

**DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

<b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm</b>	
	<p><u>Present:</u> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, Barry Clarke, Ann Crowcombe, Sarah Goff, John Shepherd; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)</p>
1803/1	<p><u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllr David van Dyk.</p>
1803/2	<p><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.</p> <p>Mary Newman spoke strongly in favour of retaining the library in Shepton Mallet in its current location. She felt that it was an essential resource for the community and that proposals for community-based libraries in various areas would result in the loss of the library service altogether. The proposal to move the library to the Shape offices where there was no parking or facilities would also be detrimental to the service. She urged Somerset to consider all alternatives that would keep the library in the town centre.</p> <p>Chris Norman spoke about the confusion surrounding the LDO proposals at the Showground and was not sure if the original proposals were passed. Cllr Fidge had attended a meeting at Mendip DC on the subject and confirmed that the original proposal had, indeed, been passed.</p> <p>Eleanor Norman again raised the matter of the obscured road signs on Doultling Hill which she felt were a danger to motorists. She also commented on the LDO proposals and felt that the information coming from Mendip DC at the time of the previous proposal may have been disingenuous.</p> <p>Jan Crewe noted that discussions about the use of the phone box for the defibrillator were ongoing with both BT and SW Ambulance.</p> <p>Tony Blaker noted the agenda item for the updated Code of Conduct and suggested that this should be sent to Mendip DC for review. He also noted that the grit bins in Doultling had not been filled and that it was not possible to remove any salt remaining in the bins. He referred to the Dementia Awareness item and local events connected with this and also noted that the matting in Padfield Green was still a trip hazard.</p>
1803/3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u></p> <p>Cllr Fidge declared a personal interest in item 1803/6i) – application by a neighbour.</p>
1803/4	<p><u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record. The clerk confirmed that the “typo” errors noted by Cllr Goff had been corrected on the signed copy.</li><li>ii) Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.</li></ul>

1803/5	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Car parking in School Lane. The clerk sought confirmation of the address of the house to be contacted and would deal with the matter shortly.</li><li>ii) Proposed joint highways advisory committee with Cranmore. The next meeting was on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March and information would be available at the next meeting.</li><li>iii) Telephone box. The clerk had written to BT to give Notice of Cancelling the Contract and was awaiting contact back from BT. The clerk to liaise with Jan Crewe about transferring the box for defibrillator use. Cllr Crowcombe noted that there was a proposal to site a machine at Waterlip.</li></ul>
1803/6	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <p>Cllr Fidge stood down and Cllr Wilkins took over the chair for item i).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Application 2018/0059/HSE – Erection of new fence to existing boundary wall and wooden gates at Batch House, Prestleigh Lane, Prestleigh. In response to a question Cllr Fidge outlined the proposal. Councillors voted 5 in favour of supporting the application. Cllr Fidge returned as chairman at this point.</li><li>ii) 2014/2250/LDO – Proposed LDO (Re-consultation February 2018 due to proposed amendment to the draft LDO consent and supporting documentation) at The Royal Bath and West Showground. This re-consultation had come about because of the permission granted to the Wild Beer Company which had affected the type of buildings allowed and also a change to the layout of the roads. There was general concern that Mendip DC were just changing the rules without seemingly consulting either the local community or the Parish Council and that this was driven by Business Development merely arranging these matters to suit expediency rather than following any transparent or defined process. It was suggested that contact be made with the local MP to raise these concerns and that a representative of Mendip DC be asked to speak to the Parish Council and community on these matters. The last such contact was in 2012. A vote was taken and councillors were unanimously against the proposals. Clerk to prepare comments for submission before 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.</li></ul>
1803/7	<p><u>New and On-going Parish Council Matters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Updated Code of Conduct – An updated copy had been circulated. Cllr Clarke queried the definition of “friend” in the explanation and noted that this had been struck out in the current Code. Clerk to seek clarification from SALC and Mendip and circulate comments.</li><li>ii) Playground and Skate Park inspections. It was agreed to terminate the contract with Idverde from May and to retain SPFA on an annual basis with training for a council representative for regular inspections.</li><li>iii) Library Consultation – The reason given for moving the library from Shepton Mallet town centre was one of high rents and it was suggested that Somerset CC had not fully investigated cheaper options within the town. All agreed that the proposed move to Shape was unsuitable.</li></ul>

	<p>Cllr Fidge asked how Shepton Mallet Town Council were responding. Clerk to write to both SMTC and Somerset CC Property to enquire about actions and options.</p> <p>iv) Questions for April Parish Forum. Councillors discussed the following items to be covered in the questions to be submitted:          What is the expected return on the investment          How are they managed and what is the cost.          How much is being spent and on what          How are decisions made and what is the cost of consultants involved with the decisions.          Are there measures in place if things go wrong, is there a Plan B          Are the council satisfied that there has been proper consultation and transparency.          Councillors to forward any further questions for submission to Mendip as soon as possible.</p> <p>v) Dementia Awareness. Cllr Goff outlined details of the initiative to make Mendip more dementia friendly. She advised that training could be given to councillors to increase dementia awareness. Councillors agreed that there should be more awareness but did not want DPC to be advertised as the first Mendip Dementia Aware Parish Council.</p>
<p>1803/8-</p>	<p><u>Highways and Traffic:</u></p> <p>i) Highway Matters generally.          Low kerb on A361 – in hand.          Barrier on Doultling Hill – in hand.          Damaged wall on A361 – in hand.          Salt bins. Highways to be asked to fill bins in Doultling. Cllr Fidge noted that the bin in Prestleigh was usable. The question of “slow” snow clearance also was raised.          Cllr Clarke to raise the matter of the hedges on Doultling Hill with Highways.</p> <p>ii) Footpath matters. Nothing to report.</p> <p>iii) Speedwatch and SID’s.          Speedwatch – Cllr Fidge thanked Helen and Al for getting speedwatch going in Prestleigh, there had been regular watches over the last few weeks. Cllr Goff advised that Doultling watches would be starting shortly and that more volunteers were required. She confirmed that speedwatch and other information had been passed to local MP’s regarding road improvements in the area. Cllr Fidge asked that the information passed to the MP’s was also circulated to councillors as the speedwatch was conducted under the auspices of the Parish Council.          Continuation of SIDS. Cllr Crowcombe advised that the Parish SID will shortly be moved back to Prestleigh. Another machine noted in the area had been positioned by Mendip Comm Speedwatch. Cllr Crowcombe advised that there would be no cost for the SID to the Parish Council in the foreseeable future. The question of additional Kill your Speed signs on the A361 was discussed. It was agreed that the signs currently positioned on Chelynch Road should be retained. Cllr Goff advised that the police currently had no signs for distribution. It was agreed that three were required, 1 in Prestleigh and 2 on the A361 in Doultling.</p>

1803/9	<p><u>Reports:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Somerset County Council – no report.</li> <li>ii) Mendip District Council. Cllr van Dyk had forwarded a report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. It was agreed by all parties to set the Mendip portion of the council tax. On a band D property the price will increase by 3.4% per annum.</li> <li>b. Despite concerns that Mendip District Council would end the year with a £300,000 deficit this with some financial prudence has been eliminated. The Council will end the financial year with a £7,000 surplus.</li> <li>c. Myself and the deputy Chief Executive met with a senior care commissioner from Somerset County Council. I put forward the idea of building small bespoke supported living developments which could be constructed by Mendip using government investment money. It is very interested because it wants to reduce it's reliance on care homes and focus on more community focused provision. It's believe that now families will get direct payments from the Somerset County Council people will want to stay in their communities rather than go to a traditional care home.</li> <li>d. I attended the Slamming Vinyl event at the show ground. It's clear the new traffic management plan was a great improvement on the previous event. I had some positive feedback from Simon Golding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii) Police – no report.</li> <li>iv) Village and Parish Organisations:</li> <li>v) Village Hall – An email had been circulated about insurance and there was some discussion about cover and the need to update the insurance at the next renewal. The committee were discussing usage with the school and were working on an agreement to be taken forward with the new head teacher. The question of the tables used by the produce Show was discussed, these belonged to the Parish Council but were on long term loan to the show and were therefore covered by PC insurance. All these matters needed discussion at the forthcoming AGM in April.</li> <li>vi) Social Group – The last film night was cancelled due to the weather but another was scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> April.</li> <li>vii) Beacon Hill Woods Society. Nothing to report.</li> </ul>
1803/10	<p><u>The Glebeland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) A tree had fallen across the north fence but had been removed. The fence now needed repair. It was suggested that a notice be put directing people to the slip stile rather than trying to cross the fence.</li> <li>ii) Some unsuitable graffiti had appeared on the skate ramps, this was to be sprayed over.</li> <li>iii) There was still a problem with dog fouling. The situation to be monitored.</li> </ul>
1803/11	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u> Nothing to report.</p>
1803/12	<p><u>Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Six monthly update from Rupert Cox et al will be at the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April.</li> <li>ii) There were no further matters to report.</li> </ul>

1803/13	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Clerks salary and expenses. £361.70. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</li><li>ii) HMRC qtr 4 tax. £219.12. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</li><li>iii) Doultong Village Hall hire. £110.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</li><li>iv) Idverde Inspections. £66.85. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</li><li>v) Annual grant to St Aldhelms Church for churchyard maintenance. £850.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</li></ul>
1803/14	<p>Request from Mendip Community Transport for grant. It was agreed not to give a donation as per previous years.</p>
1803/15	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) It was noted that the “Dog Poo” posters positioned around the village were disappearing.</li></ul>
1803/16	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next scheduled meeting is on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Doultong Village Hall.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

**Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2018  
01749 870358;  
doultongclerk@gmail.com**