

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

<p align="center">MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER 2014 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: ST ALDHELMS SCHOOL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm</p>		
		Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, Tony Blaker, Barry Clarke, Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk).
	1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllr Gloria Cawood.
	2	<u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Two members of the public were present. Mary Newman (in attendance) commented on the planning application for tree works within the conservation area, the recent traffic accident on Doultling Hill and the consultation on bus services.
	3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None
	4	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 13 th November 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record.
	5	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u> a: Speed watch issues: A letter had been received from Sarah Goff regarding the use of the equipment and the speed watch site apparently authorised on the A361. The letter referred to contact with the co-ordinator but gave no details of who had been contacted. Cllr Wilkins as PC Co-ordinator had not been contacted. It was noted that the letter contained a number of inaccuracies and concern was expressed about the suggestion that there was an authorised site on the A361 of which the Parish Council had no knowledge. Cllr Wilkins advised that the equipment had been purchased by the Parish Council and was shared with Waterlip and that the use of the equipment was under the control of the Parish Council. Terry Drake, the local co-ordinator, had been contacted but no response had been received and there was uncertainty as to whether the correct email address had been used. Nicola Housley (in attendance) agreed to check the address and advise the clerk. b: Meeting on 28 th November to discuss traffic issues: Cllr Blaker reported on the meeting which was also attended by Cllrs Harvey Siggs, Philip Ham, Chris Betty and which he felt had been productive. It had been agreed to improve the signage to encourage the use of the Balls Green Link and to improve weight limit signs around Doultling and Chelynych to reinforce the limit.

		Rubble strips would also be added on Chelynych Road to reinforce the speed limit although other measures could not be considered. The police would advise mobile camera enforcement once the new signs were in place.	
	6	<p><u>Council Reports:</u></p> <p>a: Somerset County Council: No report.</p> <p>b: Mendip District Council – report circulated. Councillors had noted comments on changes to “section 106” planning and the timetable for the new local plan.</p>	
	7	<p><u>Police Report.</u> Nicola Housley and Rob Neil (in attendance) advised on a number of incidents including a vehicle in a ditch at Waterlip, highway obstruction, a lorry stuck in mud and obstructing the highway, a two vehicle RTA at Tansey, a bicycle taken from Carey Close, a suspicious van in the area and, on 4th December, a serious accident on Doultling Hill which closed the road. Cllr Fidge also noted an RTA at Prestleigh on the same day where a wall was demolished.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the Doultling accident. It was noted that the bends were dangerous and that there had been several accidents and a fatality at the location in the past. It was generally agreed that action should be taken by highways but it was felt that support would be required from the police to take things forward.</p> <p>Cllr Crowcombe raised a concern about the diversion of traffic away from the accident via Waterlip and felt that better traffic management in these circumstances was required to ensure that traffic used appropriate roads rather than Waterlip which was becoming a “rat-run” for heavy goods vehicles and where a number of accidents had taken place. The police noted that it was often difficult for officers called to the scene of an accident to ensure that effective traffic management took place as their priority was to deal with the accident and any casualties and, subsequently to clear the road as soon as possible.</p> <p>It was generally agreed that a number of routes in the area were being used by heavy lorries early in the morning often contrary to weight restrictions and that action was needed to control the problem.</p>	
	8	<p><u>The Glebeland</u></p> <p>a: Stones: Cllr Crowcombe would be speaking to Dean at Torr Works within the next few weeks about the stones.</p>	

		<p>b: Removal of grid bar in skate park: in hand for spring 2015.</p> <p>c: Financial matters and quotations for various works: Cllr Crowcombe had arranged for the erection of the lectern sign but had yet to receive quotes for the other works proposed.</p> <p>d: Other matters raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) a working party had cleared a section of brambles but more work was required to complete the task. ii) A disabled parishioner who used an electric scooter had requested access but was unable to use the gate. It was agreed to allow him a key, current padlock in use to be confirmed and a key cut if necessary. 	
	9	<p><u>Padfield Green:</u></p> <p>a: Replacement equipment and fencing and funding for same: Cllr Wilkins was seeking quotes for the fencing from local tradesmen and for new wooden equipment from a number of suppliers.</p> <p>b: Replacement of signs – in hand with Glebeland signs.</p> <p>c: Equipment inspection report – repair to surfacing – this to be carried out in January subject to weather conditions.</p>	
	10	<p><u>St Aldhelms Well:</u></p> <p>Fencing repair – to be confirmed if this has been completed.</p>	
	11	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <p>a: Update to Standing Orders in respect of recording and broadcasting meetings – Policy issued by SALC to be adopted: following the update of Standing Orders, a policy had been issued by SALC which, if adopted, would require a further change in the wording recently agreed. Clerk to circulate policy for discussion at the next meeting.</p> <p>c: Clerks Contract; this had been drafted by the clerk and sent to Cllr Fidge who was happy with the content. It was agreed that the clerk should bring copies to the next meeting for formal signature.</p> <p>d: Consultation on reduced funding from Somerset CC for bus services including reduction in services through Doultong – it was noted that the proposals suggested a removal of Saturday services through Doultong and serving Prestleigh as well as Castle Carey railway station. It was generally agreed that these services were essential for those without transport and that, at times on Saturdays, the services were well used.</p> <p>Community Transport was discussed but it was agreed that this does not offer an effective alternative as its services are restricted and not available in all areas.</p>	

		<p>It was noted that other councils in the west support good services but, in Somerset, there is no co-ordinated operation of buses meaning that the service was not linked together to provide an effective service. Amongst the other issues discussed was the likely increase in rural isolation for those without their own transport, access by bus to the proposed LDO at the Bath and West Showground and the fact that reductions in services meant that an increasing number of people had no viable alternative to the use of their car to provide their means of transport.</p> <p>e: Highways matters: Cllr Crowcombe queried the scope of the meeting held with highways on 28th November and whether this had replaced the inter-parish meeting proposed by Cllr Ham. Cllr Blaker confirmed that the 28th November meeting had only dealt with Doultong matters and that the proposed inter-parish meeting was still to take place in the future. Cllr Blaker noted that the drains were still a problem near the Poachers Pocket; clerk to contact highways again.</p> <p>f: Footpaths Report: the footpath at Doultong Hill was still in bad condition; the clerk to contact highways again on this matter.</p>	
	12	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>a: Unauthorised works at Wells Lane, Doultong. The clerk had recently written to planning enforcement about the matter. It was noted the David Woodbridge was on sick leave. It was agreed to write directly to Cllr Nigel Taylor who was the portfolio holder for enforcement services.</p> <p>b: Application 2014/2422/TCA – Pruning Goat Willow at Well House, School Lane, Doultong (no documents received): Clerk to contact Tree Officer to confirm details of this application.</p> <p>c: Application 2014/2578/CNT – Reopening of access to an employees parking facility and associated works at Moons Hill Quarry, Mendip Road, Stoke St Michael BA3 5JU. The application was outside the Parish Boundary being in Stoke St Michael but Councillors agreed to support the proposals.</p> <p>d: Confirmation of the approval of conditions at Lodge farm had been received.</p>	
	13	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>a: Clerks salary and expenses for November: £327.09; this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>b: Somerset Playing Field Assoc subscription – deferred until next meeting.</p> <p>c: Financial Regulations and Internal Controls – paper circulated – these had been drafted but had yet to be circulated; deferred until next meeting.</p> <p>d: Financial update: this was circulated.</p>	

		e: Budget review and budget for 2015/16: a draft budget was circulated for consideration. It was agreed to finalise the budget for the 2015/16 precept at the next meeting.	
	14	<p><u>Prestleigh/Waterlip</u></p> <p>a: Bath and West meeting: there had been a liaison meeting attended by Cllr Fidge who reported that arrangements for the next Bath and West Show were in hand but that there was some confusion about the location of the proposed LDO amongst staff. A meeting with the new Chief Executive had yet to be arranged. The latest meeting to discuss the LDO had been cancelled and it was understood that the planning meeting to discuss the LDO would not now take place until March 2015.</p> <p>b: Other required actions: It was understood that the stack of Portakabins on the site were being stored, the clerk had written to Mendip about the situation. The Mendip School proposal was discussed and it was agreed to invite representatives of the school to a future meeting.</p>	
	15	<p><u>Village Hall, Doultong:</u></p> <p>Reply to Parish Council letter: Councillors were concerned that the necessary letter of exemption for VAT appeared not to be available and that their original concerns had not been fully addressed. Clerk to draft a reply asking for sight of the letter of exemption.</p>	
	16	<p><u>Beacon Hill Wood Society:</u> Mary Newman advised that the easy going path would be upgraded and repaired in spring 2015.</p>	
	17	<p><u>Correspondence:</u></p> <p>None beyond that dealt with above.</p>	
	18	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
	19	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next meeting is on Thursday 8th January 2015 commencing at 7.30pm at The Prestleigh Inn, Prestleigh.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
17th December 2014
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