

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11th APRIL 2017	
VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm	
	<i>Present:</i> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, Barry Clarke, Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd and Sarah Goff; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)
1704/1	<i>Apologies for absence.</i> Cllr David van Dyk, Nicola Housley and Mary Newman.
1704/2	<p><i>Public Forum:</i></p> <p>There was a short presentation from Rupert Cox about the forthcoming programme at the Bath and West Showground and other matters.</p> <p>He outlined the programme for 2017 noting that Soul Survivor was no longer using the showground and that there would be no Glastonbury in 2018 which would have an effect on income. He hoped that some form of small music event could be organised in 2018. They needed to optimise the use of the buildings and confirmed that there were bookings for most of 2018.</p> <p>There were a number of references and comments of the proposal for the Wild Beer Co to locate to the showground. Mr Cox confirmed that there had been discussions but, at present, they were no firm plans in place and that when the application any application was received it would go through the normal planning channels.</p> <p>Mr Cox outlined the recent re-location of the offices and the proposed re-development of the old offices to a agri-tech/food education facility.</p> <p>Members of the public raised a number of questions including the format of the agricultural education visits by schools, the use of the “redundant” horse area and the traffic problems which occurred during the 2016 show.</p> <p>Parish Councillors raised the problems with traffic during the 2016 show including the poorly signed diversions through Chelynych and Doultling. Mr Cox and Paul Hooper assured the meeting that these issues had been reviewed for the 2017 show but Cllr Clarke expressed concern that there appeared to have been no positive interaction with the police and traffic department at Somerset CC for the 2017 show.</p> <p>Councillors raised the matter of the pathway between the showground and The Prestleigh Inn which was previously used by visitors to avoid the dangerous footpath alongside the A371. Mr Cox noted that this was now gated for security reasons but organisers of events were welcome to allow the gate to be used and the security code advised to users although not all events choose to do this.</p> <p>Councillors also raised the issue of lack of communication with the Parish Council and with the residents of Prestleigh and the seeming disregard of the problems caused outside the showground by events inside. Mr Cox felt that they had been active in maintaining communication with the community and that in “inviting themselves” to the meeting tonight to discuss issues they were continuing a dialogue with the community.</p> <p>Cllr Fidge suggested that a line should be drawn under previous matters which had caused a degree of animosity especially in Prestleigh and that all parties should look forward to a better future relationship.</p> <p>The matter of the previous liaison meetings with the community was raised and it was agreed that a twice yearly presentation and discussion similar to tonight’s would be beneficial. It was agreed that the next presentation would be at the September 2017 meeting (12th September).</p> <p>The chairman thanked Mr Cox and Mr Hooper for their attendance at the meeting.</p>

1704/3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> All councillors declared an interest in item 1704/6 – planning application 2017/0413/FUL as the applicant had recently given a donation to the Parish Council in respect of the Bus Shelter. The clerk had advised councillors that a dispensation would be granted with regard to this matter as the Parish Council would be unable to fulfil its obligations without such dispensations. Councillors had completed the necessary forms prior to the meeting and these were signed by the clerk.</p>
1704/4	<p><u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> i) Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record with the following amendments: 1703/8iii) should be “two per week” and 1703/9ivb) changed to read “Village Hall and Social Group”.</p>
1704/5	<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. These had been discussed and amended by the chairman and clerk and circulated to councillors. Cllr Clarke requested clarification about the expression of a personal opinion; it was generally agreed that such opinions could be expressed outside of the context of a person’s work as a voluntary assistant. Cllr Crowcombe noted that there needed to be a specific requirement for such assistants and asked how a selection process would work. It was agreed that the need for any assistants could be established at the Annual PC meeting in May and that a selection process agreed at that time. The proposed Terms of Reference as circulated were agreed along with the changes to the Standing Orders. The clerk advised that the adoption of the Terms and Standing Orders would be added to the agenda for the May meeting.</p> <p>ii) School footpath. The clerk had been unsuccessful in contacting the appropriate person at the Diocesan office but would pursue the matter. Cllr Crowcombe reported that she had received a letter from Mary Newman on the matter of the fencing and gate which put matters in a positive light. Cllr Goff however was still trying to arrange a meeting with the school and Cllr van Dyk to discuss the matter. She also noted that the proposed letter from the village to the school about the fencing was still at the draft stage. All agreed that the matter needed to be moved forward positively and further developments were awaited</p>
1704/6	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>i) Application 2017/0413/FUL – Conversion of barn to include PV panels and biomass heating flue and erection of biomass fuel store at plot east of Honeysuckle Cottage, Bodden lane, Bodden for Mr A Stott. The scope of the application was outlined by the agent, Chris Langdon. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application.</p> <p>ii) Application 2016/2810 and 2809/APP – approval of conditions at 47 Church Lane, Doulting. This and other approvals recently received were noted.</p>

1704/7	<p><u>New and On-going Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Shelter for school children. Installation arrangements. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Shepherd about the installation of the shelter and a budget of £1000 set for installation costs. Cllr Crowcombe to ask Andy Stott if his offer of help was still available. ii) Parish Council computer – application for Transparency Grant. The clerk had reviewed the criteria for these grants and advised that the Parish Council turnover was greater than the £25,000 limit set for the grant. It was agreed that in lieu of the laptop a suitable external hard drive should be bought to allow back-up of council files and documents. iii) Provision of village planting. It was agreed to ask Geoff Buzzard if he could provide this service; Cllr Wilkins to contact.
1704/8	<p><u>Highways and Traffic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Highway Matters generally. Prestleigh footpath damage. Remedial works were still awaited. “Kill your Speed” signs. These were yet to be delivered. Damaged wall on A361. Awaiting highways/insurers action. Other matters reported. Cllr Fidge reported that the deployment of traffic lights in Prestleigh had caused traffic problems at the recent Game Fair at the showground. She had been advised that they would be removed before the fair although this did not happen for unstated reasons. ii) Footpath matters. Chris Brown to be asked to clear the Prestleigh footpath as in previous years. iii) Speedwatch and SID’s. Cllr Goff noted that 24 watches had been carried out since January along with the whole day event in conjunction with the police. There had been a positive meeting with David Wharburton regarding traffic safety and management and that a good meeting held with Cranmore regarding speedwatch. Speed information was being collated to back up any traffic management proposals. The SID brackets had been installed and the machine mounted at the Cranmore Crossroads. There was a slight problem with the supply of batteries which was being resolved. It was suggested that the next SID location could be Prestleigh.
1704/9	<p><u>Reports:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Somerset County Council – no report. ii) Mendip District Council – Cllr van Dyk had sent the following report: (A) If I could remind everybody that the County Council Elections will take place on the 4th May. The seat of Mendip Central and East will have four candidates from Labour, Liberal Democrats, Conservatives and the Greens. You have until Thursday to register for voting. (B) The Board of Governors have contacted me via Sue Bloomfield. They are keen to rebuild a strong relationship with the village. To facilitate this myself and Sarah will be going to meet Sue Bloomfield and the School Head. They want regular meetings and are offering assistance (not financial) regarding the rear path.

	<p>(c) Mendip has adopted new powers to deal with fly grazing. The problem is growing in size with horses tethered on other people's land including land owned by the Council. The new powers will allow enforcement officers to remove horses after four days. Re-homing will then be sorted if they are not claimed.</p> <p>(D) Due to the Bank holiday please check the Somerset Waste Partnership for revised collection dates.</p> <p>iii) Police – Nicola Housley had sent the following report:</p> <p>09/03 Report of a manhole lifting in Prestleigh, High ways to deal 14/03 Damaged vehicle found in bushes at Long Cross 15/03 Road traffic collision outside the Waggon and Horse pub 26/03 Road traffic collision, Prestleigh rd nr Evercreech 01/04 Report of calves being let out of fields in Bodden</p> <p>iv) Village and Parish Organisations:</p> <p>a) Defibrillator – there was some discussion about the merits of leaving the machine unlocked. Cllr Crowcombe reminded the meeting that there was a defib training event planned for 29th April 9.30am for 10am at Cranmore.</p> <p>b) Village Hall: Cllr Goff reported that the hall AGM would take place on 24th April 2017 followed by a meeting of the Social Group. She also noted that the next Social Group event is on 29th April, a film night starting at 7pm. Details to be included on PC website.</p> <p>c) Mary Newman advised that the AGM of the Beacon Hill Woods Society would take place on 25th April at The Earth Science Centre in Stoke. She noted that this would be the start of the next five year cycle and that it would be good if a member of the Parish Council could attend. Cllr Clarke to attend if available.</p>
1704/10	<p><u>The Glebeland:</u></p> <p>i) Fence repairs – this work had been arranged. ii) Next Glebeland meeting 25th April 2017. The clerk advised he would be away but would distribute the agenda and other paperwork on 13th April.</p>
1704/11	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u></p> <p>i) Equipment inspection report and actions. Cllr Wilkins had oiled the noisy equipment which seemed to have cured the problem. The question of the effective and safe closing of the gate to be investigated on site. Cllr Wilkins advised that some form of weather shelter had been requested and that she would investigate funding and designs.</p>
1704/12	<p><u>Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <p>i) Matters concerning “Mendip School” Concern was expressed about the continuing use of the “commercial café” on the school site. Cllr Fidge noted that there were no sixth form children on site as yet who would probably operate the café as originally proposed. She also advised that there would be further open days at the school in the near future, dates to be advised.</p>

	<p>ii) Waterlip – Cllr Crowcombe reported further noise problems with lorries passing over damaged road surfaces, in this case likely due to a collapsing wall adjoining the carriageway.</p>
1704/13	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>i) Clerks salary and expenses. £377.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>ii) Idverde/Landscape Group – play area inspections outstanding from 2014 and 2015 - £577.70. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>iii) HMRC outstanding tax payment (original cheque not presented). £276.98. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>iv) Draft annual accounts prior to internal audit. These had been circulated prior to audit. Cllr Clarke noted the reduction in reserves from 2015/16. It was noted that the council had carried out a lot of works in the Parish during the year.</p> <p>v) Completion of Annual Governance Statement. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council had fulfilled its obligations in respect of Governance and the relevant section of the Annual Return was signed by the chairman and clerk.</p>
1704/14	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <p>i) Mary Newman reported that the access to the Edge Tool Works was in a poor state of repair.</p> <p>ii) Cllr Crowcombe reported on the recent quarry liaison meeting noting that the application for the three tips previously discussed would be re-submitted shortly and that the quarry intended holding a seminar on the application during April although she was unaware of any date at present.</p> <p>iii) Cllr Crowcombe noted changes to the Tesco carrier bag scheme which now related to local stores with grants to local people and organisations. Further information to be sought on applying for these grants.</p> <p>iv) Cllr Clarke asked that the question of the “gate” to the village hall/school car park is not forgotten about.</p> <p>v) Cllr Fidge advised on her attendance at a recent seminar on CIL monies. She noted that Mendip did not collect these monies but that substantial sums were available in other areas.</p>
1704/15	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is the Annual Parish Council meeting on 9th May 2017, 7.30pm at Doultling Village Hall preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Alan Butcher,
 Parish Clerk,
 28th April 2017
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