

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY 12th JUNE 2014

**VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING:
ST ALDHELMS SCHOOL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm**

		Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge, Ann Crowcombe, Tony Blaker, Barry Clarke, John Shepherd, Ros Wilkins (part); also in attendance Philip Ham, Gloria Cawood and Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
	1	<u>Apologies for absence:</u> Nicola Housley (A&S Police)	
	2	<u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman advised that the public forum would be re-scheduled prior to the discussion of planning applications for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation.	
	3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr Crowcombe declared an interest in item 13c – Glebeland expenses.	
	4	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 8 th May 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record. Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 15 th May 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record.	
	5	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u> a: Clerk to prepare article for Parish Magazine on dog fouling. This had been done b: Dangerous parking in village hall car park), Cllr Wilkins to arrange meeting with school: in hand. c: Sign for the Well. This had been completed. d: Clerk to arrange dog waste bin with Mendip DC: Despite indications on the MDC website to the contrary, the clerk advised that the new bin would have to be provided by the Parish Council; it would be emptied by MDC. Information on several bins was circulated and it was agreed to purchase a “Fido 25” from Glasdon for £84 + VAT, Clerk to arrange. e: Letter to school re: blocked footpath. This had been done. f: Traffic calming in Doultling – finalisation of letter to Highways following meeting on 15 th May 2014. It was agreed to review the letter following the meeting on 15 th May. Clerk to re-draft and circulate for comments.	Cllr Wilkins Clerk Clerk

6	<p><u>Council Reports:</u></p> <p>a: Somerset County Council: Cllr Ham (in attendance) advised that a new chief executive had been appointed. The Health and Well-being grants were available again with grants for highways projects being released later in the year. He was organising a meeting to discuss highway matters with Doulling, Cranmore and Stoke Parish Councils including problems with large tractors using local roads. He felt that the issues were bigger than just a single parish and hoped that the meeting would be in late July. There was to be another £25m reduction in government grants with those grants to be phased out by 2018. They were still dealing with issues raised by the winter floods including highway improvements.</p> <p>b: Mendip District Council. Cllr Cawood (in attendance) confirmed she had discussed the apparent failure of MDC to properly circulate the information about the appeal by the B&W against the wind turbine refusal and had received an apology.</p> <p>She outlined the new process for individual electoral registration and expressed concern that this would have negative effect on registrations.</p>	
7	<p><u>Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies:</u></p> <p>a: Village Hall Committee – one representative.</p> <p>It was agreed to rotate this position between councillors on a quarterly basis. Cllr Fidge to attend the next meeting.</p>	Cllr Fidge
8	<p><u>Police Report:</u> A brief email report had been received which included:</p> <p>18/05 Report of a male trying to climb the drainpipe on the church?</p> <p>07/06 A minor road traffic collision on Doulling hill</p> <p>09/06 a ride on mower was taken from Manor farm Prestleigh</p>	
9	<p><u>Footpaths Report.</u></p> <p>a: Letter of thanks to Barry Newman. This had been sent.</p> <p>b: Diversion of parts of footpaths SM 7/81, 82 and 83. There was no objection to the diversion. It was also noted that the new kissing gates were to be fixed on the footpath which was also agreed.</p> <p>c: Other items raised. Barry Newman (in attendance) reported problems with the footway on Doulling Hill where the tarmac had been scuffed up (possibly by mechanical cleaning). He had reported the matter to highways and repairs had been undertaken although sections of the footway at the top of the hill were still unsatisfactory.</p>	

		Clerk to contact highways and also to raise the issue of traffic delays caused by the temporary traffic lights used to carry out the works.	Clerk
	10	<p><u><i>The Glebeland and Padfield Green:</i></u> a: Outside table tennis. There had been a very successful open morning with local children who were keen to set up a group to help with care and upkeep of the area and who were prepared to take responsibility for the proposed table tennis facility. A Plantlife survey had been completed on 11th June and Somerset Wildlife Trust had also prepared a report on the area which was handed to Mary Newman for review. Thanks were given to Mary for the provision of refreshments. Cllr Crowcombe advised that the new sign was on order. Clerk to advise on the wording of other signage on the site. b: Repairs to fence posts Padfield Green: The clerk had spoken to Shepton Mallet Landscapes and the matter was in hand. c: Other items as raised. Concern was expressed about a number of young people (possibly French students) who were congregating on Padfield Green late at night and causing a disturbance. Cllr Wilkins had spoken to them and was hoping to resolve the matter.</p>	Clerk
	11	<u><i>St Aldhelms Well:</i></u> The new sign had been fixed.	
	12	<p><u><i>Parish Council Matters:</i></u> a: Website update: Cllr Crowcombe to forward photo's to clerk for inclusion. b: Asset register and risk assessment – finalisation of draft documents; Clerk to carry out inspection and matter to be finalised at the next meeting. c: Standing Orders – Adoption of Standing Orders. After a brief discussion about practice and procedure the new Standing Orders were duly adopted. d: Highways matters: the question of a local volunteer rather than county highways to position the SID equipment across the parishes of Doultong, Coleford, Holcombe and Cranmore was discussed. The insurance issue was also discussed.</p>	<p>Cllr Crowcombe</p> <p>Clerk</p>

12	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>The chairman adjourned the meeting for ten minutes to allow public comments prior to discussion of the planning applications.</p> <p><i>New 2/3 bed dwelling, Farm Road, Doultling BA4 4OG:</i> Local residents expressed concern about the proximity of the proposed dwelling to the neighbouring house, the size of the dwelling within the plot and the increased use-age of the single track access to the properties. Comment was made on the style of the proposed dwelling which was not in keeping with other local properties. It was noted that a number of letters of objection had been sent to MDC.</p> <p><i>Conversion of agricultural building to Use Class B1 and B8, Lodge Farm, Wagon and Horses Hill, Doultling</i></p> <p>Local residents expressed concern about the access to the site for large vehicles, the lack of turning space and car parking inside the site boundary and the possibility of increased traffic heading south through Chelynych and Doultling down a country road which had sustained a large amount of verge damage due to inadequate passing places.</p> <p>a: Application 2014/0752/FUL. New 2/3 bed dwelling, Farm Road, Doultling BA4 4OG for Mrs Jackie Crovetto. Councillors expressed concern about the overcrowding of the plot, the unsuitable nature of the proposed dwelling and the pressure on the existing access. The application was unanimously rejected and the councils comments to be sent to the planners with confirmation of the rejection.</p> <p>b: Application 2014/0781/ FUL. Conversion of agricultural building to Use Class B1 and B8, Lodge Farm, Wagon and Horses Hill, Doultling for Messrs West. Councillors reiterated public comments about the access and turning facilities as well as site car parking and the need to direct traffic to the north. The application was approved with the comments as noted.</p> <p>c: Planning Contravention Notice dated 28th May 2014 for land north west of The Bell House, Well Lane, Doultling. This was noted and further action awaited.</p> <p>d: Proposed housing development at Chelynych Road, Doultling – further actions following extraordinary meeting. To date there had been no notification that a planning application had been submitted.</p>	
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	13	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>a: Invoice from Valley Sawmills for sign. An invoice for £50 + VAT had been posted to the clerk but not received. A cheque for £60 was raised which was to be held by the clerk until the receipt of the invoice.</p> <p>b: Data protection registration – renewal fee £35: This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>c: Cllr Crowcombe Glebeland expenses £15.27: This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>d: Clerks salary and expenses for April and May: £613.11 - This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>e: Bank signatories – completion of paperwork. The following resolution was passed, all in favour: It was resolved that the signing rules in the current mandate, for the account 52134466 – sort 60-19-11 and all associated accounts be replaced in accordance with section 4 and the authorised signatories in the current mandate for the account 52134466 – sort 60-19-11 and all associated accounts be changed in accordance with sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended.</p> <p>f: Annual Return and accounts: the accounts had been completed but were awaiting confirmation of bank statements which could not be located. Grant Thornton had agreed that the Annual Return could be submitted by 14th July.</p> <p>g: Request for donation from Somerset Wildlife Trust. It was agreed that no donation should be made.</p> <p>h: Donation to St Aldhelms Church for churchyard maintenance (letter circulated). Cllr Blaker proposed that the amount of the donation, which had not been increased in recent years, should be £850 and this should be reviewed annually. Clerk to circulate details of previous payments and the matter to be finalised at the next meeting.</p>	

14	<p><u>Prestleigh/Waterlip</u> a: Bath and West meeting re-scheduled. Cllr Fidge had attended the re-scheduled meeting and advised that there was concern amongst the residents of Prestleigh about the proposals. She had spoken to a number of people at the recent B&W Show who seemed unaware of the proposals and their effect on the showground. Cllr Cawood noted that many people object to the proposals but there appears that little can be done to stop things moving forward. The matter will be going to MDC Cabinet in July before a public consultation. The proposals will be back with the planners by October. b: Waterlip: Cllr Crowcombe reported a continuing problem with large lorries.</p>	
15	<p><u>Village Hall, Doultong:</u> nothing to report.</p>	
16	<p><u>Beacon Hill Wood Society:</u> It was agreed to conduct a review of grant funding before the setting of the precept for 2015/16.</p>	
17	<p><u>Correspondence:</u> Police Commissioner newsletter and other items were circulated at the meeting</p>	
18	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u> Cllr Shepherd reported a problem with an overhanging beech tree near the junction with the A361 obscuring visibility. Cllr Wilkins was to contact the education dept on the matter of French students using Padfield Green and the possibility of damage to the play equipment.</p>	
19	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday 10th July 2014 commencing at 7.30pm.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
25th June 2014
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