

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY

26th MARCH 2015

VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING:

THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm

		<p><i>Present:</i> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, Barry Clarke, Tony Blaker, Ann Crowcombe.</p> <p>In the absence of the clerk the minutes were taken by Cllr Wilkins.</p>	
	1	<p><i>Apologies for absence.</i> Alan Butcher</p>	
	2	<p><i>Declarations of Interest:</i> None.</p>	
	3	<p><i>Minutes of previous meeting.</i> Resolution to postpone acceptance of minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2015 until the next meeting on 9th April 2015. This was agreed.</p>	
	4	<p><i>Public Forum:</i> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting to allow public participation.</p> <p><i>Please note it was confirmed that the Zone changes and the Planning for the proposed school would be on different agendas. The zones in April and the School possibly in June.</i></p> <p><i>This meeting was to discuss the proposals made for the school.</i></p> <p><i>One person present was in favour of the plans for the school on the following grounds:-</i></p> <p><i>160 families would be supported</i> <i>Children from 4-19 would be catered for</i> <i>There would be 120 pupils offering a unique opportunity – the only one in Somerset and it would offer 8 GCSE’s</i> <i>The current provision is the Fosseyway School which was built for 120 children – but currently has 180 and is turning away children.</i></p> <p><i>Others present (including over 40 at the village meeting) remember the village consists of 35 houses two farms and a Pub - voiced concerns about:</i></p> <p><i>The school would dominate the community and overwhelm the community by its size and proposed location.</i></p>	

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

		<p><i>The buffer zone promised to the village to protect it from the sites developments would be removed</i></p> <p><i>Why in zone 1 when there were other more suitable locations</i></p> <p><i>This project completely undermines the B&W planning framework document which is only four years old</i></p> <p><i>This project has nothing to do with the original ethos of either the showground or the planning ethos</i></p> <p><i>It is believed that there is minimal take up <u>in this area</u> for such a facility</i></p> <p><i>Impact of traffic movements within the village</i></p> <p><i>Case not proven for building on a greenfield site when there is a provision on Tadley Acres with all services in place for a school of at least this size. The other possible sites have never been disclosed</i></p> <p><i>The plans make no attempt to blend the school into the current village as evidenced by the choice of materials.</i></p> <p><i>Also concerns about;-</i></p> <p><i>Noise</i></p> <p><i>Traffic</i></p> <p><i>Road layout and access</i></p> <p><i>Floodlights</i></p> <p><i>Making the cottages into a traffic island</i></p> <p><i>Misuse of the word “community “</i></p> <p><i>The tree</i></p> <p><i>The standing stone</i></p> <p><i>Loss of visual amenity</i></p> <p><i>Drainage and risk of flooding.</i></p> <p><i>It was pointed out that no one was against a school being built – but that they were against it being built on the proposed site.</i></p>	
	5	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>Application 2015/0464/FUL: The construction of a special school with supporting sports pitch, MUGA, hard and soft playing areas, parking and drop off areas, new access road and junction improvement, associated drainage and landscaping. Land At The Royal Bath And West Showground, Prestleigh Hill, Prestleigh, Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN.</p> <p><i>The Parish Councillors commented –</i></p> <p><i>Having supported all statement in opposition made above the following comments were also made:-</i></p>	

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		<p><i>Several present were trained to work with, had worked with or volunteered with children with disabilities and therefore raised concerns over:</i></p> <p><i>Social isolation – no chance of meeting with other neighbours or visiting a shop as none in village – again leading to increased vehicle movements</i></p> <p><i>Information given to the Parish Council seemed to lack consistency</i></p> <p><i>Judgement on Turbine application by the planning inspectorate talked about keeping the site clear to keep the beauty of the area – this application does not comply with that statement</i></p> <p><i>The village would lose its identity</i></p> <p><i>Village opinions not taken seriously</i></p> <p><i>Detrimental impact on the Village Pub which is the heart of the community</i></p> <p><i>It was suggested that SALC should assist the Parish Council on this application and would be requested to attend and support the Parish Council at the planning meetings. Alan to make contact</i></p> <p><i>When the Proposal was put to the vote NO Councillors were in Favour None abstained the support to object to this proposal was unanimous</i></p>	
	6	<p><u><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</i></u></p> <p><i>The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday 9th April 2015.</i></p>	

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
2nd April 2015
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