

**DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

<b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm</b>	
	<b><u>Public Meeting</u></b>
	<p><u>Forum:</u></p> <p>Public comments were made about the following: Recent traffic problems and roadside speed signs in Prestleigh The Glebeland budget for 2019/20 and actions in 2020. The land opposite the Well was considered to be untidy although this was disputed. The continuing concern over the administration of the village hall.</p>
	<p><u>Reports and Comments from County and District Councillors</u></p> <p>Cllr van Dyk had forwarded the report below which was summarised at the meeting.</p> <p>It's National Empty Homes Week 2018 this week (15 - 21 October). It is a chance to raise awareness, celebrate progress and consider what more needs to be done to bring empty homes back into use to help meet housing needs. In 2017, the number of long-term empty homes recorded by English local authorities was 205,293. Not only are empty properties typically unsightly as their condition deteriorates over time, they also bring the value of neighbouring properties and reduce the availability of local housing. Mendip District Council is working with empty property owners to assist them to bring their properties back into use.</p> <p>Often one of the barriers for bringing a property back in use is the financial contribution needed. Mendip District Council can provide advice and support to owners and have a grant and loan scheme available to assist with completing work to help improve the property for rental, sale or for your own residence.</p> <p>There are two ways the council can support financially, firstly the council works in partnership with not-for-profit lender Wessex Resolutions CIC to provide finance for home repairs. This enables an owner to then either rent their newly renovated property to put it on the market or move back into it themselves. By bringing an empty property back into use, the local community benefits through the addition of new housing and a pleasant place to live.</p> <p>A further option offered by Mendip District Council is a grant scheme once a property has been empty for six months or more. Three levels of grant are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to £3,000 to bring empty home back into use</li><li>• Up to £5,000 to bring an empty home back into use and rent it for minimum of 12 months</li><li>• Up to £15,000 to bring an empty home back into use and rent it at local housing allowance rate to tenants nominated by the council for five years</li></ul> <p>Cllr Nigel Woolcombe-Adams, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Growth and Housing Services, said; "Empty properties are a wasted resource, especially when demand for affordable good quality housing in Mendip remains high.</p> <p>"We would encourage owners of empty properties in Mendip to contact the private sector housing team, who can offer advice and in some cases funding to assist property owners in making affordable homes available for local people."</p> <p>For more information about the support that the council can offer for owners of empty homes in Mendip, visit; <a href="http://www.mendip.gov.uk/emp-ty'p-rop-erties">www.mendip.gov.uk/emp-ty'p-rop-erties</a> or for information on the loans available call Wessex Resolutions direct on 01823461099, email <a href="mailto:enquiries@wrcic.org.uk">enquiries@wrcic.org.uk</a> or visit <a href="http://www.wrcic.org.uk">www.wrcic.org.uk</a></p>
	<p><u>Police Report</u> No report received.</p>
	<p><u>Planning Applications:</u></p> <p>No public comments were received on either of the applications to be considered.</p>

	<b>Closure of public participation and Commencement of the Parish Council Meeting.</b>
	<i>Present:</i> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Barry Clarke, John Shepherd, Ann Crowcombe; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)
1811/1	<i>Apologies for absence.</i> Cllr Sarah Goff, Cllr Ros Wilkins, Cllr David van Dyk.
1811/2	<i>Declarations of Interest:</i> None.
1811/3	<i>Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:</i>  i) Meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.
1811/4	<i>Matters from the Minutes of previous meetings:</i>  i) Parish Emergency planning. The clerk had located a previous emergency plan and had downloaded a copy of the most recent form from SCC. This form to be circulated to councillors who would be asked to confirm details as required. Cllr Shepherd confirmed he was happy to have his details included. ii) Report on recent Parish Forum. Cllr Clarke reported on the recent forum which was poorly attended. Topics discussed included Safeguarding the Vulnerable, Health Connections and timetable for Local Elections. He noted that Mendip DC were seeking suggestions for improvements to the Forum format. iii) Hearing Loop. Cllr Crowcombe was taking this forward and would endeavour to obtain quotes for the provision of a hearing loop in all areas of the village hall.
1811/5	<i>Parish Council Response to Planning Applications</i> i) 2018/2428/HSE – Two storey extension, creation of dormer and new window at Brottens Lodge, Brottens Road, Evercreech BA4 4RB. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application. ii) 2018/2614/FUL – Erection of single storey cattery building at Knapps Farm, Kings Road, Doultling BA4 4LA. This property was on the Parish boundary. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application. iii) To note refusal of 2018/1938/HSE and 1939/LBC – Front extension at The Old Stables, Hurlingpot Farm. This was noted. iv) It was noted that the solar panels at 44 Beech Close had been deemed lawful by Mendip DC.
1811/6	<i>Parish Council Matters requiring a decision:</i>  i) Adoption of Telephone box – awaiting BT consultation. ii) Appointment of SALC representative. Cllr Crowcombe agreed to act as representative. iii) Additional Parish Councillor – process. The clerk had circulated information from SALC and Mendip DC and it was agreed to consider the matter again after the 2019 elections.

	<p>iv) Confirmation of Parish Council status as custodian trustee for the village hall. Cllr Crowcombe advised specific information about the role of the Parish Council as custodian trustee which indicated that the parish Council had no administrative role with the village hall and had no powers to interfere in the running of the organisation. Cllr Fidge advised that comments she and others had made on the matter of the village hall had been made on a personal basis.</p>
1811/7	<p><u>Parish Councillors comments and updates relating to the following matters:</u></p> <p>i) Highways and traffic – Cllr Clarke reported that all matters were in hand but that he had had no further information from highways. Cllr Fidge noted she had reported a loose gully cover on Prestleigh Hill. It was noted that there had been some correspondence with other adjoining parishes about traffic during the B&amp;W show in June and that, whilst meetings to discuss the matter had been suggested, there appeared to be no interest from some quarters in organising such a meeting.</p> <p>ii) Joint Highways advisory committee. Still awaiting a date for the meeting.</p> <p>iii) Footpath matters. It was noted that the path from Doultling Hill to The Wells was blocked by undergrowth and brambles.</p> <p>iv) Speedwatch - no watches had taken place in Doultling or Prestleigh.</p> <p>v) SID's – email received. Concern was expressed about the continuation of these devices although Cllr Crowcombe understood that funding might be available for new devices. Cllr Crowcombe to speak to the SCC representative about the funding of new devices and software and Cllr Fidge to speak to the speed watch co-ordinator.</p>
1811/8	<p><u>Reports from Parish Council Representatives to Village Organisations:</u></p> <p>i) Village Hall and Social Group – a report was requested but not received.</p> <p>ii) Beacon Hill Woods Society – nothing to report.</p>
1811/9	<p><u>Matters relating to The Glebeland</u></p> <p>i) Report on meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The backing of the sloping sign at the entrance was de-laminating. Cllr Crowcombe had been in touch with the supplier. Clerk to advise date when the sign was purchased.</p> <p>ii) Replacement fencing budget. Twenty rails were required at a cost of £79. A member of the public suggested he might be able to fix the new rails; Cllr Crowcombe to discuss.</p>
1811/10	<p><u>Matters relating to Padfield Green.</u></p> <p>i) Replacement of Defective Equipment and safety surface. Deferred until the next meeting.</p>
1811/11	<p><u>Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <p>i) It was noted that there was no further information about the proposed brewery at the B&amp;W site.</p>

1811/12	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Clerks salary and expenses. £366.80 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</li><li>ii) Somerset Playing Field Assoc annual subscription. £15 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.</li></ul>
1811/13	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) The clerk had circulated information about a consultation about changes to Childrens Services in Somerset.</li><li>ii) Cllr Clarke noted a review of parking provision in Somerset.</li></ul>
1811/14	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 7.30pm at The Prestleigh Inn, Prestleigh.</p>

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm**

**Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
01749 870358; [doultینگclerk@gmail.com](mailto:doultینگclerk@gmail.com)**

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