

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2015		
VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm		
		Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ann Crowcombe, Barry Clarke, Tony Blaker, John Shepherd; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)
	1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllrs Ros Wilkins and Gloria Cawood.
	2	<p><u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Five members of the public were in attendance.</p> <p>At the invitation of the Chairman, David Gregory, executive head of The Fosseyway Trust gave a presentation about the development of a new free school for children with special needs. A number of locations were being considered, one of which was a site at the bath and West Showground. He was not able to divulge the other locations and had no knowledge of the negotiations about the sites which was being conducted by the Dept of Education.</p> <p>He outlined the background to the proposals: that an existing school at Fosseyway near Radstock was full beyond capacity and a new site for a school of 120 pupils was needed for the Somerset area. Currently about 30 pupils came from the Mendip area. The proposed permanent site would open in September 2016 with 30 pupils initially building to 120 pupils by 2020. The school would occupy temporary accommodation from September 2015. This would not be at the B&W. The decision about the permanent site was “imminent” although the decision about the location had yet to be made. Any works taking place at the B&W were for survey purposes only.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed about the possible siting of the school immediately adjoining residential properties and also the increase in traffic transporting pupils to and from the school plus vehicles for staff who could number 60 persons.</p> <p>The chairman thanked Mr Gregory for his presentation.</p> <p>Other matters:</p> <p>Mary Newman raised the matter of flooding at the junction of Farm Road and Brottens Road and also the inclusion of meeting details in the newsletter.</p>
	3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.
	4	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 11 th December 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record.

5	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u> a: Speed watch issues: It was suggested that another speedwatch group wanted to form in Doultong which was thought would be devisive. The clerk had not been in touch with Terry Drake even via the amended email address. Lucy Bagnowiec (in attendance) offered to contact Terry on behalf of the Parish Council.</p>	
6	<p><u>Council Reports:</u> a: Somerset County Council – no report. b: Mendip District Council – Cllr Cawood had emailed a short report as follows: “Bath and West Working Party meeting Monday to discuss latest draft for LDO (details to be tabled at the meeting.) [Originally planned for start of December.] Planning Appeals seem to be being upheld as new MLP comes into prominence and force.”</p>	
7	<p><u>Police Report.</u> Lucy Bagnowiec introduced herself and confirmed that Nicky Housley was still the contact for Doultong. She reported that speed checks near the school had shown that there was a general disregard for the “20” limit. She had recently visited the school to give an educational talk. She reported a number of incidents which had occurred in the last month. Cllr Blaker thanked her for the letter of support regarding the traffic issues raised with Somerset in November. Cllr Crwocombe raised the matter of the diversion of traffic in the event of a local accident when vehicles were diverted along unsuitable roads rather than more major alternative routes. Lucy advised that it was difficult for officers on the ground to arrange appropriate diversions as they may be from outside the area.</p>	
8	<p><u>The Glebeland</u> a: Stones – awaiting Torr Works; to liaise with Cllr Crowcombe when delivery arranged. b: Quotations for various works – the new sign had been fixed and other matters in hand. An invoice for materials to be submitted. Several people had been complimentary about the new sign c: Electric wheelchair access – Keys had been cut but the gate needed raising; Cllr Shepherd to arrange this. Invoice for key cutting to be submitted.</p>	AC
9	<p><u>Padfield Green:</u> a: Replacement equipment, fencing and signs and funding for same – Clerk to check progress with Cllr Wilkins. Cllr Blaker was concerned that this item had been on the agenda for a number of meetings. The chairman advised that it was sometimes not possible to achieve an outcome within a perceived timescale.</p>	Clerk

		b: Equipment inspection report – repair to surfacing; awaiting works by contractor advised for January but which were subject to suitable weather conditions.	
	10	<u>St Aldhelms Well:</u> Fencing repair – clerk to expedite repair, Cllr Clarke offered assistance.	Clerk
	11	<u>Parish Council Matters:</u> a: Update to Standing Orders in respect of recording and broadcasting meetings – Policy issued by SALC circulated and amended Standing Order to be adopted – these were agreed and formally adopted. b: Clerks Contract – the contract was signed by the Chairman and Clerk. c: Consultation on reduced funding from Somerset CC for bus services including reduction in services through Doulling – The survey had been completed and clerk to check on Clerks Forum for any posts. d: Highways matters: i) Clerk to report flooding at Farm Road/Brottens Road. ii) The clerk had researched papers concerns vehicle access to 56 New Buildings, Doulling and noted that there was a comment included on the Certificate of Lawfulness for the removal of the hedge that there was no permission for vehicle access inferred by the grant of the certificate. Clerk to follow up with the planners. e: Footpaths Report: i) Doulling Hill was still in need of repairs.	Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
	12	<u>Planning:</u> a: Unauthorised works at Wells Lane, Doulling – the clerk had written to Cllr Nigel Taylor on the matter who had advised that he was pursuing the matter with the enforcement officers. b: Application 2014/2422/TCA – Pruning Goat Willow at Well House, School Lane, Doulling – document circulated – the works had already been completed and no further action was required. c: Application 2014/2251/HSE – 6 Padfield Green, Doulling; grant of permission – noted.	
	13	<u>Financial:</u> a: Clerks salary and expenses for December: £301.14 – this was agreed and a cheque raised. b: Somerset Playing Field Assoc subscription: £15.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised. c: An invoice for planting was received from John Lees for £30.50 – this was agreed and a cheque raised. d: Financial Regulations and Internal Controls – draft regulations circulated – these were reviewed and agreed; to be formally adopted at the next meeting. e: Financial update; this circulated and agreed.	Clerk

		f: Budget for 2015/16 and setting of precept: a review of the draft budget circulated in December was concluded and the budget adopted. The question of donations was discussed and it was agreed to include the Air Ambulance in the coming year. It was agreed that the precept should be set at £12667.00 being no increase on the 2014/15 figure.	
	14	<u>Prestleigh/Waterlip</u> a: Bath and West meeting – The next meeting was on the Monday following this meeting. b: Other required actions; the clerk had written to Mendip DC about the Portakabins on site who had advised they were looking into the matter. Cllr Fidge noted that they were supposed to have been moved within 60 days but this date had passed.	
	15	<u>Village Hall, Doultong:</u> Reply to Village Hall letter: The clerk had checked through various HMRC Notices concerning VAT when applied to disabled facilities, village halls and charities and had circulated information. In essence, it appeared that the village hall could self-certify exemption for disabled works and a copy of the papers were passed to John Lees representing the village hall. John to action and copies of any paperwork to be passed to the clerk as a matter of record.	
	16	<u>Beacon Hill Wood Society:</u> The easy access path to be upgraded in May.	
	17	<u>Correspondence:</u> A copy of the latest Mendip Society magazine was circulated.	
	18	<u>Matters of Report:</u> Cllr Blaker suggested that a shelter be provided for school children waiting for transport. Clerk to check with Somerset about funding and seek other sources of grants.	Clerk
	19	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next meeting is on Thursday 12 th February 2015 at St Aldhelms School, Doultong commencing at 7.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
21st January 2015
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