

**DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**

**TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019**

**VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH @ 7.30pm**

**Public Meeting**

**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.**

**Forum:**

Ten members of the public were present.

Representatives from the NASS Festival were present and spoke about the festival arrangements and answered queries from the public. They confirmed the emergency telephone number and agreed to provide a portable toilet at the end of Prestleigh Lane as in previous years.

The following topics were raised:

The proposals for improvements to the Old Wells Road and Old Frome Road were discussed. Concern was expressed about the suggested consultation which had not taken place and the various alternative options for the road which had not been considered.

Additional tree felling at the Scania site in Waterlip was mentioned as being in contravention of the planning permission previously granted. Scania had been contacted on the matter.

It was noted that the traffic arrangements for Glastonbury Festival had worked well although comments were made about noise and proposals for the 2020 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

Concern was expressed about the continuing danger to pedestrians using Doultling Hill due to overgrow hedges and soil encroachment onto the paved surface. A number of comments were made about the danger to pedestrians outside the church at the top of the hill where the pavement is too narrow and “near misses” were noted. It was noted that the church has no problem with pedestrians using the path through the churchyard rather than continue up Doultling Hill.

Concern was expressed about the restriction of banners on the Padfield Green railings and the need to ensure that all relevant banners can be displayed.

The removal of dead leaves in Church Lane had not been carried out as requested.

The petition previously submitted to the council had included a request for the problems with both speeding traffic and heavy goods vehicles on Chelynych Road to be addressed and, for a time, police action had resulted in a reduction of the problem but, since this had been scaled back, the problem was re-occurring.

The matter of the overhanging hedge in Beech Close and trees in the Churchyard was mentioned.

	The council were asked to be prudent about finances given the continuing reduction in council funding.
	<p><u>Reports and Comments from County and District Councillors</u></p> <p>Cllr Francis Hayden (in attendance) referred to a recent planning application in Bodden which had been referred to him for possible consideration by the planning board. He noted the comments about the felling of trees on the Scania site and had been in contact with the company about the breach of the planning conditions. He referred to the improvements made to this year's Glastonbury Festival.</p> <p>No report was received from Cllr Ham.</p>
	<u>Police Report</u> No report had been received.
	<p><u>Planning Applications:</u></p> <p>i) Application 2019/1344/HSE – Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey front extension at 7 Ganesfield, Chelynch Road, Doulting. There were no public comments on this application.</p> <p>ii) Application 2019/1369/FUL – Demolition and replacement of poultry buildings at Clover Farm, Merryfield Lane, Doulting. Several people including residents local to the site spoke about the lack of consultation from Mendip DC and the fact that they had only found out about the proposals that day. No Planning Notice appeared to have been displayed. Concerns were expressed about the increased traffic and highway safety on the narrow lane as well as noise and air pollution. It was noted however that this was a long established business and that the replacement of building could only be an improvement on the existing facilities.</p>
	<b>Closure of public participation and Commencement of the Parish Council Meeting. Members of the public may not speak during the meeting unless requested to do so by the Chairman.</b>
	<u>Present:</u> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chairman), Ros Wilkins, Jan Crewe, Ann Crowcombe and John Shepherd; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)
1907/1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllr Sarah Goff.
1907/2	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.
1907/3	<p><u>Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <p>i) Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>
1907/4	<p><u>Matters from the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <p>i) Parish Council Policy for posting of banners. The clerk had circulated a draft policy. Cllr Wilkins spoke about recent events involving the removal of banners and felt the the draft policy would address the issue. It was noted that Highway regulations required advertisements on the highway to be for charitable purpose and posted not more the 12 days before the event. Cllr Hayden gave information about the Mendip DC policy. It was agreed to adopt the policy with a change of the period before the event to 12 days. Clerk to post small notice advising on procedures. It was agreed to contact SM Market to advise of change.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) Churchyard trees. There was some discussion about leaves in Church Lane, Cllr Crewe had spoken to SM Landscapes who were reluctant to remove the leaves without an official order. Clerk to discuss with Cllr Crewe.</li> <li>iii) Invite for Village Agent – Invited to the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.</li> <li>iv) Polling Stations Consultation. It was agreed to respond to the consultation requesting a polling station in Prestleigh.</li> </ul>
1907/5	<p><u>Parish Council Response to Planning Applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Application 2019/1344/HSE – Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey front extension at 7 Ganesfield, Chelynch Road, Doulting. Councillors agreed to support this application.</li> <li>ii) Application 2019/1369/FUL – Demolition and replacement of poultry buildings at Clover Farm, Merryfield Lane, Doulting.                  There was much discussion about the lack of consultation with local residents who appeared not to have been notified about the application. It was noted that there appeared to be no Planning Notice in place at the premises.                  Cllr Crowcombe felt that some form of extension should be requested to allow proper consultation. The clerk advised that this was beyond the remit of the Parish Council and that councillors needed to make their response at this meeting.                  Cllr Wilkins noted that the business had been on the site for at least 50 years and that there was a need to support local businesses. She noted it was the district councils problem that there had been poor consultation not the applicants.                  Cllr Shepherd spoke about the need to support local business and that, in his view, the renewal of the buildings would be a major improvement in terms of smell and noise as well as improving animal welfare.                  Cllr Crowcombe was not happy with making a decision but Cllr Fidge advised that a decision was needed. A vote was taken and it was agreed to support the application two in favour with three abstentions. Clerk to include comments about the lack of consultation with local residents.</li> </ul>
1907/6	<p><u>Parish Council Matters requiring a decision:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Safety Notice in Church Lane. This concerned the placing of a Notice on the Doulting Hill entrance to the churchyard advising of the safest route for pedestrians to avoid the dangerous area at the top of the hill. Cllr Crewe noted that the path was already a “permissive path” and that there may not be a problem with liability. She had contacted the church authorities who would be discussing the matter at a forthcoming PCC meeting. It was noted that a previous suggestion for a sign had been refused by the church on liability grounds.</li> <li>ii) Parish Council representation at Mendip DC Forums. Deferred until the next meeting.</li> </ul>
1907/7	<p><u>Parish Councillors comments and updates relating to the following matters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Highways and traffic – SCC                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low kerb on A361</li> <li>Damaged wall on A361</li> <li>Barrier on Doulting Hill</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>Drainage on Doultling Hill Cutting back of hedges for highway safety Cllr Crewe to arrange meeting with highways to discuss the outstanding list. Cllr Crowcombe gave details of discussions about proposed works to the Old Wells Road and Old Frome Road. There was some discussion about previous proposals for various alternative schemes which councillors from both Doultling and Cranmore had expected to hold a joint consultation with highways, Cllr Philip Ham and David Warburton MP to discuss. There was some disappointment that the scheme proposed was a “sticking plaster” approach rather than a significant safety improvement. Cllr Hayden noted that the proposed scheme covered the whole length of the route from Beacon crossroads to Holcombe. Several councillors expressed concern about the lack of improvements to the junctions at Long Cross and Beacon crossroads which were accident blackspots. Cllr Crowcombe noted that the Parish Council had tried on several occasions to have improved signage installed to direct HGV’s along the link road and although this had been promised it had not been installed. Clerk to write to Cllr Ham to request a more comprehensive consultation as previously discussed. Clerk to also locate and circulate the email about the proposals which appeared to have been lost in the email system.</p> <p>ii) Footpath matters</p> <p>a) School footpath. Cllr Crewe had met with the footpaths officer to discuss various matters. Councillors agreed that Cllr Crewe should become the Parish Path Liaison Officer for Doultling.</p> <p>b) Other footpath matters. Cllr Crewe about a number of footpath issues she was dealing with and also noted that she had asked highways to clear the pavement on Doultling Hill. It was also noted that subsidence on the edge of the road could have caused a recent accident involving an HGV.</p> <p>iii) Speedwatch – Both Prestleigh and Doultling have been busy with watches over the recent period including liaising with the coach operator over the period of the Glastonbury Festival. The speed enforcement team have been out on early morning monitoring. Concern was expressed about speeding tractors in Chelynch Road and it was agreed to discuss the matter with the speedwatch co-ordinator and the police. It was suggested that the enforcement van should be deployed in the area.</p> <p>iv) SID’s – a further discussion was held about the use of speed camera options.</p>
1907/8	<p><u>Reports from Parish Council Representatives to Village Organisations:</u></p> <p>i) Village Hall and Social Group – Nothing to report from the village hall. Cllr Crewe confirmed that the defibrillator is now in place and in operation and thae there will be training in the use of the machine on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019. It was also noted that the phone box is being refurbished.</p> <p>ii) Beacon Hill Woods Society – nothing to report.</p>
1907/9	<p><u>Matters relating to The Glebeland</u></p> <p>i) Replacement fencing rails. In hand.</p> <p>ii) Repairs to sloping lectern sign. This had been completed.</p> <p>iii) The next meeting was scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019.</p>
1907/10	<p><u>Matters relating to Padfield Green.</u></p> <p>i) Replacement of Defective Equipment and safety surface. Cllr Wilkins was currently seeking funding for the new equipment.</p>

	<p>ii) Dog fouling. Two incidents in the play area had been reported. It was noted that the fouling had been picked up by others. Clerk to write to the address where the dog owner lived and also to speak to Mendip on the matter.</p>
1907/11	<p><u>Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <p>i) NASS event. Representatives from the event had spoken early about arrangements for the festival.</p> <p>ii) It was noted that the various activities in the area related to the Glastonbury Festival had caused some chaos in Prestleigh and surrounding roads.</p> <p>iii) No matters were raised from Waterlip.</p>
1907/12	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>i) Clerks salary and expenses. £361.74 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>ii) Quarter 1 tax payment. £292.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>iii) Internal auditor fee for 2018/19 accounts £80.00 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>iv) Mendip District Council election expenses £950.54 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p> <p>v) SALC Training Course fees £60.00 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.</p>
1907/13	<p>Quarter 1 interim accounts and bank reconciliation – these were circulated; clerk to circulate the reconciliation when the latest bank statement is received.</p>
1907/14	<p>Bank Signatories. Cllrs Fidge and Wilkins signed the form from the Natwest Bank for the removal of two signatories.</p>
1907/15	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <p>i) Cllr Hayden advised about liability problems with trees in parishes.</p> <p>ii) Cllr Crowcombe spoke about the recent SALC Planning Training. Clerk to circulate slides of the presentation received from SALC.</p> <p>iii) A consultation from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue, information to be circulated.</p>
1907/16	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 7.30pm at Doultling Village Hall The council does not normally meet in August unless there is urgent business.</p>

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm**

**Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
15<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
01749 870358;**

[doultlingclerk@gmail.com](mailto:doultlingclerk@gmail.com)

[The Parish Council Privacy Notice can be viewed on the website.](#)