

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10th JANUARY 2017 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm	
	<u>Present:</u> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, Sarah Goff, Ann Crowcombe, Barry Clarke and John Shepherd; also in attendance Cllr David van Dyk (MDC) and Alan Butcher (Clerk)
1701/1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> None received.
1701/2	<p><u>Public Forum:</u></p> <p>The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Seven members of the public were present.</p> <p>Janice Crew asked if the Village Agent could make a presentation to the Parish Council, it was agreed that the agent, John Knapwood should attend the Annual Parish Meeting. She also advised the council about fund raising efforts to purchase a defibrillator for Doultling, details to be sent to clerk and item to be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>Mary Newman noted that a new sign had been installed on the footpath to the Well and that the rutted surface had been levelled. She was also concerned about a suggestion that some form of portable toilet be installed at Padfield Green, she felt that this would be easily damaged and that parents should be reminded children should be asked to use toilet facilities before coming to the play area.</p> <p>Gail Blaker reported that drug packets had been picked up around the school and these were handed to the clerk for onward transmission to the police. The PCSO had spoken to youths at the car park and that they appeared to be in favour of a barrier. She commented that the matter was not, in her opinion, adequately discussed at the recent village hall meeting.</p> <p>Tony Blaker reported he had written to Somerset Highways about accidents on the A361 and the problems with lack of surface water drainage on Doultling Hill. He also commented on recent finds of drug paraphernalia and refuted criticism of the recent petition presented to the Parish Council. He also raised concern about the validity of the planning application for Wellspring Grove which was considered at the last meeting.</p>
1701/3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.
1701/4	<p><u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <p>i) Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>
1701/5	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting not covered elsewhere:</u></p> <p>i) Parish Council representation – amended Terms of Reference. The clerk circulated revised draft Terms, these to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>ii) Quarry Liaison meetings. Site plan to be forwarded. Cllr Clarke advised he had spoken to the quarry on the matter.</p>

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1701/6	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Application 2016/3070/FUL – Conversion and raised roof of existing outbuilding to form a single self-contained holiday let and replacement septic tank with sewage treatment plant at Knapps Farm, Kings Road, Doultling for Mr and Mrs Mead. There were no objections to the application and it was agreed that determination should be left to the Planning Officer. ii) Application 2016/3176/NMA - Non Material Amendment to permission 2016/2184/FUL relating to windows, doors and the link roof. The Royal Bath & West Of England Society Royal Bath And West Showground Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 6QN. No documents had been received and none were available of the website. It was agreed that no comments could therefore be made; clerk to contact planners about the lack of documentation. iii) Grants of permission: Approval of reserved matters at Farncombe House, Maesdown Road, Doultling – ref 2016/2202/HSE. This was noted.
1701/7	<p><u>New and On-going Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Shelter for school children. Costings for proposed shelter and programme of works. The clerk circulated information on a variety of shelters in addition to the one originally proposed. After discussion it was agreed to purchase a “Ruby” waiting shelter (four sided; 7-9 person) from the Shelter Store for the sum of £2969.00 plus VAT. The shelter is supplied with wooden seats, 6mm toughened safety glass and poly carbonate roof. Arrangements for fixing the shelter to be confirmed. Clerk to place order and confirm details of delivery time, etc. Cllr Crowcombe asked that letters of thanks for sent to those who had given donations for the shelter; the clerk confirmed this was in hand.
1701/8	<p><u>Highways and Traffic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Highway Matters generally. Prestleigh footpath damage. Repairs were yet to be carried out. Doultling Hill – blocked drainage. Highways had been contacted; Cllr Clarke to press Highways further following recent accidents. It was noted that continuing bad weather will only exacerbate the situation. Other matters reported. The provision of “Kill your speed..” signs was discussed. Cllr Clarke reiterated his concern about the proliferation of signs and felt he could not support the positioning of the signs. The signs themselves were available from the police at £30 incl VAT and could be sited in conjunction with Speedwatch. Cllr Goff to confirm details at the forthcoming Speedwatch AGM. Cllr Shepherd expressed continuing concern about the drain outside the Poachers Pocket at Chelynch which was continually blocked causing flooding and, in current weather, icy patches.

	<p>ii) Footpath matters. Footpath to Beard Hill – locked gate. This had been reported on the Somerset R of Way Map. Footpath to Well. This had now been improved. Cllr Fidge reported that the footpath from the B&W showground to the Prestleigh Inn would be open at least for the NASS event next summer.</p> <p>iii) Speedwatch and SID's. Cllr Goff reported that a Mendip wide Speedwatch involving the police and volunteers would take place on 20th January. She also reported that the police had issued hi-vis vests to people using the Doultling Hill footpath. The SID's brackets were still on order. Cllr Fidge to discuss the siting of a SID in Prestleigh with local residents.</p>
1701/9	<p><u>Reports:</u></p> <p>i) Somerset County Council – no report</p> <p>ii) Mendip District Council – Cllr van Dyk reported a matters including the proposal to extend waste collections to three weekly. In response to an enquiry from Cllr Clarke he advised on the proposals to increase Mendip's borrowing to £40m. He felt that some of the money should be used for social housing/housing for the elderly.</p> <p>iii) Police – it had been advised that the police would no longer routinely attend Parish Council meetings or send reports and that the onus was on councils to report matters to the police. There were no matters to report from this meeting.</p> <p>iv) Village and Parish Organisations Village hall car park issues – proposed meeting. This had been set for 20th January and invitations had been sent out. Cllr Goff reported on the last Village Hall meeting and advised on discussions with the police. She commented that the police were not interested in drugs being used “for personal use”. They had no resources to put into dealing with these situations although there was uncertainty about at what level of drug use the police would respond. Cllr Goff noted that the CCTV was still monitored after 9.30pm. The next meeting would be organised for February.</p>
1701/10	<p><u>The Glebeland:</u></p> <p>i) Date of next meeting – this was agreed for 31st January at 10am in Doultling Community Room.</p>
1701/11	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u></p> <p>i) Portable toilet facilities. The clerk advised costs for portable and composting toilets. It was agreed to consult with SPFA and others about toilet provision.</p>
1701/12	<p><u>Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <p>i) Waterlip – nothing to report.</p> <p>ii) Bath and West matters including proposed meeting with Chief Executive. There had been no contact in this regard.</p>

	<p>iii) NASS event licencing. Cllr Goff reported on the licensing hearing earlier in the day where a number of concessions had been agreed with the organisers. It would be necessary to ensure that these did, in fact, take place.</p> <p>iv) Parking problems were reported on the new school opening day and concern was expressed about the appearance of a “commercial” café on the site. It was also noted that the proposed improvements to the roundabout at Cannards Grave had not taken place. Cllr van Dyk to look into status of café. Prestleigh residents were still awaiting the promised invite to look around the school. It was also noted that there had been some difficulty over the holiday in contacting the keyholder to silence the alarm which had been activated during the holiday period.</p>
1701/13	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>i) Clerks salary and expenses - £355.40. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>ii) Landscape Group (Idverde Ltd) - £66.85 for inspections. This had been received within the last few days. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>iii) Cheque were also draw for planting around the village – St Aldhelms Church £178.00 and G Buzzard £60.05.</p> <p>iv) Budget update and setting of precept for 2017/18 – the clerk circulated an updated budget at the meeting. After consideration Councillors agreed that the precept should be held at the 2016/17 level of £12.667.00</p>
1701/14	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u></p> <p>Cllr Crpwcombe advised she would be unable to attend the next meeting.</p>
1701/15	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is on 14th February 2017, 7.30pm at Doultling Village Hall.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Alan Butcher,
 Parish Clerk,
 20th January 2017
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