

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

| MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2016 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm | |
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| | <i>Present:</i> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd, Sarah Goff, Barry Clarke; also in attendance David Van Dyk (MDC) and Alan Butcher (Clerk) |
| 1 | <i>Apologies for absence.</i> Cllr Ros Wilkins, Nicola Housley, Mary Newman. |
| 2 | <p><i>Public Forum:</i></p> <p>The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Five members of the public were present.</p> <p>Gail Blaker raised the matter of the recent traffic meeting to discuss issues at the school. She noted that the matter of the Balls Green Link had also been discussed which she felt was not relevant to village matters.</p> <p>Tony Blaker raised the matter of vehicles speeding into the village hall car park particularly at night and also alleged drug dealing in the car park and at the quarry. He had had discussions with the police on these matters. He suggested that some form of barrier was required at the entrance to the car park.</p> <p>Chris Norman noted previous discussions about an extra councillor and also raised the matter of high speed broadband for Prestleigh which apparently was provided to the new school but not the village.</p> <p>Simon raised the matter of street lighting in the village for those coming up from the showground and local residents using the poorly lit, narrow and dangerous pavements at the lower end of the village.</p> |
| 3 | <i>Declarations of Interest:</i> None. |
| 4 | <p><i>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</i></p> <p>i) Minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record</p> |
| 5 | <p><i>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting not covered elsewhere:</i></p> <p>i) Hedge at Padfield Green. The clerk confirmed that Chris Brown would be removing the hedge.</p> <p>ii) Increase in number of Parish Councillors from six to seven. Cllr Clarke felt that the council would be better served with an additional councillor ensuring a good representation at meeting when, as tonight's meeting, a councillor was away. Cllr Shepherd agreed. Cllr Crowcombe felt that a parish consultation was needed before any increase was considered. An election would be required should an additional councillor be added and she felt that it would be better that this took place at the time of the next elections in 2019. She proposed that the council endeavour to complete the process for the increase in membership to seven by the time for the next elections in 2019 allowing seven councillors to be elected at that time. Seconded Cllr Goff and passed three in favour, two against. Cllr Clarke noted that all members should endeavour to attend meetings wherever possible.</p> |

Doulting Parish Council – Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

11th October 2016

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| | <p>iii) Parish Council representation. Cllr Fidge to circulate paper for discussion at the next meeting.</p> |
| 6 | <p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>i) Application 2016/2184/FUL -First Floor extension and Change of Use at The Royal Bath and West of England Society, The Bath and West Showground, Prestleigh for Mr R Cox. Cllr Fidge gave a resume of the proposals and councillors were generally happy with those proposals. Cllr Van Dyk felt that they represented an improvement on the existing facilities. It was agreed unanimously to support the application.</p> <p>ii) The clerk advised that an application for Beard Hill Farm had been received too late for this meeting. It was agreed to seek an extension to allow discussion at the next scheduled meeting.</p> |
| 7 | <p><u>New and On-going Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <p>i) Shelter for school children. Cllr Crowcombe had received the quotes for the proposed works and was seeking funding. Further details to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>ii) School, Village Hall and Parish Council meeting regarding traffic – 20th September 2016 and other associated traffic matters. Cllr Crowcombe and the clerk reported on the meeting with Andrew Tranter who had advised he could only deal with matters relating directly to highways and could only give advice about other matters. Any works carried out on “private land” such as the village hall car park and school access did not come under highway control. Mr Tranter confirmed that it would not be possible to install any form of crossing in Chelynych Park but that he would arrange for zig zag lines to be painted opposite the school entrance. He also agreed to paint similar lines at the entrance to the Glebeland. It was understood that Mr Tranter was no longer dealing with the Doulting area; clerk to contact Chris Betty to ask when the promised lines would be painted. Cllr Fidge felt that the parish Council should be pro-active in promoting road safety in the area. Cllr Goff advised that, in fact, there had only been one incident in 20 years. Cllr Fidge responded that these matters had been discussed over a long period and that it was paramount that the council continued to promote and ensure road safety. There remained concerns about the use of the village roads by large vehicles and tractors and the school should be responsible for ensuring reasonable parent behaviour at drop off and collection times. She suggested that another meeting with the school be arranged.</p> <p>iii) Consultation on precept capping proposals. The clerk circulated the NALC proposed response. Cllr Clarke felt that the use of referendum to agreed large increase in the precept was no bad thing whereas Cllr Crowcombe felt that the proposal left the council with not flexibility when setting the precept. It was agreed that the council should respond along the NALC suggested line.</p> |
| 8 | <p><u>Highways and Traffic:</u></p> <p>i) Highway Matters generally. Noting the comments in 7ii) above, Cllr Shepherd felt that there were area areas in the parish, notably Long Cross which had a poorer safety record but which had not been dealt with effectively by Highways.</p> |

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| | <p>The matter of the lighting in Prestleigh was raised and highways to be contacted about the possibility of improvements.</p> <p>ii) Footpath matters. The clerk to contact highways above the Doultling Hill footpath where a poor surface and overgrown vegetation made it dangerous for pedestrians.</p> <p>iii) Speedwatch and SID's. A meeting had been held with Dave Grabham and Cllrs Fidge and Crowcombe had agreed SID positions in Doultling and Prestleigh which were awaiting the mountings to be fitted.</p> <p>Cllr Goff reported that speedwatch was "back in business" following an influx of volunteers and that one had taken place with three others planned. She noted that there was also the possibility of volunteers to receive training in safety awareness which could be passed on via the school. This would be in around ten days time.</p> |
| 9 | <p><u>Reports:</u></p> <p>i) Somerset County Council – no report.</p> <p>ii) Mendip District Council – Cllr Van Dyk reported that significant changes were under way with council "back office" functions where the council was now sharing service with 4 other councils. New client/control centres were proposed for June 2017 offering significant savings over time. Final details had yet to be confirmed but some services will still be available in Shepton Mallet. Some concern was expressed about the effect on customer services at Mendip. He also noted that previous proposals for "devolution" previously promoted were now "on the back burner".</p> <p>iii) Police – the flowing report had been received: <i>Please would you pass on my apologies as I am unable to attend the meeting tonight as working a day shift.</i> <i>Here is a brief report for you from the last month.</i> <i>12/09 Break in at a building Hither Broadpool Farm</i> <i>04/10 Report of youths in the school car park</i> <i>10/10 Veh in a ditch in the Long Cross area.</i> <i>Regarding the school car park, we have patrolled when possible but have not so far seen anyone in there. A gate would be an idea to deter this. Has the parish Council written to the school suggesting this?</i> <i>I am happy to speak with the school about this but ultimately it will be up to them to action a gate.</i></p> <p>iv) Village and Parish Organisations. Village Hall. There had been a well attended meeting on 20th September and lots of ideas put forward with new volunteers. Generally there was now a positive vib in the village. The matter of any barrier into the car park was discussed and many people were not in favour. However, there were continuing concerns about the use of the car park for nefarious activities. Cllr Fidge felt that these were continuing problems which needed action. Cllr Goff to discuss the timing and use of the car park with the school.</p> |
| 10 | <p><u>The Glebeland:</u></p> <p>i) Poster to encourage more volunteers. Poster to be drafted and discussed at the next committee meeting.</p> |

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| | <p>ii) Report on meeting of 27th September. A number of volunteers had been recruited who were prepared to carry out specific tasks and additional working party dates put forward. Mary Newman was to contact volunteers. Mary Newman was concerned about any proposal to make The Glebeland an SSSI and it was specifically noted that the parish Council had no intention of seeking such a designation.</p> <p>iii) Parking in Carey Close and in front of gate. The proposal for zig zag lines was welcomed and it was noted that the DVLA had been in action over parked vehicles.</p> <p>iv) Matters relating to Glebeland title and legal documents. The clerk circulated copies of the documents showing the covenants applying to The Glebeland. Cllr Fidge noted that current activities in no way breached these restrictions.</p> |
| 11 | <p><u>Padfield Green..</u></p> <p>i) Replacement signs – these had been fitted.</p> |
| 12 | <p><u>Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <p>i) Bath and West matters including proposed meeting with Chief Executive. It was noted that the permission for the school included a provision that the footpath from the showground to Prestleigh be kept open although it appeared that this might not be the case. It was not known if Cllr Wilkins had been able to speak to Rupert Cox about the proposed meeting.</p> <p>ii) Response to communications about the recent NASS event. Cllr Van Dyk noted that Mendip have been asked to respond giving details of their response to the noise problems at this event. He was also monitoring the next event “Westfest”.</p> |
| 13 | <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>i) Clerks salary and expenses – 366.65 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>ii) Landscape Group Inspections - £66.85 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>iii) SID software invoice – 62.50 (not yet received)</p> <p>iv) Arien Signs - £10.80 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>v) Quarterly accounts to 30th September 2016 – these were circulated along with a budget comparison.</p> |
| 14 | <p><u>Matters of Report:</u></p> <p>i) Cllr Fidge thanked the Prestleigh Inn for their Harvest Festival celebration and for the use of the room for this meeting.</p> <p>ii) Cllr Crowcombe advised that she was unable to attend the Rural Forum on 18th October and asked if any other councillor could attend.</p> |
| 15 | <p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is on 8th November 2016 at Doultling Village Hall.</p> |

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
27th October 2016
01749 870358,
doultlingclerk@gmail.com.