

**DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

<p align="center"><b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015</b></p> <p align="center"><b>VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm</b></p>		
		Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, Barry Clarke, Ann Crowcombe, Tony Blaker; also in attendance Alan Butcher (clerk)
	1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllrs John Shepherd and Gloria Cawood, Nicola Housley and Mary Newman.
	2	<u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Four members of the public were present, no matters were raised although disappointment was expressed that the proposed meeting with the Bath and West Chief Executive had not materialised.  Cllr Fidge noted that the Parish Council would soon be entering an election period and urged members of the public to consider standing for the Parish Council.
	3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.
	4	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.
	5	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u> a: Speed Watch Report – circulated. There was a general discussion about the changed location of one SW site and concern that there seemed to have been no SW in Chelynch Road which was the objection of the original SW designation. Police to clarify site positions. b: Shelter for children awaiting buses. The clerk had written to Cllr Ham to ask about funding sources but had yet to receive a reply. Cllr Blaker to speak to Cllr Ham on the matter. It was suggested that funding may be available through Child Welfare sources.
	6	<u>Council Reports:</u> a: Somerset County Council to include recent library review. No report had been received and all agreed there was little to add to the Library review. b: Mendip District Council. Cllr Cawood had circulated her report, no further comments were made.

7	<p><u>Police Report.</u></p> <p>Rob Naill in attendance reported the following incidents:</p> <p>15/02 minor road traffic collision on old Doultling Hill          16/02 Report of 2 suspicious looking males in Doultling wandering along Chelynch Rd          20/02 A lorry collided with a telegraph pole on leaving Doultling towards Frome.</p> <p>Cllr Blaker raised the issue of accidents along the Beacon often caused by unsighted overtaking. He also mentioned continuing overtaking over the double yellow lines at the start of the Balls Green Link and a number of accidents on Doultling Hill. He requested accident statistics on the latter issue, the police agreed to provide details.</p>	
8	<p><u>The Glebeland</u></p> <p>a: Stones – in hand          b: New signs – in hand          c: Other matters raised – the next working party will be on 25<sup>th</sup> March.</p>	
9	<p><u>Padfield Green:</u></p> <p>a: Replacement equipment, fencing and signs and funding for same – Cllr Wilkins advised that, in conjunction with the clerk, she had applied for a grant of £10,000 from “Awards for All” to cover the costs of the replacement equipment. She was also seeking donations or grants for the replacement fencing which was not included in the above.</p>	
10	<p><u>St Aldhelms Well:</u></p> <p>Cllr Fidge noted that the proposed project at the Well would have to be taken on by the new Parish Council.</p>	
11	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <p>a: Highways matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Improvements to A371 – information had been received on improvements on the A371 which included a reduction in the speed limit between the roundabout and the top of Prestley Hill to 40mph and a reduction in the speed limit through Prestley to 30mph. Clerk to write to highways to thank them for these changes which had been long awaited.</li> <li>ii) Blocked gullies on Doultling Hill – these were still blocked, clerk to contact highways again.</li> <li>iii) Other matters raised – Cllr Blaker noted that the introduction of a central white line along Chelynch Road could have an effect on the speed of vehicles, he noted this had been successful in other areas.</li> </ul>	

		<p>He was still awaiting the provision of signage agreed in November at Nunney Catch to encourage vehicles to use the Balls Green Link.</p> <p>iv) Cllr Blaker noted a large and increasing pothole near the Waggon and Horses which was becoming dangerous, clerk to write to highways.</p> <p>v) Mary Newman had requested that the Parish Council write to highways to thank them for attending to the flooding problem at Farm Road and also for the installation of the LED street lighting in some areas of the village although it was noted that not all the lights had been replaced.</p> <p>vi) Cllr Crowcombe advised that the “SID’s” were being phased out but that they could be purchased and a training course was available to cover installation and operation of the SID’s for £200, 50% of which would be funded by Somerset CC. Doulting and Cranmore together could operate 8 machines requiring 2 new sites, they were free but the Parish Council would have to fund the replacement batteries at a cost of around £120 per year. There was a new Parish Councillor at Cranmore who was happy to operate the system. Cllr Crowcombe to forward details. It was noted that there was a need for insurance provision.</p> <p>b: Footpaths Report:</p> <p>i) Footpath Chelynch Woods to Farrington Lane – the clerk had written to Somerset Rights of Way who had noted the matter but advised that there was a period of time to allow the area to be rolled and seeded and the footpath re-established before they would take any action.</p> <p>c: Arrangements and date for Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council meeting and forthcoming election information – The Annual Parish Council meeting to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.30pm preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm. Venue to be agreed. The clerk advised that nomination papers were available from Mendip DC.</p>	
	12	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>a: Unauthorised works at Wells Lane, Doulting – Cllr Clarke advised that David Woodridge from Mendip DC had convinced Mr Osbourne to make a planning application on the land which was thought to be imminent.</p> <p>b: Application 2015/0223/FUL – installation of 960 PV solar panels at Beard Hill Farm, Pylle for Mr Neil Christensen – This was recommended for approval.</p>	

13	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>a: Clerks salary and expenses for January to include website hosting renewal costs and fencing repair materials: £397.45 – This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>b: Invoice from BT payphones £360.00 - This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>c: Insurance renewal Came and Co: £437.52 or £415.64 if the council enters into a three year agreement. It was agreed to enter into a three year agreement and a cheque for £415.64 raised.</p> <p>d: Plantlife renewal £30.00 – The Glebeland Committee suggests that this is not renewed. It was agreed not to renew this subscription.</p> <p>e: Request for donation from St Johns Ambulance. It was agreed not to make a donation.</p> <p>f: Landscape Group quotation for Play equipment inspections to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016: £468.00 – this was accepted.</p>	
14	<p><u>Prestleigh/ Waterlip</u></p> <p>a: Bath and West meetings, planning issues and proposed changes – it was noted that the tree which all felt was worth retaining was an ash tree. Cllr Fidge had made many phone calls on the subject without success and it was agreed to apply for a TPO on the tree.</p> <p>b: Proposed Mendip School at the Bath and West Showground – the application had been received and was passed to Cllr Fidge. It was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at The Prestleigh Inn to consider the application. Clerk to post the agenda in due time but was unable to attend the meeting itself. Cllr Wilkins to take notes. A response to the FOI Request had been received and it was noted that the Parishes of Doultling and Evercreech had not been invited to join the group whereas SM Town Council had. Clerk to write to Mendip DC Chief Executive about the way the whole matter had been handled.</p> <p>b: Other required actions – SM Landscapes to be asked to attend to tree at the end of the footpath where it had been “hacked about” by BT. Cllr Fidge also noted that there was now a First Responder in Prestleigh.</p>	
15	<p><u>Village Hall, Doultling:</u></p> <p>Representative on village hall committee – Clerk to request copies of all recent minutes including the AGM in 2014 for Parish Council records. The matter of restoration of the Parish Council representative would then be considered.</p>	
16	<p><u>Beacon Hill Wood Society:</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
17	<p><u>Correspondence:</u></p>	

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

		Correspondence had been received regarding a Civil Contingency Plan – to be passed onto the new Parish Council. Information about refuse collections had been received.	
	18	<u>Matters of Report.</u> None.	
	19	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next meeting is on Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 commencing at 7.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 9pm

Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015  
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