

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2017 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm	
	<u>Present:</u> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chairman), Ros Wilkins, Barry Clarke, John Shepherd, Sarah Goff, Ann Crowcombe; also in attendance Cllr David van Dyk and Alan Butcher (Clerk)
1703/1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> None received.
1703/2	<p><u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Eight members of the public were present.</p> <p>Barry Newman raised a matter of concern regarding a proposed footpath closure for a clay pigeon shoot on 18/19th March in which the footpath numbers had been wrongly stated. He advised he had brought this to the attention of SCC Rights of Way. Concern was also expressed about the stated closure period given as six months for a two day event.</p> <p>Jan Crewe updated the meeting about the proposals for a defibrillator. Further fund raising had taken place and there had been discussion with SW Ambulance as to whether the cabinet should be locked or not. The location had yet to be agreed but concern was expressed about the location near the phone box which could be subject to vandalism. Cllr Crowcombe advised that a training event had been arranged by Cranmore for 15th April to which all were invited.</p> <p>Tony Blaker expressed concern about the proposal for a step over stile into the Glebeland from Carey Close where damage to the wall had been noted. He believed that the damage was, in fact caused by frost rather than people climbing over the wall. He also was not in favour of another picnic table in the Glebeland as he felt there were sufficient tables already. Mary Newman disagreed and noted that all tables were well used and that the table in “the dogleg” was in need of replacement.</p>
1703/3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u></p> <p>None.</p>
1703/4	<p><u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <p>i) Minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record</p>
1703/5	<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. Comments had been received from Cllrs Clarke and Goff. The chairman and clerk to meet to consider comments and re-draft the document as necessary.</p> <p>ii) School fencing and footpath. Cllr Goff reported on a recent meeting with the school which was also attended by Cllr van Dyk who advised that there had been little change in the school’s position on the matter despite attempts to put forward the community viewpoint on the matter.</p>

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	<p>It was noted that the footpath which was diverted to its current position is still on diocese land although it has numbered designation. The condition of the footpath was of concern and there was some discussion about the need to improve the path for the benefit of the community. Clerk to contact the diocese about ownership and maintenance.</p>
1703/6	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Application 2017/0324/LBC – Replacement of existing timber casements with steel casements and double glazed units at Hurlingpot Farm, Kings Road, Doultling for Mr and Mrs J Paterson. After discussion, Councillors agreed to leave this matter to the planning officer. ii) Application 2017/0618/TCA – Sycamore Tree to be significantly pruned; 35 Church Lane, Doultling for Mr Nicholas Somerville. After discussion, Councillors agreed to leave this matter to the planning officer. iii) The following grants of permission had been received – 2017/0147/FUL – Change of use at Lodge Farm. 2016/1259/FUL – Erection of automated milking parlour at Beardhill Farm. 2015/2631/FUL – Siting of portable building at Well Lane, Doultling. At the request of the chairman the clerk read out the conditions included with the grant of permission.
1703/7	<p><u>New and On-going Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Shelter for school children. Delivery and installation arrangements. Cllr Shepherd had agreed to take delivery of the shelter when delivered. Once received installation arrangements can be agreed. Cllr Crowcombe advised that an offer of help had been made by a local business. ii) Annual Parish Meeting – date and format. It was agreed that this meeting would take place before the APCM on 9th May 2017 starting at 7pm. It was agreed to invite the village agent, John Lapwood, to speak at the meeting. The meeting to take place at Doultling Village Hall in the main hall. iii) Parish Council computer – application for Transparency Grant. The clerk advised that grants of up to £350 were available for the purchase of a Parish Council laptop and that it would be appropriate for the council to have its own machine. It was agreed that the clerk should make an application and that he would liaise with Cllr Fidge over the purchase of a laptop in due course.
1703/8	<p><u>Highways and Traffic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Highway Matters generally. Cllr Clarke advised on various matters: Prestleigh footpath damage. There had been no action on this since the last meeting. Doultling Hill – blocked drainage. Some drains had been cleared. “Kill your Speed” signs. It was understood that these would be provided for. Damaged wall on A361. Highways were in touch with the drivers insurers over the repair of this wall. ii) Footpath matters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Temporary closure of paths SM7/84, 85 and 11. The concerns and action by Barry Newman were noted with thanks.

	<p>iii) Speedwatch and SID's. Cllr Goff reported the watches continued at the rate of two per month and that a meeting was arranged with the co-ordinators to which Doulling, Waterlip and Cranmore were invited. Prestleigh could also attend although Prestleigh volunteers had yet to be confirmed.</p>
1703/9	<p><u>Reports:</u></p> <p>i) Somerset County Council – no report.</p> <p>ii) Mendip District Council – Cllr van Dyk advised on the recent Council Tax settlement with a 1.99% increase. He also advised on the new Shape Mendip lottery which had been set up. Tickets were available via the website. Cllr Clarke raised the issue of adult social care and noted that the recent budget had included monies for infrastructure works. He wondered if the previously suggested Doulling by-pass could be considered afresh.</p> <p>iii) Police – the clerk had just received details of the new beat manager and would circulate to councillors.</p> <p>iv) Village and Parish Organisations:</p> <p>a) Defibrillator – consideration of security of the machine and final details of location to be agreed.</p> <p>b) Cllr Goff noted that the Village Social Group were intending to write to the school about the problems with the new security around the school including the effect on access to the hall out of school hours. Concern was also expressed about the operation of the fire alarms, etc. She advised that the letter was from the Social Group on behalf of the village and that the Parish Council would be copied in.</p>
1703/10	<p><u>The Glebeland:</u></p> <p>i) Parish Council to agree budget for fence repairs. A quote of £273 for fence repairs was accepted and it was agreed that the works could proceed.</p> <p>ii) Parish Council to agree budget for provision of additional picnic table. It was noted that the cost of a table would be £240. In response to a question it was noted that the tables recently positioned had a 10 year guarantee. It was agreed to defer the purchase of an additional table.</p> <p>iii) Parish Council to agree budget for “up and over” stile from Carey Close. No further action to be taken on this proposal.</p>
1703/11	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u></p> <p>i) Equipment inspection report. The matter of the noisy “Pondo” equipment to be investigated and lubrication applied if necessary. The continuing problem with the automatic shutting of the gate to be investigated.</p>
1703/12	<p><u>Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <p>i) Bath and West matters including proposed meeting with Chief Executive. An email had been received suggesting a meeting with the chief executive at the next PC meeting in April. It was agreed to accept this offer, clerk to respond.</p>

	<p>ii) Matters concerning “Mendip School”. Cllr Fidge reported that there had been a well attended visit to the school and that another was planned. Concern will still expressed about the effect on local businesses of the café at the school which appeared to be a commercial concern rather than an enterprise run by the pupils. It was noted a proper “closed” sign was required on the main road as vehicles continued to access the site out of hours.</p> <p>iii) The matter of the LDO was raised and it was noted that there was a proposal for a “Wild Beer Co” visitor centre outside of the proposed LDO area although final details were not known. The question of the road improvements at Beardly Batch as a condition of the granting of the LDO were raised. Cllr van Dyk advised that he was unaware of any proposals for works within the LDO.</p>
1703/13	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>i) Clerks salary and expenses - £355.40. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>ii) Idverde – play area inspections - £66.85. No invoice had been received – not paid.</p> <p>iii) BT Annual payment for payphone - £360.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>iv) Came and Co Parish Council insurance renewal - £422.13. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>v) St Aldhelms Church – Annual Grant - £850.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>vi) HMRC – PAYE tax payment - £365.11. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p>
1703/14	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u></p> <p>i) John Lees (in attendance) advised he was longer able to provide the planting around the village. He was thanked for his efforts over the years. Item to be added to next agenda.</p> <p>ii) Cllr Fidge advised she was attending the neighbourhood planning event on 16th March</p> <p>iii) Cllr Crowcombe advised she was hoping to attend a forthcoming event on digital technology.</p>
1703/15	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is on 11th April 2017, 7.30pm at The Prestleigh Inn, Prestleigh.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Alan Butcher,
 Parish Clerk,
 24th March 2017
 01749 870358,
 doultingclerk@gmail.com.