

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2014
VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm

		Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chairman), Barry Clarke, Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd; also in attendance Gloria Cawood, Philip Ham and Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
	1	<u>Apologies for absence:</u> Ros Wilkins, Tony Blaker and Nicola Housley.	
	2	<p><u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. All agreed that the session could be extended as required to accommodate the presentation and public comments. Eighteen members of the public were present.</p> <p>Presentation regarding Royal Bath and West Showground proposed LDO.</p> <p>Keith Thomas and Cllr Tom Killen gave a presentation on the proposed LDO outlining details of work to date, proposed programme and details of the consultation documents prepared and available for scrutiny. They outlined the proposals concerning the planning process and advised that the site, once the LDO had been granted, would be subject to robust conditions for the ongoing development. It was hoped that the proposal would be considered by the planning board in December. They advised that the land would remain with the Royal Bath and West Society and that the development would be controlled by a management company to oversee all aspects of the operation of the site.</p> <p>Members of the public expressed concerns about the incomplete information in the documents currently available and the fact that the public would have no further input to development on the site once the LDO was granted. Some felt that it would be difficult on Mendip District Council to adequately control the development even with the conditions in place.</p> <p>There was concern about how the scheme fitted in with other development proposals at Street and it was felt that Mendip were rushing headlong into this proposal without proper consideration. Some were concerned about the lack of meaningful consultation and the whole process being driven by Mendip which had no independent arbiter.</p>	

		<p>There was concern about the layout and positioning of the proposals and it was noted that there were other more suitable areas on the site which could have been used. Many felt that the issues regarding traffic had not been properly addressed and that the current problems should be addressed before this proposal was considered.</p> <p>The presentation team noted that the area had already been designated for development and that this proposal did not extend the boundaries of these proposals. Many expressed concern about the situation after the LDO was granted when they would no longer have a say on developments on the site. It was noted by the presentation team that the management of the imposed conditions would be “challenging” and many felt that Mendip District Council would be unable to properly control developments on the site even with these conditions in place.</p> <p>The meeting then resumed after 40 minutes.</p>	
	3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr Crowcombe for reimbursement of expenses for The Glebeland.</p>	
	4	<p><u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	
	5	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u> a: Speed watch issues – the Chairman noted comments from Sarah Goff and would bring the matter to the attention of Cllr Wilkins. It was noted that there is now a speed watch site on the A361. b: Joint meeting with other Parishes to discuss traffic issues suggested by Cllr Ham: to take place on 28th November 2014 at 2pm.</p>	
	6	<p><u>Council Reports:</u> a: Somerset County Council to include library consultation: Cllr Ham advised that it was likely that villages less than three miles away from a library could lose the mobile service. b: Mendip District Council – report circulated. Cllr Cawood was concerned about the distribution of her report and it was agreed that it could be put onto the Parish Council website each month. She also noted that the recent meeting about the proposed Shepton Mallet Health Campus had been very useful.</p>	

7	<p><u>Police Report.</u></p> <p>Report covering 05/11/14- 05/10/14: 06/10 report of a vehicle parked on a pavement 15/10 report of a male selling generators at Farncombe farm 16/10 a burglary occurred at Long cross.</p>	
8	<p><u>The Glebeland</u></p> <p>Report on meeting 11th November to include: a: Signs – final drafts of the proposed signs and a budget was being prepared. b: Ball games and goal posts; the addition of another playwall was being investigated. c: Stones – in hand. d: Annual cut – this had been done. e: Removal of grid bar in skate park – in hand. f: Financial matters – a weeder had been purchased by Cllr Crowcombe as discussed at the meeting and an invoice submitted. g: Other matters raised; quotations for the erection of the lectern sign and other repairs and sundry works were being sought. It was agreed that, subject to financial regulations limits, these could proceed without reference back to the Parish Council.</p>	
9	<p><u>Padfield Green:</u></p> <p>a: Replacement equipment and fencing and funding for same – deferred to next meeting. b: Replacement of signs - - deferred to next meeting. c: Equipment inspection report – repair to surfacing – the clerk had instructed The Landscape Group to affect the repair.</p>	
10	<p><u>St Aldhelms Well:</u></p> <p>Fencing repair – this had not yet been done and the clerk had reminded SM Landscapes. Cllr Clarke to check if this had now been done.</p>	
11	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <p>a: Website update – The Home page had been updated with more details and new photos had been added. b: Risk assessment – adoption of amended documents: These were agreed and signed by the Chairman. c: Update to Standing Orders in respect of recording and broadcasting meetings – paper circulated – it was agreed that the Standing Orders should be updated to include the revised wording.</p>	

		<p>d: Financial Regulations and Internal Controls – paper circulated – deferred to next meeting. e: Clerks Contract – Clerk to prepare draft and forward to Chairman. f: Highways matters: i) Doulting Hill footway – the drainage works had been completed but not the surfacing. ii) Meeting on 28th November with Chris Betty et-al; venue – To be at Cllr Blakers house. g: Footpaths Report – nothing to report.</p>	
12		<p><u>Planning:</u> a: Application 2014/2250/LDO – Proposed Local Development Order, Royal Bath and West Showground. The following is a summary of councillors comments: There had only latterly been an involvement by Parish Councils but only as observers. There had been a village meeting in Prestleigh where there was a large majority against the proposal. There was concern about the lack of control of developments after the LDO was granted. It was noted that the council were discussing an incomplete document with many blanks where significant details were unknown which could possibly affect the community and over which there would be no say. The loss of what was considered to be the “best area” of the showground would have a significant effect on local businesses and suppliers to the showground. The size and design of the proposed buildings and car/lorry parks. The effect of the reduced business rates for incoming companies on local companies who would still pay the full rate. The unresolved issues with highways and increased traffic. The lack of any proper consultation on the issues and the “in house” manner of the planning process. Councillors felt that the proposed boundary should be moved to another, more suitable, part of the site. It was also felt that fears about the apparent open-ended nature of the proposal and concerns about the on-going control of the development would be better addressed by a case by case planning process. Councillors then voted three against, one in favour of the proposals. Clerk to prepare response to Mendip District Council before 24th November, Cllr Fidge to review draft and add information from the Prestleigh village meeting as appropriate and draft to be circulated before submission.</p>	

		<p>b: Application 2014/2182/HSE – Side Extension (East Elevation) for a dependant relatives annex. Isis Cottage, Newman Street, Doultong for Mr and Mrs Lambert.</p> <p>Councillors expressed concern about the possibility that this could become a separate dwelling in future and it was agreed to express this concern to the planners. Subject to these comments the application was recommended for approval.</p> <p>c: Application 2014/2251/HSE – Demolition of existing garage, construction of single storey side and rear extension to form an annex with the insertion of two dormers to the rear roof slope in conjunction with the conversion of the roof space. 6 Padfield Green, Doultong for Ms Jane Sluman. This was recommended for approval.</p> <p>d: Application 2014/2274/VRC – Application for removal or variation of conditions 6,11,13 and 18 re app 2013/1591. Land to east of Farm Road, Doultong for Mr Paris and Miss Rundle. Councillors agreed that this should be a matter for the planning officer.</p> <p>e: Appeal Decision – Wind Turbine at Bath and West Showground; appeal dismissed. This was noted with satisfaction.</p> <p>f: Unauthorised works at Wells Lane, Doultong – Cllr Clarke advised that works were still continuing without apparent intervention from planning enforcement. Clerk to write to Mendip District Council.</p> <p>g: Report on meeting with Origin 3 re: Housing development at Chelynch Road, Doultong. Notes on the informal meeting had been circulated and were available on the website. Cllr Cawood advised that there could be an appeal on the application although this had not been mentioned at the meeting.</p>	
13		<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>a: Clerks salary and expenses for October: £294.69. These were approved and a cheque raised.</p> <p>b: An invoice had been received from Shepton Mallet Landscapes for green cutting and other works in the sum of £2418.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>c: Reimbursement for the purchase of a weeder by Cllr Crowcombe in the sum of £17.63 was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>d: It was agreed to pay a share of the Clerks subscription to SLCC. A cheque for £53.00 was raised.</p>	

14	<u>Prestleigh/Waterlip</u> a: Bath and West meeting – Cllr Fidge to attend meeting on 1 st December. b: Removal of signpost – no further action. c: Other required actions – Clerk to write to Mendip about the increasing number of Portakabins at the show ground.	
15	<u>Village Hall, Doultong:</u> Reply to Parish Council letter - - deferred to next meeting.	
16	<u>Beacon Hill Wood Society</u> – deferred to next meeting.	
17	<u>Correspondence</u> – deferred to next meeting.	
18	<u>Matters of Report</u> – None reported.	
19	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next meeting is on Thursday 11 th December 2014 commencing at 7.30pm at St Aldhelms school, Doultong.	

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
20th November 2014
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