

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9th JANUARY 2018 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: DOULTING VILLAGE HALL @ 7.30pm	
	<u>Present:</u> Cllrs Ros Wilkins (Chair), Ann Crowcombe, Sarah Goff, Barry Clarke and John Shepherd; also in attendance Cllr David van Dyk and Alan Butcher (Clerk)
1801/1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllr Paula Fidge, Mary Newman.
1801/2	<u>Public Forum for matters included on the agenda:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Tony Blaker raised a number of issues including the school footpath, Doultong By-Pass, the joint Highways Committee and the Padfield Green matting.
1801/3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.
1801/4	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 12 th December 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.
1801/5	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u> i) School footpath. Cllr Goff advised she would be meeting the head teacher later in January on the matter. ii) New litter bin to skate park. In hand with the clerk. iii) Bus shelter sign. This had been fixed. iv) Planning Training. This had been booked for Cllrs Crowcombe, Clarke and Fidge. v) Dog Fouling posters. The clerk distributed laminated posters to councillors. vi) Car parking in School Lane. In hand with the clerk. vii) The remaining “Kill your speed” sign to be fitted near Padfield Green facing the A361 as agreed at the last meeting.
1801/6	<u>Planning:</u> i) Application 2017/3199/HSE – Demolish Garage and erect 2 storey side extension and single storey alterations to front elevation at 7 Chelynch Park, Doultong for Mr M Guidi. An email in support from Tony and Gail Blaker was noted. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application. ii) Application 2017/2659/LBC – Remove fireplace at 77 Chelynch Road, Doultong. Grant of Listed Building Consent. This was noted. iii) Application 2017/2735/HSE – Erection of detached garage at Shadaroba, Chelynch Road, Doultong. Grant of Permission. This was noted.
1801/7	Response to pre-submission consultation on Mendip Local Plan Part 2. Councillors discussed a number of points including the fact that the bus do not, in fact, leave Doultong before 9am and that there are several pubs in the Parish. Cllr Clarke was concerned that the level of housing development proposed was not be enough to generate additional facilities such as a local shop. Councillors were concerned about the proposal to include a small site to the east of Farm Road.

	<p>It was noted that the site to the east of Chelynch Road was now shown as being suitable for 11 houses rather than the larger number previously proposed. There was some discussion about “supported housing” and bungalow type accommodation for older people. Cllr van Dyk felt that such supported developments should be built in Doultong. Cllr Goff raised the problem of younger people from the village being unable to move back after completing further education, etc due to the price of property. There was some discussion about affordable housing. The clerk to summarise the discussions and submit the response to Mendip in due course before the deadline.</p>
1801/8	<p><u><i>New and On-going Parish Council Matters:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Proposed joint highways advisory committee with Cranmore. Cllr Crowcombe noted that this idea had first been discussed in June 2017. She had spoken to Cranmore PC as agreed and circulated Terms of Reference for the proposed committee. She felt that together the two parishes would have a more effective voice on traffic matters that concerned both. Cllr Clarke felt that there was already too much to be done and was not in favour of the committee. He noted that the suggested Terms of Reference did not mention such matters as the Doultong By-Pass. Cllrs Shepherd and Goff felt that the matter should be moved forward. Cllr Goff suggested that there should be a package of measures concerning traffic issues. Cllr Wilkins proposed that an initial meeting be convened to discuss the Terms of Reference and items to be discussed. This was agreed. Cllr Crowcombe to contact Cranmore and advise date of the proposed meeting. She would report back to the next meeting in February. ii) Future use of telephone box. The results of the advisory village poll were expected for the February meeting. The clerk had received confirmation that the defibrillator could not be housed in a working phone box. He also understood that it would take six months to terminate the contract with BT.
1801/9	<p><u><i>Highways and Traffic:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Highway Matters generally. Flooding at Poachers Pocket Low kerb on A361 Barrier on Doultong Hill Damaged wall on A361 Accidents at Long Cross. Cllr Clarke advised that all the above matters were in hand with highways. ii) Footpath matters. Cllr Goff advised that she would clear the stile near her house. iii) Speedwatch and SID's. Speedwatch for Prestleigh – This was proposed for February/March. Continuation of SIDS – Dave Grabham had provided a spare set of batteries.
1801/10	<p><u><i>Reports:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Somerset County Council – No report. ii) Mendip District Council – Cllr van Dyk advised that the rate of council tax would be set in February. He also advised that the investment fund had been extended to £100m and that the first investments were being completed. Councillors expressed concern about the increased level of the fund and the situation that could arise if things went wrong. It was noted that there had been little communication between the District Council and Town and Parish Councils on this matter and, indeed, with the electorate in general.

	<p>Some noted that the District Council had, in the past, been less than successful with similar initiatives. Cllr van Dyk advised that the council was advised by a well respected company and that due diligence had been shown when setting this up.</p> <p>Cllr Shepherd was still concerned about the consequences if things went wrong and how things would be resolved. Cllr van Dyk advised that the council saw this as a way of offsetting the loss of government funding in 2020 and that, without it, council tax could rise by 10-12%. Cllr van Dyk offered to provide further information about rates and returns on the investment at the next meeting.</p> <p>iii) Police – no report.</p> <p>iv) Village and Parish Organisations:</p> <p>a) Village Hall – the village hall was speaking to the school about increasing the size of the electric supply to the hall.</p> <p>b) Social Group – A programme of events was in preparation for 2018.</p> <p>c) Beacon Hill Woods Society – nothing to report.</p>
1801/11	<p><u>The Glebeland</u></p> <p>i) Repairs budget for skate park – in hand with the clerk.</p> <p>ii) Next meeting 30th January 2018</p>
1801/12	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u></p> <p>i) Equipment inspection report and actions – Cllr Wilkins was still pursuing the problem with the mats.</p>
1801/13	<p><u>Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <p>i) Cllr van Dyk advised he was attending a meeting about the LDO at The Bath and West on 11th January.</p>
1801/14	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>i) Clerks salary and expenses. £366.70. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>ii) Shepton Mallet Landscapes invoice - £2640.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</p>
1801/15	<p>Budget for 2018/9 and setting of precept. Following discussions it was agreed to allow an additional £2000 from reserves to add to the capital fund. The precept was agreed unanimously as £12,667.00 with no increase from 2016/7. The clerk to amend budget and circulate.</p> <p>Provisional Budget for 2019/20. To be discussed at the next meeting.</p>
1801/16	
1801/17	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u> None.</p>
1801/18	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next scheduled meeting is on 13th February 2018 at Doultling Village Hall.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

**Alan Butcher, Parish Clerk,
18th January 2018,
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Doultling Parish Council – Minutes of the Council Meeting held on

9th January 2018

Page 3 of 3