

**DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

<b>MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8th MAY 2018</b>	
<b>VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: DOULTING VILLAGE HALL @ 7.45pm</b>	
	<u>Present:</u> Cllrs Paula Fidge, Barry Clarke, Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd and Sarah Goff; also in attendance Cllr David van Dyk and Alan Butcher (Clerk).
1805/1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllr Ros Wilkins.
1805/2	<u>Election of Chairman.</u> Proposed - Cllr Fidge, elected unanimously. Cllr Fidge signed Acceptance of Office Form and took the chair.
1805/3	<u>Election of Vice Chairman</u> Proposed - Cllr Wilkins who had confirmed she would stand for the office, elected unanimously. It was agreed that Cllr Wilkins could sign Acceptance of Office Form at the next meeting.
1805/4	<u>Appointment of Proper Officer:</u> The clerk, Alan Butcher, was duly appointed.
1805/5	<u>Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer:</u> The clerk, Alan Butcher, was duly appointed.
1805/6	<u>Appointment of Parish Council Committees:</u> <b>a: Glebeland Committee:</b> Re-appointment of committee members currently Ann Crowcombe (Chair), Barry Clarke, Mary Newman, Emma Hill, Margaret Hares. All existing members were re-appointed. The chairman thanked the committee for its work during the year.
1805/7	<u>Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies:</u> <b>a: Village Hall Committee</b> – one representative – Cllr Goff was appointed.
1805/8	<u>Confirmation of councillor’s responsibilities and liaison with outside bodies.</u>  This item to be deferred until the next meeting.
1805/9	<u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. Ten members of the public were present.  A number of matters were raised regarding the village hall. These to be discussed under item 1805/16 iv) a – Village Hall Report.  Tony Blaker raised a matter concerning erosion of the school footpath; it was agreed that this matter needed to be raised with the landowner.

1805/10	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr Goff declared a personal interest in item 1805/13 i) Planning at Gwalia, Chelynch Road – neighbour.</p>
1805/11	<p><u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>
1805/12	<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 had emailed PCSO Sheila Thompson about the matter. She had advised that little could be done but that she would keep an eye on the situation. Cllr Clarke advised that, currently, there appeared to be no problem with parking.</li> <li>ii) Joint highways advisory committee with Cranmore. This item moved to Highways 1805/15.</li> <li>iii) Telephone box and defibrillator proposals. Concern had been raised about the long term situation with maintaining and insuring the phone box which, initially, had been understood to be under the remit of the Social Committee and fund raisers. The Parish Council would need to further debate the matter of ownership and insurance of the phone box and would require a formal proposal from the Social Group et al about what they required from the Parish Council. Clerk to check insurance cost implications for the phone box. He also confirmed that any costs for the sponsorship of the box had been waived by BT and that he had asked for the box to be retained on site prior to purchase.</li> <li>iv) Report on Parish Forum 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018. This had been poorly attended with few Parishes represented. The questions put by the Parish Council had been answered and circulated in printed form. Cllr van Dyk thanked the representatives of Doultong PC for their attendance and support.</li> </ul>
1805/13	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Application 2018/0851/HSE – Two storey rear and side extension and internal alterations at Gwalia, Chelynch Road, Doultong for Mr Kevin Rayson. It was agreed to support this application with all in favour, Cllr Goff did not vote.</li> <li>ii) Grant of Permission re: application 2016/0665/CNT – Three tips at Moons Hill Quarry. The paperwork connected with the application had been circulated, there were no further comments.</li> <li>iii) Report on Planning Board re: Bath and West LDO 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018. This was attended by Cllrs Fidge and Crowcombe. There had been some discussion but, in the end, the application was approved by a narrow margin. It was noted that the school had now been included within the LDO.</li> </ul>

1805/14	<p><u><i>New and On-going Parish Council Matters:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Updated Code of Conduct – deferred until the next meeting.</li><li>ii) Playground and Skate Park inspections. The clerk had spoken to SPFA who would be offering training later in the summer and would advise when arranged.</li><li>iii) Library Consultation – extended until 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The next Parish Council meetings was on 12<sup>th</sup> June. The clerk requested any comments so that a draft response could be prepared and agreed at the next meeting.</li><li>iv) Data protection – new regulations. The clerk outlined the current situation and advised he was attending a course on the matter 22<sup>nd</sup> May and would put necessary measures in place before the next meeting.</li></ul>
1805/15	<p><u><i>Highways and Traffic:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Highway Matters generally. Low kerb on A361 Barrier on Doultling Hill Damaged wall on A361 Salt bins. Pavement cleaning. All the above matters were still in hand with highways. The problem with the hedge obscuring road signs at the top of Doultling Hill was discussed. Cllr Clarke to advise clerk of the name of the landowner and clerk to write to highways with the information.</li><li>ii) A joint meeting had taken place and stats from speedwatch reviewed. Cllr van Dyk had attended and was hoping to arrange a meeting with Cllr Philip Ham and David Warburton MP. It had been agreed that the idea situation was a by-pass but that there were still current safety issues to be addressed. There remained a need to encourage the use of the Balls Green Link especially with increased lorry traffic which was using the road through Waterlip rather than the link. It had been noted that there were safety issues twenty years previously and these had not been addressed and had now become much worse. It had been agreed that these matters needed to be progressed vigorously.</li><li>iii) Footpath matters. The village hall committee were organising a footpath group to liaise with the school etc about the school footpath.</li><li>iv) Speedwatch and SID's.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Speedwatch – Cllr Goff had circulated recent Doultling speedwatch data where seven sessions had been held including an early morning session. High volumes of traffic were being recorded. There had been a watches at Waterlip and it was noted that there was a greater percentage of speeding vehicles compared with the A361. Prestleigh had held 25 sessions recording 21,000 vehicles with the highest reported speed of 80mph</li></ul></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) SIDS – nothing to report.</li> <li>c) Kill your speed signs. It was agreed to order a total of seven signs including four on behalf of Cranmore. The size of the pole was required to obtain the correct fixings. These details to be advised to the clerk.</li> </ul>
1805/16	<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 outlined the recent press release by Somerset CC suggesting the formation of a Unitary Authority. This had taken Mendip by surprise although a press release had now been prepared. The matter concerned the whole of local government in the area and was, to a certain extent, a central government problem especially with the ever-rising costs of adult and child social care which Somerset were struggling to maintain. He noted that the local councils in the area are financially sound and that the financial projections by Somerset are unrealistic. Mendip has a strategy to ensure financial security over the coming years and there is a need to meet the requirements of local residents. If Somerset decides to go to the government to obtain Unitary status there could be a period of legal wrangling.</li> <li>iii) Police – a report had been received outlining a small number of incidents in the area.</li> <li>iv) Village and Parish Organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Village Hall and Social Group – Cllr Goff outlined unsatisfactory situation which had prevailed at the recent AGM. The committee had now taken advice from the Community Council for Somerset and were working to address the issues raised at the AGM. They were seeking a cheaper insurance quote. Cllr Crowcombe asked if a brief written report could be presented at each parish Council meeting. The village hall had asked for any reports of anti-social behaviour in the car park in recent months and had received none. No incidents had come to light via CCTV. It was hoped that the question of the barrier previously discussed could be raised that the new head teacher in September to see if the schools access requirements had changed.</li> <li>b) Beacon Hill Woods Society. Mary Newman reported that a survey of bluebells in the wood was to be conducted.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1805/17	<p><i>The Glebeland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Report on meeting 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018.</li> <li>ii) Cllr Crowcombe to forward draft minutes for circulation.</li> <li>iii) The Next meeting is on 10<sup>th</sup> July and the next working party on 19<sup>th</sup> May with the 22<sup>nd</sup> as an alternative.</li> </ul>

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

1805/18	<p><u>Padfield Green.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The problem with the raised mats had been investigated by Cllr Shepherd. He advised that the mats needed to be lifted and soil which had been carried under the edges removed which should allow the mats to lay flat. Clerk to contact Chris Brown to carry out this work.</li> <li>ii) Clerk to send response to incident reported at the last meeting to Cllr Fidge.</li> <li>iii) The latest inspection report suggested that some equipment need to be oiled/lubricated; clerk to carry out this work.</li> </ul>
1805/19	<p><u>Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u> Nothing to report.</p>
1805/20	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Clerks salary and expenses. £355.40. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</li> <li>ii) SALC Subscription 2018/19 - £164.10. This was agreed and a cheque raised.</li> <li>iii) Draft accounts for 2017/18 – circulated.</li> </ul>
1805/21	<p>Completion of Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017-18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Certificate of Exemption (under £25,000 gross income or expenditure) Motion - to declare council fulfils the criteria for exemption and agrees to complete the Certificate of Exemption. This was duly resolved all in favour.</li> <li>ii) Annual Governance Statement – this was duly completed.</li> <li>iii) Internal Audit Report and Accounting Statements for 2017-18 will be considered at the next meeting.</li> <li>iv) The clerk passed a bank form to Cllr Goff to add her as a bank signatory.</li> </ul>
1805/22	<p><u>Matters of Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Cllr Goff advised the progress of dementia Awareness in Mendip.</li> <li>ii) Cllr van Dyk thanked councillors for their help and support in the year.</li> </ul>
1805/23	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The next scheduled meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at The Prestleigh Inn.</li> <li>ii) List of meeting dates for 2018-19</li> </ul>

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Alan Butcher, Parish Clerk,  
25<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
01749 870358;  
doulingclerk@gmail.com

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