

**DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

**VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: ST ALDHELMS SCHOOL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm**

		Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge, Ros Wilkins, Sarah Goff, John Shepherd, Ann Crowcombe, Barry Clarke; also in attendance Cllrs Philip Ham, David Van Dyk and Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
	1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Nicola Housley (A&S Police)	
	2	<p><u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Seven members of the public were present. The following matters were raised:</p> <p>Following the consultation regarding the 161 bus from Frome to Shepton Mallet, First Bus have decided to cut the service. Concern was expressed about those without transport being unable to access services such as Job Centres, etc. It was suggested that another operator may take over the route.</p> <p>The parking of a large motor caravan in the layby at Padfield Green was raised as the vehicle causes a visibility obstruction. It was suggested that the matter should be brought to the attention of the police.</p> <p>It was noted that at the recent Evercreech PC meeting it was suggested that the company “Greencore” could move its operations to the Bath and West site.</p> <p>It was suggested that the parish Council should form a committee to oversee the various proposals for the Bath and West site.</p> <p>The question of Parish Council loans which may have been given to the village hall in the past and the matter of VAT previously discussed at PC meetings was raised. The clerk responded that the matter of VAT had been concluded as far as the PC were concerned and that the matter of the loans would be discussed later on the agenda.</p>	
	3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.	
	4	<p><u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record with a minor amendment to item 2 (last para) to include the words “or be removed after three months” after ...the agenda until completion..</p>	

5	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u>  <b>a: Shelter</b> for school children – Cllr Ham advised that the Local Legacy Fund (MDC) would shortly be opened and that an application could be made to that fund. He also had a Health and Wellbeing fund to which an application could be made. Clerk to circulate details to councillors of possible shelters for consideration at the next meeting. It was noted that Michael Eavis had funded a shelter in Shepton Mallet.  <b>b: Post Office</b> for Doulling – Clerk to send an item for inclusion in the Parish Newsletter and update the website.</p>	
6	<p><u>Planning:</u>  <b>a: Application 2015/1250/FUL</b> – Demolition of Holcombe Farmhouse and replacement with new single dwelling. Holcombe Farmhouse, Holcombe Lane BA4 4RD for Ms Louise Pickering. This was recommended for approval to include the comments that the existing dwellings was in a poor state of repair, that the new dwelling would be on the same footprint and that there would be reuse of existing materials.  <b>b: Application 2015/1382/REM</b> – Reserved matters submission in respect of outline application 2014/0544/OTA workers dwelling and outbuildins at Ingsdon Farm, Bodden Lane BA4 4PU fpr Mr and Mrs C Keevil. This was recommended for approval.  <b>c: Application 2015/1252/FUL</b> – Construction of stable block. Land at Bodden Lane, Doulling for Ms J Wyatt. Councillors noted that this had already been constructed and that this was a retrospective application. It was generally agreed that the stable block was not in keeping with its surroundings and that tree screening should be considered. It was agreed to leave the determination of the application to the planning officer.  <b>d: Grant of permission 2015/0464/FUL</b> – Special school on Land at the Bath and West Showground. This was noted.  <b>e: Grant of permission 2015/0878/FUL</b> – Therapy room at St Aldhelms School, Doulling. Councillors were advised that this facility was no longer required.</p> <p>The matter of the stage 2 of the Local Plan was raised following a recent Mendip Forum and councillors were advised that a meeting would be arranged to discuss this stage of the plan as it effected Doulling. Councillors agreed that they would not identify sites within the Parish for housing and that they would keep a watching brief on this stage of the plan.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that a Neighbourhood plan should be considered for Doulling as in other local parishes to give more control over development. Councillors agreed to review the options but noted it was a costly and time consuming process.</p>	
7	<p><u>Speedwatch Report:</u> Cllr Goff reported speed watches on the A361 with 784 vehicles per hour and speeders only 10 per hour. She was still awaiting news on the proposed site at Prestleigh and would be in contact with Mark Nicholson to move this forward.</p>	

		<p>Cllr Crowcombe raised the matter of additional “SID’s” for Doultling and Cranmore which could be operated by people with suitable training. She and Cllr Van Dyk had met with Dave Grabham and training for additional people to place the SID’s was available in conjunction with Cannington PC at a cost of around £200 to be shared with Cranmore. Cllr Van Dyk and David Crowcombe to be put forward for training. The SID’s would need to be insured against theft and damage and this could be done jointly with Cranmore. Positions for the devices to be identified. Item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	
	8	<p><u>Council Reports:</u>  a: Somerset County Council – Cllr Ham referred to the parking of the motor caravan and raised the issue of highway safety. He also expressed concern about the loss of the 161 bus service and hoped that another operator would come forward. He advised that the decision to remove the service was one taken by First Bus and not the county council. The new Somerset Rivers Authority was in operation and covered all rivers including the Sheppey; funding was being discussed and there was likely to be a small charge on land and property. Discussions were taking place with other local councils about sharing and devolving services.  Cllr Crowcombe raised the matter of Highway Improvement grants and was advised that these would be available later in the year.  Cllr Fidge raised the matter of highway changes at the junction known as Prestleigh point, often used by vehicles to turn having exited Prestleigh Lane to the left rather than take the unsighted right turn and proposals to alter the junction which preclude this manoeuvre. Cllr Ham to make enquiries.  The question of the revised signage at the Balls Green Lank was raised following advice that this was still in hand. Concern was expressed that the signage would not correctly direct traffic on the correct route.  b: Mendip District Council – Cllr Van Dyk advised that he would be meeting with the developers of the school to agree a framework for their liaison with Prestleigh and will report back with required clarification on access from effected properties.</p>	
	9	<p><u>Police Report.</u>  A report had been received detailing a number of minor incidents during the month.</p>	
	10	<p><u>The Glebeland</u>  a: Stones – these would be delivered free of charge and Cllr Shepherd had agreed to provide a suitable machine to position them.  b: Report on meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> July – Cllr Crowcombe gave a brief report on the meeting. The next working party is on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015.  One item to be reviewed is the removal of the grid bar from the skate park; clerk to check inspection reports as to reason for removal.  It was agreed to purchase three new picnic tables for the Glebeland and one for Padfield Green at a cost of £208 per table + VAT from Valley Sawmills.</p>	

		<p>Cllr Fidge has secured and donated a number of “dog pooh” posters for display around the Glebeland. It was proposed that an additional dog bin should be provided in the Glebeland; it was noted that the new posters and general advice is that dog pooh can be bagged and placed in any bin. It was therefore agreed not to purchase a new bin.</p>	
	11	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u> a: Confirmed Grant Offer – this had been received and the money paid into the bank. The adult gym equipment previously purchased for Padfield Green had been credited as legislation now prevented the use of such equipment in a children’s play area. The existing equipment has to be removed prior to the installation of the new; it was suggested that this could be reused by other parties although it should be made clear that no liability attaches to the Parish Council for existing equipment removed and reused. b: Proposals for replacement equipment and fencing – Cllr Wilkins to send details of all quotations received for the new equipment to the clerk so that they can be summarised. Details of safety surfaces were also discussed. Subject to the review of quotations it was agreed that the new equipment should be ordered as soon as possible. Grants and funding for the new fencing are still being finalised.</p>	
	12	<p><u>St Aldhelms Well</u> a: Edge Tool Works – Cllr Fidge to arrange a meeting with the owner on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 4.30pm and to liaise with other councillors when this date is confirmed. b: Cllr Clarke advised that a planning application was still awaited for the unauthorised works opposite the well.</p>	
	13	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u> a: Highways and Footpath matters: i) Blocked gullies – Doultling Hill – clerk still awaiting confirmation that this work had been completed. ii) Other matters reported – the clerk had also written to highways about street lighting in Prestleigh and the signs at Longcross.  b: Additional Notice Board in Doultling – Cllr Shepherd offered to donate a notice board to be fixed on the fence at Padfield Green; this was accepted with thanks. c: Broadband provision – there was a general discussion about recent developments and it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.  At this point Cllr Fidge stood down from the chair and left the meeting; Cllr Wilkins continued as chairman for the remainder of the meeting.</p>	

14	<p><u>Financial:</u>  a: Clerks salary and expenses for April £322.26 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.  b: Year-end accounts for 2014/15 and completion of annual return – the accounts had been previously circulated; the annual return was duly completed and signed by the relevant parties.  c: Ex-gratia payment to Internal Auditor: £75.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p>	
15	<u>Waterlip:</u> Nothing to report.	
16	<u>Prestleigh:</u> Deferred until the next meeting	
17	<p><u>Village Hall, Doultong</u>  a: Previous grant monies – the clerk could find no minute or financial transaction on monies paid to the village hall. Councillors confirmed that the matter had been discussed and a figure of £2000 suggested as support for the village hall but, ultimately, no monies had been paid.  b: The question of the use of the village hall for council meetings was discussed. Cllr Goff was currently acting as chairman whilst John Lees recovered from illness and advised that it would be possible for the village hall to be used on a Tuesday when activities finished at 7.30pm  Thursday activities did not finish until 9pm.  Cllr Goff advised that works to the hall roof would take place between 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August. Concern was expressed that this could impact on the Produce Show which was a very important village event taking place on 27<sup>th</sup> August. Clerk to contact Somerset Education to advise of the situation.</p>	
18	<u>Beacon Hill Wood Society:</u> Mary Newman advised that the society had met with the new Woodland Trust manager and it was hoped that biodiversity within the wood could be improved. The easy going path for wheelchairs was considered acceptable without the need for permanent surfacing.	
19	<u>Correspondence:</u> None.	
20	<u>Matters of Report:</u> None.	
21	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u>  The next scheduled meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at the Prestleigh Inn.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2015  
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