

**DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2014**

**VENUE AND TIME OF THE MEETING:  
ST ALDHELMS SCHOOL, DOULTING @ 7.30pm**

		Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, Tony Blaker, Barry Clarke, Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd; also in attendance Cllr Gloria Cawood (MDC) and Alan Butcher (Clerk).	
	1	<u>Apologies for absence:</u> Cllr Philip Ham (SCC)	
	2	<u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a maximum of 10 minutes to allow public participation. One member of the public was present, no matters were raised.  There was a brief discussion about the inclusion of the Public Forum at the start of the meeting. It was agreed to continue with this as a trial. The clerk advised that the agenda could be tailored to allow for increased public participation when business dictated.	
	3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> None	
	4	<u>Acceptance of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u> Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record.	
	5	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meetings:</u> a: Cllr Wilkins to arrange padlock for the Padfield Green Gate (14/11/13): Cllr Wilkins advised that there was currently no problem and it was agreed to review the situation in the summer. b: Cllr Crowcombe/Wilkins to investigate grant for outside table tennis (9/1/14): The matter was in hand. c: Clerk to put Highways contact information on Notice Boards (14/11/13): This has been done.	AC/RW

		<p>d: Clerk to contact Mendip Footpath Warden (14/11/13): it was agreed to wait for an improvement in the weather before pursuing this. See also item 13.</p> <p>e: Cllr Crowcombe to chase grass cutting at The Glebeland (12/12/13): the grass had now been cut.</p> <p><i>The following from 9/1/14 meeting:</i></p> <p>f: Clerk to speak to Cllr Wilkins regarding Parish Magazine article (9/1/14): Clerk to speak to Parish Magazine editor, Cllr Crowcombe to provide contact details.</p> <p>g: Dangerous parking in village hall car park (item 7), Cllr Fidge to arrange meeting with school: Meeting to be arranged.</p> <p>h: Community Speed Watch Equipment (item 7), Clerk to pass equipment to Cllr Wilkins: the equipment is with Mary Newman.</p> <p>i: Mrs Newman to arrange sign for the Well: the sign has been ordered.</p> <p>j: Clerk to arrange dog waste bin (item 14): Clerk to contact Mendip DC.</p> <p>k: Cllr Clarke to chase Highways following a recent meeting (item 14): an email had been received by Cllr Clarke from Chris Betty of Highways as follows; Parking at the bus stop at junction of A371 and Prestleigh Lane; objects can be placed subject to registration and acceptability, Charlie Higgins can advise: Signage at Doultling; improvements to be completed by end of February: Bulls Green Link adoption, confirmed as already highway: wall at Waterlip is responsibility of owner, Cllr Crowcombe has discussed with Wainwrights: advice on traffic calming at Waterlip, Cllr Crowcombe had spoken to Philip Ham.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>PF</p> <p>RW</p> <p>MN</p> <p>Clerk</p>
	6	<p><u>Police Report:</u> No report received.</p> <p>Cllr Blaker expressed concerns about the continuing use of the village hall car park by vehicles possibly engaged in illegal activities late at night who accessed the car park avoiding the CCTV camera. The police had been called but he felt that little had been done.</p>	

		<p>He also felt that the matter should be raised with the school if there was a possibility that illegal substances could be found or picked up by children.</p> <p>Concern was also expressed about the continuing obstruction of the pavement on the A361 by parked cars which were causing pedestrians to walk into the carriageway when passing. Clerk to contact the police on both matters.</p>	Clerk
	7	<p><u>The Glebeland and Padfield Green:</u>  Cllr Crowcombe circulated a draft of the proposed sign to be located near the entrance. Subject to two small corrections and circulation of the final version; the sign was approved.  A quote was being sought for “No Dog” signs and Cllr Wilkins was pursuing grants for equipment.  It was agreed to join an organisation called “Plantlife”; Cllr Crowcombe to obtain cost of subscription for groups.</p> <p>There was nothing to report on Padfield Green.</p>	<p>AC/RW</p> <p>AC</p>
	8	<p><u>St Aldhelms Well:</u> Nothing to report.</p>	
	9	<p><u>Council Reports:</u>  <b>a: Somerset County Council:</b> no report.  <b>b: Mendip District Council:</b> Report attached.  The following items were also discussed: The belated invitation to send a representative to meetings about the LDO at the B&amp;W Showground; Concern about the “Stotts” application and the loss of a county wildlife site; the likelihood of an application for a large number of houses on the quarry site which all agreed would have a major impact on local facilities including the school. It was understood that there was to be a presentation on the proposals on 24<sup>th</sup> February at the church but there was no confirmation of this.</p>	



12	<p><u>Financial:</u> The clerk had not received any invoices for payment prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Blaker passed an invoice from Shepton Mallet Landscapes for grass cutting in the sum of £1944.00 incl VAT. This was approved and a cheque raised.</p>	
13	<p><u>Highways and Footpaths</u></p> <p>a) SCC advice of closure of the A359 Quaperlake St, Bruton from 24<sup>th</sup> February. This was noted</p> <p>b) Letter from Julia Massey regarding footpaths: this to be passed onto Barry Newman.</p> <p>c) Cllr Blaker expressed concern that the drain outside the Poachers Pocket at Chelynch was blocked causing flooding and a traffic hazard; Cllr Blaker to report matter to highways.</p> <p>d) The overhanging hedge in Beech Close, Doulting was causing concern; Cllr Crowcombe to speak to the owners, Mr and Mrs Newman.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>TB</p> <p>AC</p>
14	<p><u>Prestleigh:</u> A letter had been received from Mendip DC inviting a representative to attend meeting regarding the LDO at the B&amp;W Showground. Concern was expressed about the seemingly short notice of this invitation. Clerk to write to confirm that Cllr Fidge would like to attend given notice of at least 10 days and noting that she would be unable to attend on Tuesdays or Friday afternoons. The proposal for a presentation on the matter was noted and it was proposed that this should take place separate to a Parish Council meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
15	<p><u>Village Hall, Doulting:</u> Cllr Wilkins had been unable to attend the last meeting but advised that a new pre-school group was being set up, initially in the afternoons. Minor works to create storage would be undertaken.</p>	
16	<p><u>Beacon Hill Woods Society:</u> Nothing to report.</p>	

17	<u>Correspondence:</u> None other than previously discussed.	
18	<u>Matters of Report:</u> a) Cllrs Crowcombe and Clarke had attended a meeting at Mendip about planning enforcement and noted that information on the Mendip website on enforcement was included in several places.  b) Cllr Fidge to arrange a meeting to discuss Code of Conduct matters.  c) It was noted that the next Glebeland working party was on 5 <sup>th</sup> March at 10am.	PF
19	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u> The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2014, 7.30pm at The Prestleigh Inn, Prestleigh.	

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Alan Butcher,  
 Parish Clerk,  
 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
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