

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2016**

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

	<i>Present:</i> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ann Crowcombe, Sarah Goff, Barry Clarke, Ros Wilkins; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)	
1	<i>Apologies for absence.</i> John Shepherd, David Van Dyk and Nicola Housley.	
2	<i>Public Forum:</i> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Nine members of the public were present. Mary Newman raised the matter of the pavements on the A361 and, in particular, that on Doultling Hill which was becoming a hazard especially for young families. She was greatly concerned about safety considerations for those using the pavement. Tony Blaker asked about the report that had been commissioned about The Glebeland. Cllr Crowcombe responded that this was being circulated around the committee at present. He also raised concerns about the trees in Wells Lane and reiterated his previous comments about the pruning of the Willow tree. He expressed concern about the cost of the SID's and asked how long it would be before any bus shelter was erected. Finally, he reiterated the comments made about the pavements on the A361.	
3	<i>Declarations of Interest:</i> Cllr Crowcombe expressed an interest as a school governor and in item 6a – planning application 2015/3079/FUL.	
4	<i>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</i> Minutes of the meeting held on 12 th January 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.	
5	<i>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</i> a: Shelter for school children: area available, ownership of proposed location, planning, size and style – clerk to write to Knightstone Housing regarding the positioning of the shelter. b: Post Office for Doultling: Questionnaire – Mary Newman had organised five volunteers to deliver the questionnaire; clerk to prepare copies for distribution. An option for the inclusion of names/addresses and a closing date to be added; Mary to liaise with the Clerk. c: Mendip Community Transport – minibuses – correspondence received from MCT noted the mini-buses delivery date and also included a request for volunteer drivers.	
6	<i>Planning:</i> a: Application 2015/3079/FUL – Erection of an extension and two canopies to existing warehouse building. Willmotts Business Park, Waterlip for Mr A Stott.	

	<p>At the invitation of the chairman Chris Stott outlined the proposals giving details of the impact of traffic movements, increased employment and environmental issues. Cllr Crowcombe left the meeting whilst councillors debated the application. There were no objections to the application and councillors agreed to support the application unanimously.</p> <p>b: Unauthorised works – Well Lane. Cllr Clarke advised that no planning application had been received and that Mendip Enforcement would be taking further action.</p> <p>c: App 2015/2017/TPO – Pruning of Hornbeam Trees at Doultling Manor – permission refused. This was noted.</p>	
7	<p><u>Speedwatch:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Speedwatch report – Cllr Goff reported that Terry Drake was now back in action and that the possibility of speedwatch in Prestleigh was under consideration. ii) Speedwatch collaboration with Cranmore – this was arranged for 25th February at 7pm. iii) SID's, report, training and other matters – an expert had been appointed to resolve software issues. 	
8	<p><u>Council Reports:</u></p> <p>a: Somerset County Council – no report.</p> <p>b: Mendip District Council – Cllr Van Dyk reported via email: <i>“1. Mendip is reviewing the main business contracts currently. The plan is to outsource land charges and the licensing department. Two companies are currently in the running and possibly will get a department each. These companies have been selected to preserve the current work force locally. Staff will Tupe across.</i></p> <p><i>The benefits of outsourcing the services will be a 9.5 million pound saving over 9 years. It will ensure that we will not have to make any redundancies going forward.</i></p> <p><i>2. Council tax will be debated at full council on the 25th of February. The message from central government is that we need to increase council tax to ensure a revenue stream to address the cut in central government funding. It's believed that a council tax rise will be country wide.”</i></p>	
9	<p><u>Police Report.</u> Nikki Housley reported by email:</p> <p><i>“17/01/16 Report of off road bikes in Beacon woods, unfortunately I explained that we can only deal with any offences on the Highway not actually in the wood as its owned by Woodland trust.</i></p> <p><i>20/01/16 Parking complaint Ball Lane Waterlip, Police attended no obstruction.</i></p> <p><i>21/01/16 Report of mud on Farrington Lane</i></p> <p><i>08/02/16 2 calls relating to a fallen tree in Prestleigh”</i></p> <p>It was also noted that there had been some petty thefts in School Lane.</p>	
10	<p><u>The Glebeland</u></p> <p>a: Matters reported at meeting of 12th January 2016 – a small amount of work had been carried out at the last working party. The dog bin had been fixed and a quote was being prepared for replacement fencing to the boules court.</p> <p>b: Fixing of new signs. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Crowcombe.</p>	

11	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u></p> <p>a: Replacement equipment The area had been re-seeded; a replacement panel was awaited.</p> <p>b: Children’s Gym equipment – a further donation had been received and Cllr Wilkins was in touch with Clarks in respect of further funding for the balance of the work to include replacement fencing and signs.</p> <p>c: Replacement fencing – see above.</p> <p>d: Base for picnic tables – final details for new tables to be agreed.</p> <p>e: Replacement signs – see above.</p> <p>f: Letter re: donation and further funding – clerk to write to confirm the donation and any further funding in due course. Cllr Wilkins to provide details.</p>	
12	<p><u>St Aldhelms Well</u></p> <p>Meeting re: Edge Tool works – date for meetings to be agreed; Cllr Clarke to speak to Mr Entwistle.</p>	
13	<p><u>Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <p>a: Highways and Footpath matters airing from last meeting. There was some discussion about the continuing damage to verges and mud on the carriageway in Newmans Lane and Kings Road. Clerk to write to highways.</p> <p>b: Hedges and footpath on A361 – correspondence had been received concerning the dangerous state of this footpath; clerk to contact highways.</p> <p>c: Footpath at Prestleigh – Cllr Fidge had reported a number of problems to highways as the footpath was in a very poor state. It was understood that the footpaths should be on a cycle maintenance programme.</p> <p>d: St Aldhelms School admissions arrangements – there had been concern expressed about changes to the admissions policy had could discriminate against siblings joining the school and children coming from other areas. The change in policy centred on the requirements placed on the school as a church school and the need to offer places to surrounding communities. A varying number of additional traffic movements at school times were quoted and discussed. It was also noted that there was some unrest about the changed sibling policy but that there had been no complaints to the school on the matter.</p> <p>There was continuing concern about the movement and speed of traffic in and out of the village hall car park at school times, the apparent lack of staff supervision and the obvious safety hazards presented to children leaving the school. The Village Hall Committee had discussed the matter with the Headteacher who had advised that the school was trying to resolve the problems. It was suggested that a PCSO should attend and that it was paramount that members of the school staff supervised the area at arrival and leaving times.</p> <p>e: Meeting arrangements and dates – The trial period for the revised date had ended and, after discussion, it was agreed to continue with the current arrangements for another six months.</p>	
14	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>a: Clerks salary and expenses for December £300.21 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>b: Landscape Group inspections £66.85 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>c: Request for donation from St Aldhelms Church – a donation of £850 was agreed and a cheque raised.</p>	

	<p>d: Somerset Playing Fields Assoc subscription £15.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>e: Setting of precept for 2016/17 – application for £12667.00 forwarded.</p> <p>f: Changes to audit and annual return regime – the clerk advised that the Parish Council should remain opted into the new audit regime as a group 3 opted in council. This was agreed.</p>	
15	<u>Waterlip.</u> Nothing to report.	
16	<p><u>Prestleigh</u></p> <p>a: Bath and West Showground – concern was expressed about the proposed roadworks lasting three months to form the new entrance although highways had advised that this was yet to be agreed.</p> <p>In response to an invitation from the chairman, residents Helen and David Salter outlined the recent events associated with the building of the new school which they had recorded and which had been circulated to the council. They also raised issues of apparent changes to the proposed building which they had raised with the planners who appeared disinterested. There were also environmental health issues. Cllr Van Dyk had contacted planners and it was agreed that contact should be made with Tracy Aarons at Mendip DC with a view resolving these issues.</p> <p>b: Other matters – it was noted that the Framework Document for the showground had been changed seemingly without consultation. Cllr Fidge to raise the matter with Tracy Aarons.</p>	
17	<p><u>Village Hall, Doultong</u></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. Cllr Goff advised that the AGM would be on 5th April at 6pm. The hall had applied for “Hallmark” status. Cllr Goff to forward a hall booking form to the clerk for completion.</p>	
18	<p><u>Beacon Hill Wood Society</u></p> <p>A litter pick was being arranged using equipment supplied by Mendip DC.</p>	
19	<p><u>Correspondence:</u></p> <p>A request for information about buildings to be added to the Heritage at Risk register had been received. There were no buildings to be added in the parish.</p>	
20	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <p>The possibility of a beacon the mark the Queens 90th birthday was discussed; also a suggestion that this should be celebrated with a family picnic in The Glebeland. To be added to the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	
21	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is on 8th March 2016 at Doultong Village Hall.</p>	

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 Parish Clerk,
 23rd February 2016
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