

Drewsteignton Parish Council.

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Minutes for meeting of Drewsteignton Parish Council that took place on Monday the 20th of April 2026, at 7.30pm in Drewsteignton Long room.

Present, Peter Brennan, Andrew Di Battista, Ian Rowe, John Redman, Julie Macey, Anna, and Lou Butler(clerk)

Business Transacted

1.4.26: 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.

2.4.26 Current Vacancies.

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

3.4.26: Apologies for absence:

One apology for absence was noted for Cllr Imrie. Plus one from DCC Cllr Davies. [Cllr Brennan accepted the apologies and Cllr Di Battista seconded, all in favour. Motion carried RR26/09](#)

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

[Cllr Brennan proposed they were an accurate portrayal of the last meeting Monday the 16th of April 2026 and Cllr Rowe seconded, all in favour. Motion carried RR26/10](#)

5.4.26: 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.

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

No Members of the public.

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

1116

Signed

Dated

Cllrs Davies reported when sending her apologies that she had received confirmation of resurfacing works between Crockernwell and Drewsteignton, and that she wanted to make the council aware that she is continuing to follow up with Highways about the dreadful road surface in Whiddon Down.

Cllr Rowe made Cllrs aware of a planning application for tree removal at Martins Farm, Whiddon down and clerk confirmed it had been refused by West Devon council. Members noted roof repairs and maintenance works being undertaken on buildings at Narraway. It was understood the works were likely maintenance and repair only and did not currently require planning permission.

Cllr Redman noted several maintenance issues from around the parish. Please see below chart created from discussion.

Parish Council - Public Works Record 2026						
Method of Rep	Reported	Location / Site Description	Issue Description	Follow-up Require	Current Status	Updates / Notes
Written	Cllr Brennan	Drewsteignton Telephone Box	Repair and repaint	Yes	Quote reviewed & approved	SP to commence work in April
Written	Cllr Brennan	Drewsteignton Car Park	Pathway from car park to church gates unsafe.	Yes	Quote received.	IP quote & spec. agreed. Timeline for quotes extended to 24.04/26 or proceed.
Verbal	Cllr Redman	Drewsteignton Car Park	3 apple trees flatted & need to be removed	Yes	Quotes requested	
Verbal	Cllr Redman	Drewsteignton Car Park	2 apple trees - crown damaged	Yes	On Hold	Winter - pruning
Verbal	Cllr Redman	Toilet Block	Overcladding of leaking roof	Yes	Quotes requested	
Verbal	Cllr Redman	Toilet Block	Replace doors & frames	Yes	Quotes requested	
Verbal	Cllr Redman	Memorial/Village Garden	Weeding/spraying	Yes	Quotes requested	
Verbal	Cllr Redman	Memorial/Village Garden Path	Post hole requires filling	Yes		Volunteer required
Verbal	Cllr Redman	Treenaway Junction	Fingerpost damaged	Yes	Report to Highways	Josh emailed
Verbal	Cllr Redman	Drewsteignton Car Park	Damaged/rotten seat - remove & replace twin seat & prune tree	Yes	Awaiting PB	PB to prune tree & remove seat
Written	Cllr Brennan	Playing Field	Remove & replace condemned Zip Wire with ROSPA approved unit with adult/accessibility seat as an option.	Yes	Grant funding & donations secured	Final quote approved. July installation.

this will now be a working document for the parish council.

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

- a) 0089/26 , Section 19.National Trust, Castle Drogo, Drewsteignton, EX6 6PB Alterations to existing Lutyens toilet to enable toilet to function, with variation of Condition 2 attached to planning permission ref: 0443/23 Cllr Brennan proposed a positive response to planning, to preserve the function of the toilets at castle Drogo, Cllr Di Battista second, all in favour, motion carried. RR26/11
- b) 0103/26, Full Planning Permission Whiddon Down Methodist Church Chapel Hill, Whiddon Down, EX20 2PX Change of Use from Class F1 (Place of Worship) to Class C3 Dwellinghouse including demolition of lean to outbuilding. Cllr Bennie proposed to give a positive response to allow works to start to create a new home within the village. Cllr Redman seconded. All in favour, motion carried. RR26/12

9.4.26: Current and new business

- a) The next Glebe cottages public meeting will be held on the 30th of April at 6.30pm in the long room at the Drewe arms.
- b) Telephone box refurbishment is now underway, and it is noted that it will be a painstaking task with years of painting needing removal.

Signed

Dated

10.4.26: Finance and Consideration for approval of purchases.

a) Approval of financial documents.

Drewsteignton pc online payment log April 26				
Voucher n	Date	Supplier	Discription	Amount
1	20.04.2026	Louise Butler	Salaries and expenses	£708.70
2	20.04.2026	source for business	Water WC	£78.40
3	20.04.2026	source for business	water Playing Field	£100.26
4	01.04.2026	EDF	Electric W/C	£23.68
5	16.04.2026	EDF	pf electric	£19.53
6	16.04.2026	Scribe Accounting (Starboard Systems Limited)	Scribe	£28.80
7	20.04.2026	Phil Tucker (Parish Magazine Printing)	Parish post printing	£272.40
8	20.04.2026	Devon association of local councils	DALC subscription	£312.84

b) Clerk presented the 25/26 Agar to the council, which included the certificate of exemption for this year, and the notice of public rights. Which will be made available for the public from the 3rd of June 2026 until the 14th of July 2026. All documents will be available on the website from May 26. [Cllr Brennan Proposed and signed the AGAR 2025/2026 and Cllr Rowe seconded all in favour. Motion carried. RR26/13](#)

11.4.26: Confirmation of the next Council meeting: 18th of May 2026. 7.30pm at Whiddon Down Village Hall. This will be the DPC annual community meeting- Any changes will be posted on the Website.

12.4.26 Conclusion of Confidential part 2

The meeting moved into Part 2 to discuss commercially sensitive quotation and funding details relating to the proposed

- Zip wire project
- Drewsteignton allotments
- Tender for works relating to footpaths, toilets and churchyard.

Members reviewed the quotation and specification received from Sovereign Play. It was noted that the timber frame option provided a 20-year warranty, a full 25-metre run, and allowed for the inclusion of an accessibility seat. The alternative metal frame option was shorter at 20 metres, did not allow for the accessibility seat, and the difference in cost was less than £3,000.

The total project cost was confirmed as **£18,128.29**. Funding available towards the project was outlined as follows:

- Playing Fields Committee fundraising and reserves
- Lottery funding held in Parish Council reserves
- A legacy gift subject to probate
- Donation from local resident of £2,000
- Expected £2,000 contribution from West Devon Borough Council

Signed

Dated

Total confirmed and expected funding was noted as **£17,740**, leaving a shortfall of **£624.29**. The Playing Fields Committee had agreed to contribute a further **£340**, leaving a Parish Council contribution of **£286.29**.

It was further noted that the Parish Council would need to temporarily fund **£1,000** pending receipt of the legacy gift once probate had completed. This would be reimbursed once received.

Members discussed the benefit of the project, including strong support from local children and wider use of the play area by families from surrounding villages. The anticipated lead time was approximately 10 weeks, which could allow installation in time for the summer holidays.

It was proposed by Cllr Redman and seconded by Cllr Hember that the Parish Council:

1. Accept the timber frame option.
2. Approve a Parish Council contribution of **£286.29**.
3. Transfer **£286.29** from the Major Asset Fund into general funds.
4. Temporarily fund **£1,000** pending receipt of the legacy gift.
5. Approve the purchase of the zip wire from Sovereign Play at a total cost of **£18,128.29**.

All in favour motion carried. RR26/14

Cllrs were advised that the parish council had been approached about taking control of the running's and upkeep of the parish allotments situated in Drewsteignton. Which is currently owned by a local family. Cllrs discussed the costs associated with the plot of land. The general day to day running of the area and the current tenants. It was agreed that this is a parish asset, that would be best kept in parish control. Clerk asked to investigate local solicitors to assist with the legal implications.

Clerk informed Cllrs that she would be meeting with a builder in the next couple of weeks. To discuss the works on the toilet block. It was agreed that we would look for quotes on all options available for the roof, including but not limited to re-roofing or temporary roofing.

Cllr Brennan presented a quotation for the footpath, leading from the carpark to the churchyard in Drewsteignton. Although met with a mixed response it was agreed to go back to the builder and discuss options to reduce costs and to question the need for high specification. It was agreed that the work was required as previously included within the new DPC maintenance proforma.

Chair thanked the councillors and closed the meeting.