

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 13th AUGUST 2015**

VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm

		<i>Present:</i> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Barry Clarke, Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd, Sarah Goff; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk).	
	1	<i>Apologies for absence.</i> Cllr Ros Wilkins, David Van Dyk and Nicola Housley.	
	2	<p><i>Public Forum:</i> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Some 14 members of the public were present. The chairman advised that she would adjourn the meeting to allow public participation in matters concerning St Aldhelms Wells and The Bath and West Showground. She requested members of the public to raise any other matters at this point in the meeting.</p> <p>The matter of damaged and scattered stones at the Skate Park was raised. Mary Newman to speak to David Kimber about the clearance of the stones.</p> <p>It was noted that the signs on Doultling Hill were obscured and that there was ragwort evident in the verges. Clerk to report matter to highways. It had been suggested that speedwatch volunteers could address this problem but this would not be possible as they did not fulfil the legal requirements to work on the highway.</p>	
	3	<i>Declarations of Interest:</i> Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in item 6a.	
	4	<i>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</i> Minutes of the meeting held on 9 th July 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record. Two minor corrections were made; item 8 should read Link not Lank and item 18 should be the Woodland Trust Area Site manager.	
	5	<i>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</i> a: Shelter for school children – the clerk had circulated a selection of shelters available at varying prices; further research to be carried out. b: Post Office for Doultling: the website had been updated, notices placed on notice boards and an item included in the parish magazine.	
	6	<i>Planning:</i> a: Application 2015/1572/HSE – First Floor Extension from rear elevation. Broadpool Cottages, Chelynch Road, Doultling for Mrs L Chaplin. This was approved with no objections.	

		<p>b: Grant of permission 2015/1013/HSE – Merryfields, Merryfield Lane, Douling – Two storey extension.</p> <p>c: Grant of permission 2015/1111/FUL – Ashdene, Cranmore Road, Douling – Extension to office, etc.</p> <p>d: Approval of reserved matters re condition 17 (travel plan) in respect of 2015/0464/FUL – Special school at Bath and West Showground.</p> <p>e: The grants of permissions, etc were noted.</p> <p>f: Application 2015/1613/LBC – Replacement of windows and doors at Beacon Farm, Bolters Lane, Douling had been received on 12th August 2015 and was discussed under Matters of Report. Councillors noted that this was an application for Listed Building Consent and had no other comments on the application.</p>	
	7	<p><u>Speedwatch:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Speedwatch report – there had been no watches during the month. ii) Speedwatch collaboration with Cranmore – a meeting was to be arranged in September which could also include any volunteers from Prestleigh; date to be advised. iii) SID’s training and other matters – the volunteers had completed and passed their training. Additional sites needed identification and sites at the bottom of Prestleigh Hill and at the top of Douling Hill were suggested. The new sites will require risk assessments before they can be brought into use. 	
	8	<p><u>Council Reports:</u></p> <p>a: Somerset County Council – no report.</p> <p>b: Mendip District Council – no report.</p>	
	9	<p><u>Police Report.</u></p> <p>Nicola Housley was unable to attend but had reported four incidents in July.</p>	
	10	<p><u>The Glebeland</u></p> <p>a: Stones – in hand.</p> <p>b: Other matters raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Cllr Crowcombe reported that the new picnic tables had been fixed and thanked Cllr Shepherd for arranging this. ii) She advised that an initial survey had been conducted by Dr Chris Smith and advised that it had been proposed that a fuller survey and forward plan for the area be conducted at a fee of £150. Cllr Clarke was concerned that this might detract from the work and proposals already in hand. After discussion it was agreed 4 in favour, 1 abstention to ask Dr Smith to carry out the proposed works at a fee of £150. iii) She advised on the progress of the signs which were being prepared in a similar style to the lectern sign. Clerk to forward details to councillors for comment. 	

		<p>iv) She advised that the paint proposed to cover the graffiti in the skate park was not suitable and that a more suitable metal paint would have to be purchased.</p> <p>v) Mary Newman advised that residents had been asked not to leave grass cutting in the Glebeland.</p>	
11	<u>Padfield Green.</u>	<p>a: Confirmed Grant Offer – the grant had been received.</p> <p>b: Proposals for replacement equipment and comparison of quotes. The clerk had circulated a summary of quotations received and options available. It was agreed to place an order with Vita Play Ltd to include the Play Tower and safety surfacing. Further funding to be sought for the proposed outdoor childrens gym equipment which would not be ordered at this time.</p> <p>c: Replacement fencing. Funding for this was being sought.</p>	
12	<u>St Aldhelms Well</u>	<p>a: Edge Tool Works. Cllr Fidge had visited the site and met with the owner. She noted that works to stabilise the banks and structures was underway to prevent further deterioration and maintain the site for the future.</p> <p>b: Recent vandalism at the Well. The Chairman adjourned the meeting briefly at this point to allow for public participation.</p> <p>Mary Newman reported that children had taken stones from the walls and infilled the basin and the well. After a conversation they had removed the stones from these areas. It was also noted that the rail to the side of the access up into the site was damaged/removed. The meeting reconvened. Cllr Crowcombe felt that there should be some explanation about the well if local children were unaware of its significance.</p> <p>It was agreed to carry out repairs/stabilisation to the top of the wall; clerk to find details of stonemason who had previously worked at the site.</p>	
13	<u>Parish Council Matters:</u>	<p>a: Highways and Footpath matters:</p> <p>i) Blocked gullies – Doulling Hill – no confirmation as to whether these works had been completed.</p> <p>ii) Email re: Longcross. The clerk had received an email from highways advising that, as they only had reports on one incident, they did not consider further action to be necessary. Clerk to take the matter up with Geoff Bunting, et al.</p> <p>iii) Footpath blocked by maize north of Chelynch Woods. Somerset Rights of Way to be advised.</p>	
14	<u>Financial:</u>	<p>a: Clerks salary and expenses for July £311.46 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p>	

		<p>b: SPFA inspection fee £150.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised. Cllr Clarke noted that the council had asked to meet with the inspector so that they would be aware of the areas of concern. This had not happened for the recent inspection. Clerk to take this matter up with SPFA.</p> <p>c: Valley Sawmills invoice for picnic tables: £998.40 – this was agreed and a cheque raised. Cllr Shepherd noted that he still had the table for Padfield Green at his works and would speak to Cllr Wilkins about the location of this table.</p>	
	15	<u>Waterlip</u> . Nothing to report.	
	16	<p><u>Prestleigh</u></p> <p>a: Bath and West Showground. The Chairman adjourned the meeting briefly at this point to allow for public participation.</p> <p>There was a general discussion about the re-consultation on the Bath and West LDO where there had been a number of changes which raised great concern amongst the residents of Prestleigh including changes to the classes of development permitted and the area of proposed buildings, the loss of buffer zones between the proposed development of Prestleigh and the anticipated increase in traffic because of these changes. A number of inconsistencies between the traffic plans for the school (now granted) and the LDO were also noted. It was noted that there would be a meeting of the LDO Liaison group on 18/19th August but there was unlikely to be any consultation with the District Councillor or Parishes. Representatives from Evercreech PC (present) would like to attend this meeting; details to be advised when known.</p> <p>It was also noted that recent events had caused clouds of dust due to vehicles travelling too fast around the site and that, eventually, after several phone calls this had been mitigated by a water bowser and a speed reduction. The meeting reconvened.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that they should reiterate their previous objection to the proposals and that the previously submitted objection should be updated and recirculated prior to submission. Councillors voted unanimously to object to the amended proposals.</p> <p>b: Other matters. It was noted that David Van Dyk was seeking to set up a liaison group with the parish councils, school and LDO.</p> <p>It was also agreed that a group should be constituted to monitor and oppose where necessary the ongoing developments and to seek conditions on any proposed developments.</p> <p>The question of footpath safety below the Prestleigh Inn was raised. The clerk advised the highways had advised that the defunct light on the wall of the Inn was not their responsibility. Clerk to contact highways to seek improve to the footpath and lighting on the grounds of highway safety.</p>	

17	<u>Village Hall, Doultong</u> a: Works to roof. Cllr Goff advised that these would have no impact on the Produce Show.	
18	<u>Beacon Hill Wood Society:</u> nothing to report.	
19	<u>Correspondence:</u> Clerk to circulate information received about mini buses available for community use and include on next agenda.	
20	<u>Matters of Report:</u> Cllr Goff noted that details of the Stage 2 of the Local Plan process would be available to view on 18 th September at Mendip DC (2 – 8pm). These would also be available at Evercreech Village Hall on 26 th October (2 – 8pm) It was noted that the campervan parked at Padfield Green remains a problem both for pedestrian and traffic safety. Cllr Goff to speak to owners of the van. Cllr Clarke noted that Mendip Enforcement would be having a meeting with the owner of the land at Well Lane with a view to seeking a formal application for the unauthorised works at the site. A previous discussion about the date and venue for the Parish Council meeting when held at St Aldhelms School to be included on the next agenda.	
21	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next scheduled meeting is on 10 th September 2015 at St Aldhelms School, Doultong.	

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
25th August 2015
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