

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2019 VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING: DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm	
	<p><u>Public Meeting</u> 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>Bath and West Showground update: Rupert Cox and Paul Hooper attended the meeting and gave an update on the showground. The new restaurant had been completed and was proving successful. The entertainment event featuring Bill Bailey had also been very successful and more such events were planned.</p> <p>The show itself had gone well back would be the last of the four day shows, it would revert to a three day format from 2020 for a number of reasons which were outlined. The 2020 show would feature a “celebrity” kitchen and work was being undertaken to improve the kitchen facility. Tickets for the 2020 show would be available soon at a reduced early bird price. A member of the public raised a query about the sale of show tickets at Tourist information centres.</p> <p>The Glastonbury festival had passed off successfully with 600 motor caravans being hosted as well as the usual drop off arrangements.</p> <p>The problems with the 2019 NASS Festival were mentioned and revised arrangements were to be made to the 2020 festival to prevent a recurrence of the 2019 problems. A member of the public noted that the event had been approved and that expertise was available and should have been called upon to resolve the situation.</p> <p>The recent Diary Show had exceeded expectations. Other events in the style of “An Audience with... were being planned.</p> <p>The recent Westfest was mentioned and Cllr Fidge noted that she was happy with the arrangements for this event.</p> <p>A member of the public queried the number of lights on at night on the showground. She was advised that there was a review of the security and safety lighting underway.</p> <p>Cllr Fidge thanked Messrs Cox and Hooper for their attendance.</p>
	<p><u>Forum:</u> Members of the public raised the following issues:</p> <p>Concern was expressed at the apparent lack of progress in dealing with queries raised by the public at meetings. The chairman responded that these matters were raised with the relevant authorities and that the council did not have control of matters which were the responsibility of other agencies.</p> <p>The matter of the proposed sign at the churchyard was discussed and the lack of a sign on Well Lane mentioned. This had apparently been removed shortly after it had been fixed in position. It was generally agreed that a cautionary sign was required as vehicles often drove too fast down the lane and there had been near misses with pedestrians in the past. The chairman advised that these matters would be taken up with highways.</p>

	<p>The proposal for an additional councillor was raised. The clerk noted that there were two ways of proceeding but that the new councillor would not join the council until the 2023 elections.</p> <p>The matter of overgrown hedges obscuring road signs was raised and it was felt that the council should take more action to make landowners cut back the offending hedges. Cllr Fidge responded that the council had repeatedly reported the matter to highways whose responsibility it was and that it was not for the council to adopt a heavy-handed approach in dealing with this matter.</p> <p>The problem with surface water on Doultling Hill was raised again and it was advised that Cllr Hayden would speak about this in his report. Cllr Shepherd was concerned about the quality of the works recently carried out on Doultling Hill.</p> <p>The matter of the administration of the village hall was raised and the chairman advised that she could report on the matter later in the meeting.</p>
	<p><u>Reports and Comments from County and District Councillors</u></p> <p>Cllr Hayden (in attendance) spoke in detail about proposals for works to Doultling Hill in 2020. The road would be resurfaced and the camber altered to channel water arising from the spring adjoining the road down the hill to additional drainage gullies. Additional kerbing would also be laid. Regarding the steep drop at the corner, highways safety dept were looking at this issue.</p> <p>He also summarised recent events concerning the district councils accounts which had now been signed off following a period of review after it had been found that the original accounts were “incorrect”. Details of assets also needed to be reviewed.</p>
	<p><u>Police Report;</u> The following report was received in advance of the meeting: <i>08/10 – A361, Complaint ref temporary lights on Doultling Hill, with no slow sign on approach. Mendip Council advised; dealing as work currently in place.</i> <i>29/10 – Chelynch road, Reported vehicle with brake lights stuck on; no MOT. Registered keeper enquiries made.</i></p>
	<p><u>Planning Applications:</u></p> <p>Public comments on the following planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Application 2019/2618/PAA - Prior approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house at Hurlingpot Farm, Kings Road, Doultling. A member of the public and adjoining owner had written to the council expressing concerns about the proposals including the provision of parking, access to the site, the construction of the existing barn which was not considered suitable for the proposed use and was, in fact, not redundant as stated. There was a general concern that the heritage of the adjoining grade 2 listed buildings was not respected or enhanced by the proposals.ii) Application 2019/2542/PAA - Prior approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house at Higher Farm, Bodden Lane, Bodden. There were no comments.

	Closure of public participation and Commencement of the Parish Council Meeting.
1911/1	<u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllrs Goff and Wilkins.
1911/2	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None.
1911/3	<u>Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> i) Meeting held on 8 th October 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.
1911/4	<u>Matters from the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> i) Church Lane and fallen leaves. Cllr Crewe suggested that the council investigate the provision of a “brown bin”. Clerk to check with Mendip on provision and cost. Cllr Crowcombe advised that the company Idverde would attend and clear the leaves if asked. ii) Hearing loop funding. Cllr Crowcombe advised this was in hand. iii) Emergency Planning. The clerk went through the procedure and information required to finalise the plan. Cllrs Crowcombe and Crewe were handed part of the plan for review and completion. iv) Fingerpost signs. Cllr Crewe had obtained photographs of the signs although it was noted that signs which had been removed would need to be added to the list if their location was known. Cllr Crewe to liaise with the clerk over costings.
1911/5	<u>Parish Council Response to Planning Applications</u> i) Application 2019/2618/PAA - Prior approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house at Hurlingpot Farm, Kings Road, Doulling. Cllr Crewe was concerned about the look of the proposed dwellings. Cllr Crowcombe queried the access to the proposed dwellings which was a “rural track” suitable for agricultural use. Cllr Fidge felt that the proposals were not in keeping with the surroundings and heritage of the site. Councillors agreed to object to the proposals 3 in favour and 1 abstention. ii) Application 2019/2542/PAA - Prior approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house at Higher Farm, Bodden Lane, Bodden. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the proposals.
1911/6	<u>Parish Council Matters requiring a decision:</u> i) Safety Notice in Church Lane. The proposal for the sign had been refused but there was a meeting in January where the matter would be reviewed. Cllr Crewe to provide suggested wording to enable of quote for the sign to be obtained.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) Additional Parish Council representative to the Village Hall. The meeting confirmed that Cllr Fidge had taken on this role. iii) Additional Parish Councillor for Doultling PC. The clerk outlined the process for a Community Governance Review and it was agreed that the council should follow the option of providing reasons for the need for a review. Cllr Shepherd was not in favour of adding another councillor. The clerk advised that any new councillor would not join the council until the 2023 election. Clerk to write and circulate reasons to support Governance review. iv) VE Day celebrations – 8th May 2019. Details had been circulated. Cllr Crewe advised that the Royal British Legion would considering an event to make the anniversary. Matter to remain on agenda.
1911/7	<p><u>Parish Councillors comments and updates relating to the following matters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Highways and traffic – SCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement scheme for Old Wells and Old Frome Road – no further information. Low kerb on A361 – in hand with Highways. Damaged wall on A361 – Cllrs Crewe and Hayden trying to resolve this matter. Barrier on Doultling Hill – awaiting Highways safety team. Cutting back of hedges for highway safety – Cllr Crewe had spoken but would report to Highways again. Standing water at the top of Prestleigh Hill to be reported to Highways. Cllr Crowcombe reported that the drain at Waterlip was breaking up again. She also reported that the drainage grips in Ball Lane needed clearing out. It was reported that an Ash Tree on a property on the A361 appeared to be in danger of falling. Clerk to write to landowners. The question of grit bins was raised and it was noted that Highways were aware of the bins location. It was also noted that some of the bins had solid material which prevented proper filling and which needed to be broken out. ii) Footpath matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) School footpath. Matter to be discussed by Cllrs Crowcombe and Crewe. b) Parish Paths Liaison Officer. Cllr Crewe reported that one footpath inspection had been completed and that others were planned. iii) Speedwatch – there had been little activity in both Doultling and Prestleigh over the last few weeks. A recent meeting had been attended by 70% of the Mendip speedwatch teams and that new PCSO's were coming to the area. iv) SID's – letter from SCC and response from SID's volunteers. This matter was in hand.

1911/8	<p><u>Reports from Parish Council Representatives to Village Organisations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Village Hall and Social Group. Cllr Fidge reported that she had been co-opted onto the committee and that there would be an open meeting before Christmas. There was a list of questions concerning the hall awaiting a reply from the school and that she had been asked to undertake a review of groups on the committee and would be reporting back to the trustees. ii) A number of events were outlined by the Social Group including a trial lunch, quiz night, film night and other activities. It was noted that the village website had been updated. iii) Beacon Hill Woods Society. Mary Newman outlined matters concerned with Ash die back and discussions with the Woodland Trust about thinning of the wood and information about the barrows in the wood.
1911/9	<p><u>Matters relating to The Glebeland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Confirmation of the cost of £115 for a replacement bench made by Shepton Men's Shed. The clerk advised that the proposed repair of the bench quoted at £75 had not been possible and that he had authorised the replacement of the bench for £115. He noted that this was about half of the cost of replacing the bench commercially. It was agreed unanimously to approve this cost. ii) It was noted that there had been working parties clearing brambles although conditions had been very wet. The clerk to contact contractor about areas of tarmac which needed repair following a recent incident. iii) The next Glebeland meeting was agreed as 14th January 2020.
1911/10	<p><u>Matters relating to Padfield Green.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Replacement of Defective Equipment and safety surface. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Wilkins on this matter. ii) Actions arising from Playground Safety Training Course – deferred.
1911/11	<p><u>Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Truckfest – feedback from Cllr Hayden. Cllr Hayden advised that he had reported complaints about noise and vibration back to Mendip but officers had stated that they had no knowledge of such complaints. ii) Venue for Prestleigh meetings. It was noted that The Prestleigh Inn had been sold but no further details were available. The clerk had asked the showground about a venue but had had no response. iii) Recent Westfest event. This had passed off without incident. iv) No matters were raised for Waterlip. Cllr Hayden noted he had written to the planning officers about the Scania Trees matter.
1911/12	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Clerks salary and expenses - £403.90 including the NJC salary point increase from April 2019. This was agreed and a cheque raised. ii) Invoice from Shepton Mens Shed for replacement bench - £115.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

1911/13	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <p>i) Surviving winter appeal. The clerk advised details of the appeal ii) Padfield Green Banners. A request for permission to post banners for a market in Shepton Mallet on two dates before Christmas was agreed.</p>
1911/14	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be on 10th December 2019, 7.30pm at Doultling Village Hall</p>

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
19th November 2019+-
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