Parish Council that took place on Monday the 16th of March 2026, at 7.30pm in Drewsteignton Church Space.

Present, Peter Brennan, Andrew Di Battista, Ian Rowe, John Redman, Julie Macey, Anna Imrie, Lou Butler(clerk) Cllr Guthrie, plus 1 member of the public.

Business Transacted

1.3.26: 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.

2.3.26 Current Vacancies.

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

3.3.26: Apologies for absence:

One apology for absence was noted for Cllr Bennie. [Cllr Brennan accepted the apology and Cllr Di Battista seconded, all in favour. Motion carried RR26/07](#)

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

[Cllr Di Battista proposed they were an accurate portrayal of the last meeting Monday the 16th of February 2026 and Cllr Macey seconded, all in favour. Motion carried RR26/08](#)

5.3.26: 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 responsibilities to keep their register of interests updated. No interest was declared at this time.

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

No Members of the public spoke on this occasion.

7.3.26: To receive reports (if any) from County Cllr. Davies & Borough Cllr Guthrie. Plus parish councillors' reports.

Borough Cllr Steve Guthrie updated the council on the following.

National Empty Homes Initiative. Members noted the national initiative relating to empty homes. It was agreed that further information should be reviewed and circulated where relevant to parish activities.

Okehampton Farmers Market – Proposed Relocation. Members were informed of a public meeting to discuss the potential relocation of Okehampton Farmers Market. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 March, 4:00pm–6:00pm, at the Eco Hub near Okehampton College. Members were encouraged to attend if appropriate.

Free Carbon Audits for Businesses, It was noted that free carbon audits are currently available for small and local businesses for a limited time. Members agreed to promote this opportunity within the parish.

Wildlife and Community Engagement Event. Cllr Guthrie noted an upcoming wildlife and volunteering event taking place on Saturday (date to be confirmed), aimed at encouraging community participation and environmental awareness.

Community Asset / Local Government Consultation. Members were advised of an ongoing consultation relating to community assets and potential changes to local governance arrangements. The consultation is expected to run over an extended period. Clerk to forward information to the Chair.

Rural Crime and Farm Security. Members received an update on rural crime priorities. Preventative measures, including the use of forensic marking solutions for machinery, were highlighted. Ongoing police engagement and recruitment were noted.

Other Cllr's reports

Litter and Waste Concerns

Litter was reported along roadside areas, particularly near service locations.

It was agreed:

To contact the site owners regarding responsibility for waste.

To explore whether similar enforcement (as seen elsewhere) could apply locally.

Public Safety Concern

Concern raised regarding individuals collecting litter at night without high-visibility clothing.

Members agreed to:

Promote safe practices (e.g. hi-vis use) through parish communications.

Community Communication (WhatsApp Group)

Discussion around increasing uptake of the parish WhatsApp communication group.

Actions:

Continue promotion via QR code and parish magazine

Members to assist residents in joining where needed

Signed

Dated

Fly-Tipping

Multiple fly-tipping incidents reported (including near Ford Lane and laybys).

Additional concern:

Burning of waste (including plastics/mattresses) at a quarry site

Agreed:

Report incidents to the Environment Agency

Share evidence (photos/video) where available

Quarry Activity / CCTV

Noted that CCTV has been installed at quarry access points.

Concern raised about camera positioning impacting nearby properties.

Rights of Way

Bridleways reported as clear and in good condition.

Path Maintenance

Upcoming request for tenders to improve footpaths and access routes (e.g. to car park). plus Drewsteignton public toilets.

8.3.26: Highway matters

- a) Whiddon Down road surface. Reported by clerk backlog of repairs; only highest-risk defects addressed. Noted: High volume of new potholes reported daily Advice: Continue reporting via official channels.
- b) Fly tipping Evidence suggests repeated offences from same source. Members encouraged to check for identifying information in waste (safely).
- c) Road closure notices
A30 overnight works → expected increased traffic through parish.
24 March 26 8.30-16.00 road from Ford House to Netherton House.
18th May 2026 for 5 days road from Coombe to Trennaway cross.
Disruption to rail services for 2 weeks for all Exeter-Okehampton and Exeter- Barnstaple.
Starting 23rd of March 2026.

9.3.26: Current and new business

- a) Drewsteignton public toilets. Repairs required, Door and roof issues. Quotes pending from contractors.
- b) Providence school still looking for trustees for the Whiddon down area.

Clerk made the council aware of an ongoing issue with the free electricity to the defibrillator at Crockernwell, where the company are trying to charge us £1700 for the services provided this will be an ongoing issue and clerk will update at the next meeting.

10.3.26: Review of council policies and procedures.

- Revised **Financial Regulations** circulated:
 - Align with updated NALC guidance

Signed

Dated

- Increase delegated authority to Clerk
- Standing Orders to be reviewed next month

11.3.26: Finance and Consideration for approval of purchases.

a) Approval of financial documents.

Drewsteignton pc online payment log March 26					
Voucher n	Date	Supplier	Discription	Amount	VAT reclaim
80	16.03.2026	Louise Butler	Salaries and expenses	£406.14	y
79	13.03.2026	source for business	Water WC	£78.40	n
78	02.03.2026	Scribe Accounting (Starboard Systems Limited)	Scribe	£28.80	n
77	17.02.2026	EDF	pf electric	£19.53	y
76	02.03.2026	EDF	Electric W/C	£23.68	y
75	16.03.2026	Phil Tucker (Parish Magazine Printing)	Parish post printing	£235.00	n
74	16.03.2026	Whiddon Down Village Hall	Hall hire	£84.00	n
73	16.03.2026	Axa	insurance	£55.92	n

12.3.26: Confirmation of the next Council meeting: 20th of April 2026.7.30 at The long room Drewe Arms - Any changes will be posted on the Website.

Signed

Dated