

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2015**

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

	<u>Present:</u> Cllrs Ros Wilkins (Chair), Ann Crowcombe, Barry Clarke, John Shepherd, Sarah Goff; also in attendance David van Dyk (MDC), Nicola Housley (A&S Constab) and Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllrs Paula Fidge.	
2	<p><u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. 7 members of the public were in attendance.</p> <p>Mary Newman asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to Clive Keevil for clearing the footpath on Doultling Hill.</p> <p>The signs previously mentioned as being overgrown on Doultling Hill were mentioned, Cllr Clarke to contact highways.</p> <p>A number of queries were raised about the Bath and West LDO. These included the lack of information on public objections on the Mendip website, the proposals for highway alterations at Whitstone Corner and Beardly Batch considered to be inadequate to cope with the increased traffic and previous planning appeals referring to landscape and amenity in the area. Cllr van Dyk to look into the inclusion of objections on the website. He also advised that it was essential that a Parish Council representative spoke at the planning board.</p> <p>Tony Blaker reported a vehicle speeding around the village, details to be passed onto the police. He noted that the signs in Chelynch Road were having an effect and suggested that further signs should be considered. He also asked when the next speedwatch would be taking place on Chelynch Road. He had attended the Evercreech PC meeting and noted that concern had been raised about the level of noise from recent events at the B&W Showground.</p> <p>John Lees commented on the footpath blocked with maize as being impassable. He also advised that new lighting had been installed in the village hall.</p>	
3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.	
4	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 13 th August 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.	
5	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u></p> <p>a: Shelter for school children – The clerk had obtained further details of timber shelters but concern was expressed about the ability of these shelters to withstand vandalism and rough treatment. It was suggested that some form of enclosed metal shelter would be more suitable. Clerk to locate and circulate details.</p>	

	<p>b: Post Office for Doultling – A written response in favour of the idea had been received and a number of people had expressed support for the idea. Another item to be put in the newsletter and the matter to be discussed further at the next meeting.</p> <p>c: Venue and date of meetings at Doultling – deferred until next meeting.</p>	
6	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>a: Application 2014/2250/LDO – included under item 16a of this agenda.</p> <p>b: Grant of permission 2015/1250/FUL – Demolition of Holcombe Farmhouse and replacement with new dwelling. This was noted.</p> <p>c: Application 2015/1382/REM - Approval of reserved matters – Ingsdon Farm, Bodden Lane (Agricultural Building 2014/0544/OTA). This was noted.</p> <p>d: Pre-application information re: Wind Turbine at Ivy House Farm, Kilver Street, Shepton Mallet. Although this was not in the Parish, it was agreed that a response should be submitted. Cllr Clarke had prepared comments, to be passed to clerk for summarising and submission as a response.</p> <p>e: Dates for Local Plan Consultation. The notice advertising these dates to be posted on Notice Boards and on the website.</p>	
7	<p><u>Speedwatch:</u></p> <p>i) Speedwatch report – Cllr Goff reported that the training of volunteers seems to have stopped and there has been little or no contact with the co-ordinator. The scheme is currently struggling to recruit new members and the needs re-invigorating.</p> <p>ii) Speedwatch collaboration with Cranmore – Cllr Goff had contacted Cranmore about collaboration and a meeting would be arranged soon.</p> <p>iii) SID’s, report, training and other matters. A report had been received from Dave Grabham showing that there was a large proportion of vehicles above the speed limit. Cllr Crowcombe noted that expenditure on insurance and hi vis clothing would be required. The clerk confirmed that this had previously been agreed.</p>	
8	<p><u>Council Reports:</u></p> <p>a: Somerset County Council – no report.</p> <p>b: Mendip District Council – Cllr van Dyk reported that there had been discussions about “devolution” for Devon and Somerset along the lines of that in place for Cornwall. He reported that there was much work being undertaken into the integration of services with South Somerset and that a report would be made to the council on 22nd October. It was possible that any integration would be implemented before the end of 2015. He also noted that the Somerset Rivers Authority had been granted fund raising powers which was likely to be a levy on council tax of between £5 and £10 per annum. He expressed concern about the governments “fast track” policy for rural housing and finally advised that two new planning enforcement officers were being recruited. Cllr Crowcombe asked about the situation with section 106 monies held by Mendip and hoped that Mendip would use the monies within the time limit, believed to be 2019, rather than “lose it” as had happened in the past.</p>	
9	<p><u>Police Report.</u></p> <p>Nicola Housley reported three incidents during the month. She advised that she would pass on the details of the speeding car to colleagues.</p>	

10	<p><u>The Glebeland</u></p> <p>a: Stones – resources had been secured to move the stone from the quarry into position.</p> <p>b: Signs – details of signs had been circulated, the wording of the contact sign was required.</p> <p>c: Survey by Dr Smith – he had been asked to carry out the survey as agreed.</p> <p>d: Other matters raised – a number of repairs had been carried out by Geoff Buzzard, clerk to write a letter of thanks.</p> <p>Cllr Clarke queried whether the budget included for repairs, etc to The Glebeland. The clerk advised that there was a small budget for this work as well as a larger budget for capital works.</p> <p>The next Glebeland meeting is on 30th September, 9.15am at The Church.</p>	
11	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u></p> <p>a: Replacement equipment – this will be fixed after the autumn half term. It was agreed to donate the redundant equipment with suitable disclaimer to the Friend of St Aldhelm.</p> <p>b: Childrens Gym equipment – Cllr Wilkins had spoken to local children who were keen to have this equipment. Funding to be sought from Local Legacy Fund.</p> <p>c: Replacement fencing – this to be included with the bid for the local legacy fund.</p> <p>d: There had been recent vandalism when the picnic table was badly damaged. The clerk had made it safe and Cllr Shepherd agreed to remove the bench from site. It was agreed to seek quotes for a concrete base under the new picnic table. It was also noted that overage youths were using the equipment and causing damage. The sign stating the age limit had gone missing. It was agreed that the signs should be replaced as soon as possible.</p> <p>e: It was noted that grass cuttings are being left on the ground rather than being collected. Cllr Crowcombe and Mary Newman will mention this when discussing the grass cutting for the Glebeland with Chris Brown. The clerk advised that tenders should be sought for grass cutting, etc to ensure value for money was being achieved.</p>	
12	<p><u>St Aldhelms Well</u></p> <p>a: Edge Tool Works – no further information.</p> <p>b: Recent vandalism at the Well. The clerk had located the name of the stone mason but no other details. It was also noted that the handrail was broken. It was agreed to consider what works should be undertaken at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Clarke noted that the owner of the land at Well Lane was required to make a planning application for the works carried out by 20th September.</p>	
13	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <p>a: Highways and Footpath matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Blocked gullies – Doultling Hill – Cllr Clarke to speak to highways about outstanding items, ii) Signs @ Longcross. See i) above iii) Footpath blocked by maize north of Chelynch Woods. Clerk to contact Somerset Rights of Way. iv) Overgrown signs. See i) above. 	

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

14	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>a: Clerks salary and expenses for August £311.46 – This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>b: An invoice for £120 from Grant Thornton had been received. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>c: The sum of £19.58 had been spent on Glebeland Repairs and a cheque for G Buzzard who had purchased the items raised.</p> <p>d: Annual Return 2014/15 – External Auditors report. The auditor had commented on the late submission of the return and the correction of a transposition error in the 2013/4 return.</p> <p>e: Sundry bank correspondence – this was noted.</p>	
15	<p><u>Waterlip.</u></p> <p>Cllr Crowcombe raised the matter of a poor section of re-surfacing which was causing excessive vehicle noise.</p> <p>She also reported infilled drainage grips in Ball Lane.</p>	
16	<p><u>Prestleigh</u></p> <p>a: Bath and West Showground</p> <p>i) Planning Board re: LDO – there was a general discussion about the LDO proposals and their effect on the showground and surrounding area long term. It was suggested that the introduction of an industrial development onto the site would drive events away and would, ultimately, see the demise of the show itself.</p> <p>No councillors were available to attend the planning board on 16th September, clerk to prepare statement and to ask Ben Carrol to read the Parish Council statement.</p>	
17	<p><u>Village Hall, Doultling:</u></p> <p>Cllr Goff reported that the works to the roof had been completed and thanked John Lees and Geoff Buzzard for cleaning the hall before the produce show. The next meeting is on 21st September.</p>	
18	<p><u>Beacon Hill Wood Society:</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
19	<p><u>Correspondence:</u></p> <p>A letter had been received from the Produce Show asking for a grant to purchase tables for the next show. Item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	
20	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <p>None</p>	
21	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is on 8th October 2015 at St Aldhelms School, Doultling.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Alan Butcher,
 Parish Clerk,
 22nd September 2015
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