

# DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH ON 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM

**Present** Parish Cllrs: P Fidge (Chairman), R Wilkins (Vice Chairman), T Blaker,  
A Crowcombe, J Shepherd, B Clarke  
**In Attendance** Parish Clerk, Mr B Newman, Mrs M Newman, 7 members of the public, 3  
representatives of Bath and West Showground

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** District Cllr G Cawood

**2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Cllr Fidge declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 2013/2214. Cllr  
Clarke declared a prejudicial interest in planning applications 2013/2224/TCA and  
2013/2227/TPO.

Cllr Fidge stepped down as Chairman for Planning Application 2013/2224.  
Cllr Wilkins took over as Chairman for this item.

**3 PLANNING**

### Planning Applications considered

**2013/2214:** The erection of a single wind turbine with a maximum tip height of  
67 metres, together with an accompanying access track, electrical switchgear  
housing, underground cabling, temporary construction compound, associated  
hardstandings, a community car park and tree planting scheme.

Royal Bath And West Showground Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet  
Somerset. Applicant - Dr Jane Guise

Following a presentation by Dr Guise and considerable discussion with members of  
the public in attendance, and also noting 8 letters/emails received objecting to the  
planning application prior to the meeting, the Parish Council Cllrs voted with the  
result of 4 objecting and 1 abstention, therefore the Parish Council recommended  
that the application be refused.

The application had not changed in detail from 2013/1779 therefore the objections  
remained the same as follows:

- Significant number of low flying aircraft in the area including night flights  
and hot air balloonists will be impacted by the height of the turbine
- English Heritage has not been consulted – close proximity to Grade 11  
listed buildings
- Adverse effect on local businesses – local pub and bed and breakfast  
businesses as a result of major visual impact
- Number of inaccuracies within the application i.e. grid references
- Adverse visual impact from a number of sites, buildings and walks. For  
example Prestleigh Lane, a no through road that runs through farm land  
and winds its way up to Farncombe Farm and is a popular walk for many  
visitors to the Bath and West Showground and the local B&B,s in the  
village, who walk up the hill to enjoy the outstanding views over the  
surrounding countryside and to walk the footpaths which cross the  
farmland towards Doultling and Evercreech
- Whitstone Corner Roundabout. Drivers approaching from Beardley Batch  
(i.e. going eastwards) will be distracted by the sheer size and rotation of  
the blades on Maesdown which is only 1200m away.
- Impact on local wildlife: green woodpeckers, breeding buzzards, badger  
setts, local bat population. Impact on all breeding birds in the area.

It was felt that the addition of the proposed car park would have little impact on

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the village as the villagers who have no off road parking are at the opposite end of the village and therefore unlikely to use it. Free parking had already been offered by the Prestleigh Inn which had not been taken up by these residents and the proposed car park is to be near to the Inn car park.

It was also felt that the proposed screening of the Turbine by trees would only decrease the views particularly from the Prestleigh Inn and the Turbine will still be seen above the tree line.

Concern was expressed about the consultation process as it appeared to have been rushed with not all previous consultees being consulted, with misleading and changing timescales given for responses. In addition the Planning Officer's report to the Planning Board has already been sent without the Parish Council's response due to changing deadlines.

**2013/2224/TCA:** Proposed removal of saplings in a Conservation Area  
Doulting Manor Church Lane Doulting, Shepton Mallet Somerset  
Applicant - Mr Barry Clarke

As The Parish Council did not receive any objections prior to the meeting and none were raised at the meeting therefore the decision was taken to recommend approval

**2013/2227/TPO:** Proposed pruning of 2 x Hornbeams (shown as G2 on TPO M1326) - No 1 (nearest church) 10-15% crown reduction, 5-10% thin; No 2 (furthest from church) 10-15% crown reduction, 5-10% thin and remove 2 x lower limbs (shown on photo as 'a' and 'b')  
Doulting Manor School Lane Doulting Shepton Mallet Somerset  
Applicant Mr Barry Clarke

The Parish Council received 7 objections and 6 supporting emails/letters prior to the meeting. Following discussions and taking note of the emails/letters received prior to the meeting the main concern was the pruning of 2 lower limbs which was considered to be major tree surgery and would open the tree to infections and eventually the death of the tree. The Parish Cllrs voted with the result of 1 in favour, 1 abstention and 3 objecting therefore the Parish Council recommended refusal of permission.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

*P.P.C.  
9/1/14*