

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER 2015**

VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: ST ALDHELMS SCHOOL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm
(The meeting was held in the Community Room)

	<i>Present:</i> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, Ann Crowcombe, Barry Clarke, Sarah Goff and John Shepherd; also in attendance Cllr David van Dyk and Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
1	<i>Apologies for absence.</i> None	
2	<p><i>Public Forum:</i> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Eight members of the public were present.</p> <p>Tony Blaker commented on the cost of the tables for the Produce Show, advised that he had written to Geoff Bunting regarding road markings, was concerned about the age limit for children using Padfield Green and also damage to cars parking near the green and that he was concerned that some members of speedwatch were apparently ignoring village speed limits.</p> <p>Mary Newman noted that signs had been knocked over at The Well and The Glebeland and that the stone pillar near the Waggon and Horses had also been knocked over but Somerset CC were aware of this.</p> <p>Barry Newman advised that he had contacted Claire Haskins at Mendip about the sign at The Well.</p> <p>Chris Norman noted the recent planning board regarding the LDO and was disappointed that the district councillor's comments made at the last meeting were not conveyed to the planning board.</p> <p>The chairman advised that she would further adjourn the meeting for item 6 to allow members of the public to raise relevant points on planning applications.</p>	
3	<p><i>Declarations of Interest:</i></p> <p>Cllr Shepherd re planning item 6f.</p>	
4	<p><i>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</i></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	
5	<p><i>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</i></p> <p>a: Shelter for school children – the clerk distributed information about a variety of metal shelters – to be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	

	<p>b: Post Office for Doultling – the clerk to submit article for inclusion in the next newsletter.</p> <p>c: Venue and date of meetings at Doultling – It was agreed to move meetings to the second Tuesday in the month rather than Thursdays for a trial period of three months. This would allow use of the Community Room at Doultling which was understood to be available for use on Tuesdays. The next three meetings to be 10th November at Prestleigh, 8th December and 12th January at Doultling.</p>	
6	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>a: Withdraw of Enforcement Notice re: 56 New Buildings, Doultling. It was understood that the property had no parking provision but it was not known why the enforcement order was withdrawn. Clerk to seek clarification.</p> <p>b: Grant of permission 2015/1572/HSE – First Floor extension, Broadpool Cottages, Doultling. This was noted.</p> <p>c: Grant of Listed Building Consent 2015/1613/LBC – Beacon Farm, Doultling. This was noted.</p> <p>d: Application 2015/1590/APP - Approval of reserved matters – School @ Bath and West (Ref 2015/0464/FUL) – application approved. This was noted.</p> <p>e: Application 2015/2017/TPO – Pruning of two Hornbeam Trees. Doultling Manor, Church Lane, Doultling for Mr Fabian Todd.</p> <p>The chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to allow members of the public to speak on the next application.</p> <p>Barry Newman asked if all councillors had made the appropriate declaration of interest.</p> <p>The chairman asked Cllr Clarke if he should declare an interest in planning item 6e – Pruning of trees at Doultling Manor. Cllr Clarke responded that he had no pecuniary interest in the matter. The chairman responded that the application in question was adjacent to his property and that the trees overhung part of his ground and that, as a neighbour, he should declare a non-pecuniary interest.</p> <p>Mary Newman had written to the council expressing great concern about the proposals regarding these trees. There was a strong feeling in the community that they should remain as they are as they are prominent features of the village and conservation area. Several members of the public expressed concern about the proposal to remove 15% of the growth. It was noted that these trees are slow growing and also such drastic pruning could seriously damage the trees.</p> <p>Others felt that the removal of side growth would have little effect and that the advice of the tree surgeon involved should be given more weight than comments from unqualified members of the public. The meeting was then reconvened.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Crowcombe said that there was a strong feeling that the trees should not be cut back and that it was possible to over prune trees resulting in irreparable damage. It was noted by the Chairman that the council had previously considered a similar application about two years previously which was rejected because of concerns for the wellbeing of the trees. She felt there was no reason to change the decision previously reached.</p> <p>The matter was taken to a vote and the application recommended for refusal by 5 votes to 1.</p> <p>f: Application 2015/2122/VRC – Removal of agricultural occupancy tie, Whyte Sleigh Farm, Farm Road, Doulting for Mr A Fry. The chairman allowed a short statement by the applicant’s representative. He outlined the history of the site and advised that the small area of land still attached to the dwelling was too small for farm use. The original application had been in 1966 and the farm had ceased operation in 2003. Cllr Wilkins raised the matter of whether the land could be for equestrian use. It was agreed to recommend the application for approval 4 in favour with 1 abstention.</p> <p>g: Wind Turbine at Ivy House Farm, Kilver Street, Shepton Mallet. The clerk advised he had written in response to the pre-application letter.</p>	
7	<p><u>Speedwatch:</u></p> <p>i) Speedwatch report – Cllr Goff there had been little action with speedwatch during the month and that she was still awaiting a meeting with Cranmore. She also advised that she would have more time to devote to speedwatch over the coming months.</p> <p>ii) SID’s, report, training and other matters. Cllr Goff advised there would be a SID’s meeting in early November.</p>	
8	<p><u>Council Reports:</u></p> <p>a: Somerset County Council – no report.</p> <p>b: Mendip District Council – Cllr Van Dyk advised that MCT had received grants to purchase two new 16 seat mini-buses which would be delivered in March and September 2016. These would be available for a variety of community uses both for individuals and groups at a reasonable charge. He would be speaking to the community about the use of this facility and details would be included in the parish magazine and could be included on the website. Cllr Wilkins volunteered to oversee this.</p> <p>He also advised that there was to be centralisation of Building Control functions for the whole of Somerset from April 2016.</p>	
9	<p><u>Police Report.</u> No report.</p>	
10	<p><u>The Glebeland</u></p> <p>a: Report of meeting held on 30th September 2015 – Cllr Crowcombe advised that the stones had been put in place and were already a success with children in the village. She thanked all those involved for the help in providing, transporting and placing the stones.</p>	

	<p>There was a problem with graffiti in the skate park. The clerk had looked at possible treatments but these would require existing graffiti to be removed or pointed out before application. It was suggested that graffiti artists could be commissioned to decorate the structures.</p> <p>There were two dangerous conifers which required felling. Cllr Crowcombe had a quote for this work of £390 but would seek further quotes.</p> <p>It was agreed to provide another dog bin within the Glebeland at an approximate cost of £110 incl VAT.</p> <p>Final details of the contact sign were also discussed.</p>	
11	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u></p> <p>a: Replacement equipment – this would be installed by Vita Play during the first week in November. Volunteers were required to remove the existing equipment which had been donated to the school.</p> <p>b: Childrens Gym equipment – an application to the Local Legacy Fund in the sum of £14289 had been prepared and would be submitted on 9th October. This included the gym equipment and replacement fencing. Additional picnic tables had also been included.</p> <p>c: Replacement fencing – see above.</p> <p>d: Base for picnic table – A quote for bases to all the new picnic tables to be obtained.</p> <p>e: Replacement signs – Concern had been expressed about the use of the Green and equipment by older children over the stated age limit. It was agreed to consider the use of by-laws within the green area. Cllr Wilkins to have a discussion with the police on this matter.</p> <p>An adjoining owner had expressed concern about the siting of the new equipment and possible damage to the windows in his garage. The playing of ball games was also discussed and it was noted that this often occurred when after school clubs were using the green. There was also a problem with parking in this regard. It was hoped that when the existing equipment was re-sited at the school this problem would diminish.</p> <p>Cllr Wilkins to speak to the school on this matter.</p> <p>The matter of the cutting of the hedge on the west side was raised, clerk to check the deeds to establish ownership.</p> <p>f: Grass cutting – the cuttings were now being placed in the designated space in The Glebeland.</p>	
12	<p><u>St Aldhelms Well</u></p> <p>a: Edge Tool Works. No further action on this matter, to be removed from the agenda.</p> <p>b: Proposals for works at the Well. This was deferred until the next meeting.</p>	

13	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u> a: Highways and Footpath matters: i) Blocked gullies – Douling Hill ii) Signs @ Longcross. iii) Footpath blocked by maize north of Chelynch Woods. iv) Overgrown signs. Cllr Clarke had spoken to highways on all these matters and action was in hand to deal with the items.</p>	
14	<p><u>Financial:</u> a: Clerks salary and expenses for September £321.36 – this was agreed and a cheque raised b: Invoice from Landscape Group for play inspections £66.85 – this was agreed and a cheque raised. c: Quarter 2 payment to HMRC £193.95. – this was agreed and a cheque raised d: Letter from Pensions Regulator – clerk to act as contact in this regard.</p>	
15	<p><u>Waterlip.</u> Cllr Crowcombe raised the issue of an uneven surface at Waterlip which caused an unwarranted disturbance by empty lorries using the road. Cllr Crowcombe to speak to highways on this matter.</p>	
16	<p><u>Prestleigh</u> a: Bath and West Showground i) Planning Board re: LDO – Cllr Van Dyk responded to criticism about his stance on the LDO issue. He had prepared a statement which he had asked to be read at the planning board and he was appalled to discover that this had not been done. He supported the LDO but had asked that all involved communicate with the community. He had met with Rupert Cox and discussed access from the show ground to The Prestleigh Inn and also agreements with residents whose properties had rear entrances onto the showground. Cllr Fidge had also spoken with Mr Cox and had expressed the feelings of the village to the imposition of the school on their doorstep. She had, however, made the point that it was necessary to move forward on all these issues. She had been advised that the B&W show would take place as before with the horse lines moving to another area in 2017. Residents had received a newsletter from the school contractor and a watching brief was being kept on the proposed road improvements. It was also noted that there was now a greater chance of collaboration with Evercreech PC.</p>	

17	<p><u>Village Hall, Doultling</u></p> <p>a: Request for grant from Produce Show. A request had been received for a grant for the purchase of ten tables for use at the annual Produce Show. This was agreed subject to confirmation of cost of tables, clerk to seek quotes on receipt of details. It was also agreed that the Parish Council could purchase the tables which would be on loan to the Produce Show thereby allowing the reclaim of VAT and the use of the PC insurance.</p> <p>b: Cllr Goff advised that the hall was available for a Tuesday meeting as previously discussed. She also reported that the hall was seeking a Hallmark Award and that their funds were healthy. They had paid a contribution of £6500 toward the cost of the new ceiling. She also reported that new curtains were being purchased.</p>	
18	<p><u>Beacon Hill Wood Society</u></p> <p>Mary Newman noted that the school had had a successful visit to the wood today.</p>	
19	<p><u>Correspondence:</u> None.</p>	
20	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u></p> <p>Cllr Crowcombe reported on the latest Rural Forum. Cllr Clarke reported that were offering leaflets on home fire prevention. Cllr Goff noted that there was an opportunity to view the proposals for the Local Plan stage 2 on 26th October between 2 and 8pm at Evercreech Village Hall.</p>	
21	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is on 10th November 2015 at The Prestleigh Inn, Prestleigh.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
20th October 2015
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