

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2019 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm	
	<p><u>Public Meeting</u></p> <p>This part of the meeting is intended to allow public participation on a number of matters prior to the commencement of the Parish Council meeting proper.</p>
	<p><u>Forum:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) A litter picking event had been organised on 30th March 2019, meet 10am or 2pm at the Phone Box.ii) Cllr Goff to check if local quarries still organised annual litter picks.iii) The question of the clearance of the footpath raised at the last meeting was in hand with SM Landscapes. Stone surfacing was to be laid on a section of the school path.iv) Questions about the Village Hall AGM and committee were raised. The AGM is on 24th April 2019 starting at 7.30pm.
	<p><u>Reports and Comments from County and District Councillors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Cllr van Dyk outlined the situation with MDC finances advising that the budget would be balanced in the current year. In future years the benefits of the investments would assist the finances at a time when there would be no government grants except the new homes bonus scheme. He advised that funds were available for youth projects and also for Parish Council projects. Mendip was tackling climate change and had employed a sustainability officer. Council tax was likely to rise by around 3% which included a substantial increase for the Police and he advised that a meeting was to take place to discuss local policing. Cllr Shepherd raised the matter of a feasibility study costing £380,000 to consider bring back the railway to Shepton Mallet. Cllr van Dyk to report back on this matter. He advised that the matter of the Unitary Authority was still in discussion. A comment about the standard of some services provided by MDC was made.
	<p><u>Police Report:</u></p> <p>The following report was received from the police:</p> <p>Specific reports for Doultong</p> <p>01/02 – Old Frome Rd, Report of abandoned vehicle, Police attended, vehicle broken down, keeper traced and retrieved.</p> <p>08/02 – A361 Doultong, HGV with flat tyre. Tyre fitters arrived as call in progress, no Police attendance.</p> <p>12/02 – Reported vehicle parked on junction Church Lane. Police attended warning notice issued, vehicle moved.</p> <p>23/02 – Old Frome Road junction with A37. Two Vehicle RTC minor injuries, Police in attendance.</p>

	<p><u>Planning Applications:</u></p> <p>i) Application 2019/0389/AGB – Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed building at Merryfield Farm, Merryfield Lane, Douling. There were no public comments on this application.</p>
	<p>Closure of public participation and Commencement of the Parish Council Meeting.</p>
	<p><u>Present:</u> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ann Crowcombe, Barry Clarke, Sarah Goff and John Shepherd; also in attendance Cllr David van Dyk and Alan Butcher (clerk)</p>
1903/1	<p><u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllr Ros Wilkins.</p>
1903/2	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.</p>
1903/3	<p><u>Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <p>i) Meeting held on 12th February 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>
1903/4	<p><u>Matters from the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <p>i) Parish Emergency planning. It was agreed to defer this until after the elections on 2nd May. ii) Telephone box. Awaiting quotes for the defibrillator. iii) Provision of hearing loop. Cllr Clarke was seeking donations for this equipment.</p>
1903/5	<p><u>Parish Council Response to Planning Applications</u></p> <p>i) Application 2019/0389/AGB – Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed building at Merryfield Farm, Merryfield Lane, Douling. Councillors agreed to support this application.</p>
1903/6	<p><u>Parish Council Matters requiring a decision:</u></p> <p>i) Updated Asset Register. Clerk to circulate for formal adoption at the April meeting. ii) Annual Parish Meeting. This to take place at 7pm on 9th April 2019 before the April Parish Council meeting. It was agreed to invite representatives from the Bath and West Soc. As Douling Village Hall was subject to building work it was agreed to hold the meetings at The Prestleigh Inn.</p>
1903/7	<p><u>Parish Councillors comments and updates relating to the following matters:</u></p> <p>i) Highways and traffic – SCC. All matters were in hand with highways who were awaiting resources to be available. Cllr Clarke to ask highways about the requested grit bin for Edmund Rack road in Prestleigh although it was suggested that the school should purchase the grit bin itself. Potholes were recorded on Brottens Hill and a request for the drainage grips in Ball Lane to be cleared out made. ii) Joint Highways advisory committee. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Footpath matters – diversion of paths SM7/90 and 18/21. Clarification about the route of the footpath had been received; footpath to be diverted inside the boundary fence away from the adjoining carriageway. iv) Speedwatch. Cllr Goff had attended the Speedwatch AGM and reported on proceedings. A talk was given about a camera system to monitor speed and collect data although this was not police approved. v) SID's – Funding. Cllr van Dyk advised that the SID's would need to be replaced as data could not be collected from the current system. He was investigating funding. vi) Litter picking event. An event had been organised for 30th March, at 10am and 2pm. vii) Election information. Election details were available and nomination form distributed to current councillors.
1903/8	<p><u>Reports from Parish Council Representatives to Village Organisations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Village Hall and Social Group. The AGM was to be held on 24th April @ 7.30pm ii) Beacon Hill Woods Society. The clerk had a copy of the current management plan published on the Woodland Trust website. Mary Newman advised that this plan had been amended. Further action to be agreed after the forthcoming AGM.
1903/9	<p><u>Matters relating to The Glebeland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Replacement fencing. Cllr Crowcombe suggested that it had been agreed to contact local fencing contractors about the state of the fencing rather than agreed a budget for repair. Matter to be confirmed at the next Glebeland meeting. ii) Repairs to sloping lectern sign. This was in hand. iii) Other matters; Wire cages for tree protection were required, a quote to be obtained. It was hoped that the material would be available for infilling the rabbit scrapes in the enclosure before the grass started to grow. A working party had been held.
1903/10	<p><u>Matters relating to Padfield Green.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Replacement of Defective Equipment and safety surface. Cllr Wilkins had confirmed that she had the matter in hand.
1903/11	<p><u>Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Defibrillator for Prestleigh – funding raising was in hand. ii) It was agreed to invite representatives from the Bath and West to the April APM. iii) There was nothing to report from Waterlip.
1903/12	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Clerks salary and expenses including website costs. £504.11. This was agreed and a cheque raised. ii) Insurance renewal – Came and Co £489.26. This was agreed and a cheque raised. The clerk noted that the insurance included £5000 cover for defibrillators.

1903/13	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) It was noted that Truespeed were seeking to deliver a broadband service to the area.ii) Cllr Shepherd expressed his continued concern about the Mendip DC investment strategy.iii) Cllr Crowcombe reported on the recent Parish Forum and proposed training.
1903/14	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 9th April 2019 @ 7.30pm. It was noted that building works at the school meant that the use of the community room for meetings would be difficult. It was agreed to re-locate the meeting to The Prestleigh Inn.</p>

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
26th March 2019
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