

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 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><u>Forum:</u> Members of the public raised the following matters with Parish Councillors:</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the inadequate bus service in the district noting the item on the agenda for Mendip Community Transport. It was suggested that more funding should be put into bus services by the District and County councils. Cllr Wilkins commented that MCT was a voluntary organisation relying on donations and not associated with district or county council.</p> <p>The matter of progress toward an additional Parish Councillor was raised and there was queries about signs in School Lane and the barrier on Doultling Hill. Concern was expressed about accidents on Doultling Hill during recent roadworks.</p> <p>A written list of queries and concerns was handed to Chairman and Clerk for comment. The Chairman responded that the list would be reviewed and answers given after consideration.</p>
	<p><u>Reports and Comments from County and District Councillors</u></p> <p>Cllr Francis Hayden (in attendance) reported that Mendip District Council planning committee were meeting on a fortnightly basis and that the planning committee chairman was ensuring work was being done to eradicate the planning backlog.</p> <p>He had been involved in seeking information about emergency planning at MDC and was concerned about the lack of coherent information available.</p> <p>He advised that he had spoken to the planners about the Scania site trees and had been advised that none of the trees were subject to a TPO. However, the granted permission clearly showed the trees being retained and, as such, their felling had been a planning breach. He suggested that the Parish Council should write to the applicant about the matter. A member of the public was concerned that this matter had been discussed at Cranmore PC despite the fact the site was in Doultling Parish.</p> <p>Finally, he noted that need to address flood prevention on a longer term basis than at present.</p>
	<p><u>Police Report;</u> No report received.</p>
	<p><u>Planning Applications:</u></p> <p>There were no Public comments on the following planning applications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Application 2019/2741/FUL – Erection of storage building at Royal Bath and West Showground, Prestleigh (retrospective).

	<p>ii) Application 2019/0654/LBC – Appeal ref APP/Q3305/Y/19/3239981 in respect of single storey front extension at The Old Stables, Hurlingpot Farm, Kings Road, Doulling.</p>
	<p>Closure of public participation and Commencement of the Parish Council Meeting.</p>
	<p><i>Present:</i> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, John Shepherd, Sarah Goff and Jan Crewe; also in attendance Cllr Francis Hayden and Alan Butcher (Clerk)</p>
1912/1	<p><u>Apologies for absence.</u></p> <p>Cllr Ann Crowcombe.</p>
1912/2	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u></p> <p>None.</p>
1912/3	<p><u>Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <p>i) Meeting held on 12th November 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record with the correction of the sign location in “School” Lane and not Church Lane.</p>
1912/4	<p><u>Matters from the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <p>i) Church Lane and fallen leaves. Cllr Crowcombe in correspondence had noted that the leaves had been collected and that shw had not asked Idverde to attend. Cllr Crewe was still concerned about the need to be able to collect the leaves and dispose of them properly. It was agreed to arrange for a “brown bin” from Mendip DC to be housed at 46 Church Lane. Clerk to arrange.</p> <p>ii) Hearing loop funding. Cllr Crowcombe had advised that she was seeking quotations for the equipment.</p> <p>iii) Emergency Planning. Cllr Crewe advised her actions in preparing and obtaining information for the plan. A request for information on various topics was to be included in the Parish newsletter. Cllr Wilkins raised the matter of insurance for vehicles, etc responding to an emergency situation. There was a general discussion about snow clearance generally and for vulnerable members of the community; also the contact list for builders and other useful trades.</p> <p>iv) Fingerpost signs. The clerk had circulated information about approximate costs and there was discussion about the best way to proceed if the council wanted to refurbish one sign per year. It was agreed to obtain a quotation for the refurbishment of the sign at the top of Doulling Hill. Concern was expressed about using one contractor and the need to obtain quotations for the works. Clerk and Cllr Crewe to liaise.</p> <p>v) Snow Warden training. Cllr Crewe was discussing this matter with Somerset CC. The details were passed to Cllr Hayden.</p>

	<p>vi) Parish Grit bins. Cllr Crewe reported that she had had discussions with highways about filling the grit bins. They had confirmed that this would be done as soon as possible. Concern was expressed about the need to clear out the solid material in the bins. “Adopt-a-bin” was suggested and it was agreed to include a request in the Parish Magazine.</p> <p>vii) Ash tree adjoining A361. The clerk had drafted a letter for comment. It was agreed to advise that the Tree Officer at Mendip DC be contacted.</p>
1912/5	<p><u>Parish Council Response to Planning Applications</u></p> <p>iii) Application 2019/2741/FUL – Erection of storage building at Royal Bath and West Showground, Prestleigh (retrospective). It was agreed to support the application.</p> <p>iv) Application 2019/0654/LBC – Appeal ref APP/Q3305/Y/19/3239981 in respect of single storey front extension at The Old Stables, Hurlingpot Farm, Kings Road, Doulling. Clerk to write to inspector to re-affirm the councils original decision to support the application.</p>
1912/6	<p><u>Parish Council Matters requiring a decision:</u></p> <p>i) Safety Notice in Church Lane. The matter would be discussed in January 2020. The clerk asked for an indication of the wording in order to obtain a quote.</p> <p>ii) Additional Parish Councillor for Doulling PC. The clerk had circulated information about a Community Governance Request. Councillors to review information for further discussion at the next meeting although some councillors had expressed reservations about adding another councillor.</p> <p>iii) VE Day celebrations – 8th May 2019. It appeared that very little was planned in the area; it was agreed to keep the matter on the agenda.</p>
1912/7	<p><u>Parish Councillors comments and updates relating to the following matters:</u></p> <p>i) Highways and traffic – SCC Low kerb on A361 – Highways hoped to rectify this in 2020/21. Damaged wall on A361 – this would be repaired before the end of 2019/20 year. Barrier on Doulling Hill – still with Highways safety inspectors. The need for the barrier was queried by some councillors. Cutting back of hedges for highway safety – Highways had advised that there was no scheme for these works to be carried out and that the Parish Council and landowners could do the works subject to Highways permission although it was noted that the work would require special equipment and a likely road closure. Cllr Fidge noted an increased amount of surface water build up at the top of Prestleigh Hill which was becoming a danger to vehicles. The source of the water was not known.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) Footpath matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parish Paths Liaison Officer – Cllr Crewe had carried out a second path survey, had replaced a sign and had noted a collapsing wall. She was liaising with a new member of staff at Somerset. iii) Speedwatch – watches had taken place despite adverse weather. The clerk had received an email from Leigh on Mendip PC seeking advice. This was passed to Cllr Crewe. iv) SID’s – letter from SCC and response from SID’s volunteers. Deferred until the next meeting.
1912/8	<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 Fiudge advised the hall had at last received a reply to queries raised with the school. These would be discussed at a trustees meeting shortly. An open meeting was planned for the new year. Cllr Crewe reported a number of events which had taken place or were planned for the new year. ii) Beacon Hill Woods Society. Mary Newman reported that works to fell and cut back the ash trees along the Old Frome Road would start after Christmas.
1912/9	<p><u>Matters relating to The Glebeland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Glebeland matters. The clerk reported he had obtained a quotation for the works to the tarmac in the skate park which would be discussed at the Glebeland Meeting on 14th January 2020.
1912/10	<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 gave an update on the preparation of the proposals and costing for the replacement equipment which would also include the repair of the defective safety surface. She was liaising with the clerk over grant applications. She passed a cheque for £1 150 received from the NASS Festival by way of a donation to the new equipment. ii) Actions arising from Playground Safety Training Course. Cllr Wilkins advised that she was inspecting the equipment weekly using the methods advised on the recent training course. Currently, the equipment was in good order. She was keeping a record of these inspections. The chairman thanked her for her efforts in this regard. iii) Cllr Wilkins also reported an incident of dog fouling in the park against which action was being taken.
1912/11	<p><u>Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Venue for Prestleigh meetings. Cllr Fidge noted that new tenants were expected shortly to take over the pub and that she would advise if future meetings could be held at the premises.

1912/12	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Clerks salary and expenses. £353.23. This was agreed and a cheque raised.ii) SPFA membership subscription. £15.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.iii) Donation request from Mendip Community Transport. Clerk to write to MCT to seek statistics about usage for Doultong Parish before any grant can be agreed.
1912/13	<p>Draft Budget for 2020/21 for Precept to be set at the January meeting. This had been circulated and there was a general discussion about the figures included. Final decision to be made at the next meeting.</p>
1912/14	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Cllr Shepherd asked for attendance information of councillors at meetings.ii) Highways to be contacted about the provision of the new sign in school lane.
1912/15	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be on 14th January 2020, 7.30pm – provisionally The Prestleigh Inn.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
18th December 2019
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