

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

<p align="center">MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2015 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: ST ALDHELMS SCHOOL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm</p>			
		Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge, Tony Blaker, Ros Wilkins, Barry Clarke, Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd; also in attendance Gloria Cawood and Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
	1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Mary Newman.	
	2	<p><u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation.</p> <p>Speedwatch – Sarah Goff (in attendance) spoke about the on-going issues with Speedwatch. She advised that a group of volunteers was being set up to take on speedwatch where there had been no action since 2013. Training sessions were being arranged on Tuesday at Padfield Green where training on new equipment would be given. The original site on Chelynch Road would be used and a new site on the A361 had been sanctioned. Cllr Crowcombe advised that she believed that there was a speedwatch site at Waterlip, Sarah Goff to check. Cllr Fidge asked that the Parish Council receive a regular report on the group’s activities.</p> <p>Application 2015/0127/PFR – Bath and West Showground update to Zone 1 Framework to include Community and Education uses. Cllr Fidge expressed concern that this zone was clearly within Doultling Parish and yet there seemed to be some bias toward Evercreech. Several residents from Prestleigh were present and concern was expressed about the status of the original framework and the proposed change which would seriously effect Prestleigh residents.</p> <p>Among the many concerns were ones of access, especially if zone 3 became the subject of the proposed LDO, access between the showground and The Prestleigh Inn, the loss of visual amenity with the proposal for a school within the zone which was originally intended as a buffer zone for Prestleigh, the likelihood of an educational establishment being built on a green field site when there was already a school site at Tadley Acres.</p> <p>Cllr Blaker noted that, at the last Parish Council meeting, a representative from Fosseway stated that no decision about a school at the showground had been made when it was apparent that plans were already in place in November 2014 and this proposed change to zone 1 was a direct result of that. He felt that the Parish Council should object to the application.</p> <p>Cllr Cawood had sought information about the planning sub-committee mentioned in the application and the clerk confirmed that a Freedom of Information request had been made on the subject. Cllr Cawood advised that there was no requirement for a “free school” and the proposal had come forward independently through the Education Funding Council. She was disappointed at the way the whole matter had been handled.</p>	

3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr Fidge declared a personal interest in item 14, Bath and West planning, as a resident of Prestleigh.</p>	
4	<p><u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2015 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 matter had been raised under item 2; no further action was required at present. b: Bus services consultation: a meeting to be held on 5th March to discuss these proposals. c: Shelter for children awaiting buses – clerk to progress with Somerset CC.</p>	
6	<p><u>Council Reports:</u> a: Somerset County Council. – no report. b: Mendip District Council – report circulated, no further items raised.</p>	
7	<p><u>Police Report.</u> Sgt Rachel Clarke (in attendance) introduced herself to the meeting having taken over as manager of local beat managers and PCSO's.</p> <p>Nicola Housley (in attendance) reported a number of recent incidents including a motor cycle being driven in Beacon Hill Woods, debris and sheep on local roads and an accident at Longcross. It was noted that the white lining at this junction are very indistinct. Cllr Blaker reported instances of heavy vehicles driving on highway verges causing damage.</p>	
8	<p><u>The Glebeland</u> a: Report from meeting held on 10th February 2015 – Cllr Crowcombe reported that arrangements for the stones for the Boules Court area were in hand and delivery was expected in the next two weeks. She would liaise with Mary Newman as she was likely to be away. The Glebeland meeting had agreed the new signs and a budget of £400 proposed. This was agreed, clerk to arrange for signs with lowest tenderer, Arien Signs. b: Electric wheelchair access – this was no longer required but a spare key had been obtained and Cllr Shepherd had raised the gate.</p>	

9	<p><u>Padfield Green:</u> a: Replacement equipment, fencing and signs and funding for same: Cllr Wilkins had been in contact with a company in Scotland who could supply a good quality double tower arrangement with slides, etc for an anticipated cost of £10,000. She would confirm what is included and obtain a firm quotation. She would also seek grant funding from the likes of Lottery Awards for all. She was also awaiting quotations for the replacement fencing. b: Equipment inspection report – repair to surfacing – this had been completed.</p>	
10	<p><u>St Aldhelms Well:</u> Fencing repair – the clerk had completed this repair.</p>	
11	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u> a: Highways matters: i) Kings Road mud – this was a continuing problem but currently the road was clear. It was also noted that large lorries were still travelling south through Doultling rather than north to access the through route via Bulls Green Link. The proposed change of signs discussed in November 2014 was noted and it was noted that adequate signs for the left turn off Holwell Road were required. ii) Road Closures – Maesdown Road and Farm Road – this was to allow drainage works noted as a problem at the last meeting. iii) Road Closures – Lamberts Hill and West Shepton and at Castle Carey were noted. b: Footpaths Report: i) Footpath Chelynch Woods to Farrington Lane – clerk to report to Somerset Rights of Way Officer.</p>	
12	<p><u>Planning:</u> a: Unauthorised works at Wells Lane, Doultling – a strong email to the owners agent was noted advising enforcement action.</p>	
13	<p><u>Financial:</u> a: Clerks salary and expenses for January to include website domain renewal costs: £336.64. This was agreed and a cheque raised. b: Invoice from Landscape Group for surfacing repair: £72.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised. c: A cheque for quarter 3 tax to the HMRC in the sum of £189.60 was agreed. d: An invoice from D Crowcombe for materials for the erection of the lectern sign in the sum of £48.17 had been received. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p>	

		e: Financial Regulations: adoption of regulations as circulated. These were formally adopted and signed by the Chairman.	
	14	<p><u>Prestleigh/Waterlip</u></p> <p>a: Bath and West meetings, planning issues and proposed changes.</p> <p>i) Further to the discussion during the Public Forum all the points raised were agreed and it was agreed unanimously to object to the proposed update to the framework of zone 1. Clerk to prepare objection for review by Cllr Fidge prior to being submitted on 16th February.</p> <p>ii) Cllr Fidge had attended a liaison meeting with the new Bath and West chief executive. When asked about the proposed changes to zones he made no comment but gave an impression that a deal had already been concluded.</p> <p>b: Proposed Mendip School at the Bath and West Showground – the application for the proposed school had yet to be received but councillors had attended a consultation on the proposals. It was suggested that a TPO be sought in respect of the large oak tree on the site and protection for the standing stone.</p> <p>Cllr Fidge thanked councillors for their recent support and attendance at Prestleigh meetings</p>	
	15	<p><u>Village Hall, Doultling:</u></p> <p>Village Hall response to information provided at last meeting – the clerk had received correspondence confirming the position with the VAT which he felt resolved the situation. Copies to be forwarded to councillors.</p>	
	16	<p><u>Beacon Hill Wood Society:</u> nothing to report.</p>	
	17	<p><u>Correspondence:</u> The clerk advised that a consultation on corporate services at Mendip District Council had recently begun. Councillors had received details. Comments to be directed to the clerk as the consultation period ended before the next meeting.</p>	
	18	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u> Cllrs Crowcombe, Blaker and Clarke had attended the recent Rural Forum where topics including neighbourhood planning were considered. An update on the new local plan was given and the legal challenge to the plan noted. The next forum was on 4th June 2015.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about surface water on Doultling Hill possibly as a result of blocked gullies which, during periods of cold weather, froze causing a hazard. It was noted that the footpath on the hill had been cleaned.</p>	

		The clerk advised election details and dates. Posters to be placed on Notice Boards and an item put in the newsletter.	
	19	<u><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</i></u> The next meeting is on Thursday 12 th March 2015 commencing at 7.30pm at The Prestleigh Inn. It was hoped to invite Rupert Cox, Bath and West Chief Executive to address the meeting and, to that end, it was agreed that proceedings should start at 7pm.	

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
23rd February 2015
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