

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2016

VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: DOULTING VILLAGE HALL @ 7.30pm

	<p><u>Present:</u> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, Barry Clarke, John Shepherd, Sarah Goff, Ann Crowcombe; also in attendance David van Dyk and Alan Butcher (Clerk)</p>
1	<p><u>Apologies for absence.</u> Nicola Housley (A&S Cons)</p>
2	<p><u>Public Forum:</u></p> <p>The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation.</p> <p>Nine members of the public were present.</p> <p>Mary Newman advised that asphalt had been dumped at the entrance to Beacon Hill Wood and that Mendip were dealing with the removal.</p> <p>John Lees asked if the Parish Council would like village planting to continue. This was agreed and a vote of thanks given to John for his continuing efforts with the planting.</p> <p>Melanie Buzzard advised that she and her husband intended to clear up the area adjoining the phone box at Padfield Green. She suggested that planters could be introduced and councillors agreed that this could be funded by the Parish Council, Cllr Wilkins to liaise and Cllr Clarke to investigate the cost of appropriately sized concrete pipe planters.</p> <p>Gail Blaker advised that a petition in respect of alleged drug use and speeding cars in and around the village hall car park and the continuing problems with speeding traffic on Chelynych Road had been circulated and had been signed by 96 residents. The petition called for a barrier to be provided to prevent access to the car park. She passed the petition and also evidence of drug use to the clerk. She expressed concern on behalf of many residents about the apparent lack of action by the Parish Council on these matters. A number of those at the meeting expressed concern about the provision of a barrier which would impede delivery vehicles who came to the school in the early morning and those seeking legitimate use of the car park. A number of suggestions were made on the best way to achieve car park security. The Chairman thanked Gail for the petition and suggested that a meeting of all parties be called by the Parish Council to establish the problems and discuss solutions. Cllr Goff advised that there was a village hall meeting shortly where the matter would be discussed.</p> <p>Tony Blaker asked about progress on the bus shelter, positioning of SID brackets and any follow up meeting about school traffic. He also advised that there was still problems with drainage on Doultling Hill although it was noted that the hedges had been recently cut back and areas of overgrowth on the pathway cleared.</p>

3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr Crowcombe declared a personal interest in item 6i) Beard Hill Farm. The interest did not require her to leave the meeting during the debate.</p>
4	<p><u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record with the following amendments: Minute 5ii) – Cllr Goff proposed and Cllr Crowcombe seconded (names transposed) Minute 8iii) – The last sentence amended to read “She noted that there was also the possibility of volunteers to receive speedwatch training. It was suggested that safety awareness training could be passed on by the school.” Minute 9iii) – spelling corrected to “following” Minute 10ii) – third sentence - “Tony Blaker was concerned...” not Mary Newman.
5	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting not covered elsewhere:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Parish Council representation. Cllr Fidge had circulated a proposal. It proposed Cllr Goff, sec Cllr Crowcombe that the matter be discussed at an extraordinary meeting where the press and public were excluded. This was scheduled for 29th November, 7.30pm at The Prestleigh Inn; Cllr Fidge to confirm availability. ii) School traffic meeting – follow up meeting. Cllr Crowcombe had emailed Andrew Tranter who had now moved to another area. Cllr Clarke had been in touch with Chris Betty and was awaiting the result of a discussion between Messrs Betty and Tranter. iii) Cllr Clarke expressed concern about the matter of an additional councillor discussed at the previous meeting and queried the vote taken. Cllr Shepherd confirmed he had agreed with the argument put forward by Cllr Goff and voted accordingly. The clerk advised it would require a special motion to change the previous resolution. It was agreed that the matter should be included for discussion at the 2017 Annual PC meeting and that the clerk should check on the procedure with Mendip DC.
6	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Application 2016/2332/FUL – Demolition of existing poultry unit and construction of two storey vehicle workshop with amenities and car parking at Beard Hill Farm, Fosse Way, Pylle for Mr Neil and Michael Christensen. (extension to consultation period granted.) Cllrs were unanimously in support of the application and commented that the proposal would bring local employment and would enhance the local economy. ii) Grants of permission for: Bath and West extension and change of use (2016/2184/FUL) Garden Room at Brookside, Prestleigh (2016/2155/HSE) Conversion of barn to dwelling, The Old Stables, Hurlingpot Farm. (2016/1202/FUL and /1203 LBC). These were noted.

	<p>iii) Confirmation that the change of use of the Grain and Implement Building to a dwelling house at The Old Stables, Hurlingpot Farm requires no prior approval (2016/2104/PAA). This was noted.</p>
7	<p><u>New and On-going Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <p>i) Shelter for school children. Funding options and programme of works. Cllr Crowcombe advised that she had promises of funding from local businesses of around £1400, an anonymous donation of £1000 and a donation of £1000 from Wainwrights subject to confirmation by the council. It was agreed that this donation should be taken up. Further funds were required and a number of other sources noted including Tesco and Somerset CC. It was also suggested that the children from the school could carry out fund raising.</p> <p>ii) Quarry Liaison meetings. Cllr Crowcombe and Clarke had recently attended a quarry liaison meeting and noted that Wainwrights would be submitting planning application in the new year and were keen to invite Parish Councillors to a briefing on the proposals. A copy of the site plan to be sent to the clerk for reference.</p>
8	<p><u>Highways and Traffic:</u></p> <p>i) Highway Matters generally. It was noted that the requested works on Doultling Hill had been carried out. Cllr Fidge noted that the footpath in Prestleigh had been cleared but that the surface had been damaged during the operation. Cllr Clarke to mention this to Charlie Higgins.</p> <p>ii) Footpath matters. The footpath in Prestleigh between the A371 and the new school was in use but needed clearance of overgrowth. Also the footpath between The Prestleigh Inn and Beard Hill had a locked gate on its route. Mary Newman noted that the footpath opposite The Well had become rutted and slippery and the footpath sign had disappeared. Clerk to report these matters to Somerset CC Rights of Way.</p> <p>iii) Speedwatch and SID's. Cllr Goff reported that there were seven volunteers were undertaking training and that speedwatch would take place after the completion of roadworks on the A361. The new brackets for the SID's were awaited.</p>
9	<p><u>Reports:</u></p> <p>i) Somerset County Council – no report.</p> <p>ii) Mendip District Council - Cllr Van Dyk advised that Caroline Macaffery at Mendip was updating councillors Registers of Interests and reminded councillors that it was an offence not to make proper declaration.</p> <p>iii) Police – the following report had been received from Nicola Housley: <i>4/10 Report of two vehicles in the school car park</i> <i>10/10 road traffic collision at Longcross</i> <i>11/10 a garden shed was broken into and a pressure washer taken</i> <i>12/10 drug related paraphernalia found near the school</i></p>

	<p><i>21/10 vehicles in the school car park</i> <i>24/10 vehicle broken into nr the Old Bakehouse</i> <i>24/10 vehicle obstruction Chelynch road</i> <i>25/10 Prestleigh, pig in the road</i></p> <p>iv) Village and Parish Organisations. Cllr Goff on behalf of the village hall reported that discussions had taken place about the possibility of a barrier into the hall car park but the school was concerned about early morning deliveries. A number of other measures had been discussed including removable bollards, rising bollards and folding bollards and improved lighting all of which were either unsuitable or too costly. She noted that the driveway is in the ownership of the diocese who would be unable to fund any of the measures put forward. It was suggested that funding might be available to carry out such works. Cllr Fidge reiterated that a meeting should be held between all parties to establish the problems and agree solutions. Clerk to draft letter to be sent to all parties and to endeavour to agree a suitable date for a meeting. Cllr Goff also advised that a village hall would shortly take place and that the lease for the hall was due for renewal in 2017.</p>
10	<p><u><i>The Glebeland:</i></u></p> <p>i) Poster to encourage more volunteers. This to be prepared for the next committee meeting. ii) Parking in Carey Close and in front of gate. There were currently no reported problems with access to the gate. iii) Cllr Crowcombe advised that there had been two working parties recently and that two were planned for December 14th and 16th. She thanked John for his work to repair the gate and it was agreed to write to Geoff Buzzard to thank him for his work on the fence.</p>
11	<p><u><i>Padfield Green.</i></u></p> <p>i) Cllr Wilkins noted that the hedge had been removed but that still remained the problem with the lack of toilet facilities.</p>
12	<p><u><i>Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</i></u></p> <p>i) Bath and West matters including proposed meeting with Chief Executive. Despite a number of attempts to arrange a meeting with Rupert Cox no meeting had been arranged or, indeed, no contact made with Mr Cox. ii) Response to communications about the recent NASS event from Cllr Van Dyk and others. Environmental Health were still talking to NASS about the problems at the recent event but it was suggested that there was a “rave” taking place on adjoining land at the same time which was the cause of the noise problems. On a separate issue, Cllr Van Dyk outlined events at the recent Westfest which appeared to have inconsistent security provision with a large number of underage attendees.</p>

	<p>There was also a chaotic period after the event with attendees leaving the showground and using the A371 without apparent regard to road safety issues. A report was being prepared for the Licensing Board. Cllr Fidge reported that despite the above there had been no issues in Prestleigh.</p> <p>iii) Representation on feedback and briefing meetings for events such as NASS and the Glastonbury Festival. Cllr Van Dyk noted that Somerset CC were talking to Glastonbury about alleviating traffic problems for the 2017 Festival. He agreed to come back to the Parish Council after officers at Mendip had finalised their report and recommendation on the NASS event but he agreed that these needed to address the issues raised and that a liaison meeting would be beneficial. He also understood that discussions would be taking place about the Bath and West traffic problems with a view to resolution in 2017. In summary he agreed that all issues raised need to be properly addressed before the next events in 2017.</p> <p>iv) Response from David Warburton MP on B&W traffic issues. This was noted and it was agreed to advise him of any further problems or issues.</p> <p>v) A communication from Somerset CC regarding the naming of the access road to the school as Edmund Rack Road had been received and there were no objections to the proposed name.</p> <p>vi) There were no matters relating to Waterlip.</p>
13	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>i) Clerks salary and expenses – 355.40 – this was agreed and a cheque raised. ii) Landscape Group Inspections - £66.85 – this was agreed and a cheque raised. iii) HMRC quarter 2 tax - £219.12 – this was agreed and a cheque raised. iv) Confirmation of amended budget update. The correct version had been circulated and was confirmed.</p>
14	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u></p> <p>Cllr Wilkins reported on unfortunate incidents involving a local family which she was trying to resolve.</p>
15	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is on 13th December 2016 – it was agreed to hold this meeting at The Prestleigh Inn as the hall was being used for a school event on that day. The January meeting to be held at Doultong. The proposed extraordinary meeting on 29th November also to be held at The Prestleigh Inn; Cllr Fidge to confirm both dates with The Prestleigh Inn.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
17th November 2016
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