

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Sarah Goff (Chair), Simon Baker, Jane Crewe and John Shepherd; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk) and one member of the public.

2512/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Les Greave and Bruce Yoell.

2512/2 - Declarations of Interest:

Councillors Baker and Shepherd noted that they would be receiving cheques in respect of invoices submitted.

2512/3 - Public Forum:

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting and allow a maximum of 15 minutes for public participation on matters included on the agenda only.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning. A member of the public gave an update on the possible relocation of the bus stop on the A361 and also on the proposed community car scheme.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2512/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 be agreed and signed as a true record. These were so agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2512/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) No applications were received before the publication of this agenda.
- ii) Two applications (2025/2064/AGB and 2216/TCA) had been received since the publication of the agenda. These were “Notification only” and councillors had no comments to make on either application)
- iii) Edge Tool Works. Correspondence had been received from Enforcement confirming the receipt of the council’s complaint about the footpath condition in the grant of planning.
- iv) Moons Hill and Stoke Quarry extension. No further information had been received.
- v) Doultling Stone Quarry. Response from Somerset and MP and further actions. The response from Somerset had been acknowledged and, after discussion, it was agreed that further correspondence with Somerset would be pointless and that the matter be concluded; all in favour.  
Concern about the actions of the Unitary Councillors in dealing with the application and their apparent failure to represent those parishioners who had lodged an objection to the planning application, as well as the parish council, were expressed. It was agreed that the clerk should draft a submission to the Somerset Monitoring Officer to ask for a view on the matter.

2512/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) **Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:**
  - a. Highway Maintenance update and Working Group.
  - b. Volunteer Highway Maintenance scheme.
  - c. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works and anticipated costs.  
There had been no actions on any of the above matters.
- ii) **Somerset Council matters**
  - a. LCN – the next meeting was on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 7pm at Shepton Mallet.
  - b. LCN Youth Survey. Details of the end date to be confirmed.
  - c. Proposed Charity Collection policy. Councillors had no comments on these proposals.
  - d. Election costs. The amount included in the 2026/7 budget to be reviewed. The next possible elections are in 2027.
- iii) **Highways and traffic –**
  - a. Recent road closures. Concern was expressed about the positioning of closure signs in Chelynch Road, particularly at the junction with the A361, where vehicles were being forced to swing out wide to avoid the signs which blocked one side of the road. Clerk to draw this matter to Somerset’s attention.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officers report. Littler to report.
- v) Speedwatch. The recent weather had affected watches taking place.
- vi) SID’s information, Somerset MOU and purchase of equipment. To be finalised at the next meeting.
- vii) Village Hall matters:  
Cllr Baker reported on recent electrical problems and a roof leak which had brought down part of the ceiling in the Community Room. He noted that a new report of the hall electrics was required.  
The proposed wifi installation was in hand and various repairs were continuing.  
Bookings remained good.
- viii) Somerset Bus Partnership. No further information.
- ix) Stone retaining walls in Well Lane. Cllr Baker and the clerk had checked the walls owned by the Parish Council and noted minor repair works and the removal of some ivy. This could be undertaken in the summer of 2026.  
The walls adjoining Doultling Manor had been checked by the landowner.
- x) Boundary Commission reconsultation. This was to review Somersets proposals for one councillor wards, details to be circulated to councillors.

2512/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Quotation for additional tree works. Following a meeting on site, a quotation of £2340 including VAT had been received from Tibbs Trees. This was accepted all in favour.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- ii) Unsafe trees adjoining the Glebeland north boundary. Cllr Baker had provided landowner details, clerk to write advising concern about the trees.

2512/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Planting troughs around perimeter. Clerk to contact gardener suggested by Cllr Crewe.
- ii) Willow shading structure. A local person had expressed interest in the structures form and composition.
- iii) Cllr Crewe noted that supplies were still awaited to allow the defibrillator to be brought back into service.

2512/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. No further information was available.
- ii) Prestleigh Lane surfacing/repairs. It was understood these repairs were in hand.

2512/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £575.08. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £114.20. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Simon Baker Land Registry maps - £28. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) SPFA subscription Invoice. £15. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) John Shepherd invoice (works to playwall) £240. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- vi) Budget to be agreed and precept set at the next meeting.

2512/11 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Shepherd noted the large loss incurred by Somerset Council in recent property sales.
- ii) The Chairman thanked Cllr Crewe for her recent efforts in organising the village cream tea.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

2512/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Doultling Village Hall.  
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
17<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
01749 870358;  
email: [parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org](mailto:parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org)**