

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th
FEBRUARY 2026 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Sarah Goff (Chair), John Shepherd, Simon Baker, Les Greaves and Bruce Yoell: also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk) and two members of the public.

2602/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr Jan Crewe.

2602/2 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Shepherd declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 2026/0145/FUL

2602/3 - 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 information about public transport including the reduction of the 174 bus service from Bath meaning that evening services were removed. There was to be a gathering on Saturday 14th February to protest the reduction. She also noted possible changes to services from Frome on Saturdays.
Cllr Shepherd gave a brief resume of planning application 2026/0145/FUL at the request of the Chairman.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2602/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th January 2026 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed, all in favour and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2602/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2026/0145/FUL - Construction of agricultural building to house livestock and change of use of existing buildings to house livestock. Kings Farm Kings Road Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4PY.
Cllr Shepherd left the meeting at this point.
Councillors had no comments on the application and agreed unanimously to support the application.
Cllr Shepherd returned to the meeting.
- ii) Edge Tool Works. Cllr Baker noted that any decision on the diversion of the footpath was likely to take Somerset Rights of Way at least two years. In the meantime works continued on site. Cllr Baker understood that adjoining landowners had not been officially contacted as was required; clerk to advise Enforcement.
- iii) Moons Hill and Stoke Quarry extension. The application had been referred to the Strategic Planning Committee. After discussion, it was agreed not to attend the hearing and to speak on the matter, the council having previously responded to the various iterations of the application.
- iv) Doultling Stone Quarry actions. Response awaited from Somerset, clerk to contact the Monitoring Officer again.

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2602/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Highway Maintenance update and Working Group.
 - b. Volunteer Highway Maintenance scheme.
There was little information on these matters.
 - c. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works and anticipated costs. It was agreed that the list still needed to be compiled, it was suggested that inspections should be undertaken in the spring.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a. LCN – Meeting 26th January 2026. No one had attended the meeting although notes and minutes produced had been circulated.
 - b. LCN Youth Survey. This had been completed.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a. Recent road closures. No further closures locally had been advised.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officers report. No report was made.
- v) Speedwatch. No watches had taken place.
- vi) SID's information, Somerset MOU and purchase of equipment. The completed MOU was awaited from Somerset.
- vii) Village Hall matters:

Cllr Baker reported that a useful meeting had taken place and that he was awaiting a meeting with the school.

He confirmed that the area of the exit from the car park was registered to the Parish Council. The flooding of this exit was caused by a blocked drain which had been poorly installed by contractors working for the school and was therefore the schools responsibility.

The proposed wi-fi installation was likely to take place in about three months.

He hoped that the community room would be deep cleaned along with the school premises later in the year.
- viii) Somerset Bus Partnership. See public Forum above.

2602/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Unsafe trees adjoining the Glebeland north boundary. Cllr Shepherd had spoken to the landowner who confirmed he was aware of the trees which needed attention.
- ii) Skate Park refurbishment. Cllr Baker advised that a meeting was being set up with interested parties and a skate park specialist. It was proposed that Skate Park matters become part of the Parish Council agenda rather than as a Glebeland Committee item. This was agreed, all in favour.
- iii) The Glebeland Committee had received a request from Cllr Crewe to allow a "Dog Event" in the Glebeland on 7th June 2026. She had circulated a paper detailing the proposals to the Parish Council.

The clerk advised that the matter had been discussed at the last Glebeland meeting and committee members had been unable to agree or otherwise on allowing the event to take place and had referred the matter to the Parish Council.

It was noted that dogs within the Glebeland should be on leads and that dogs were not allowed within the fenced area where the event was proposed to take place.

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Concern was expressed about dog fouling and litter even though a thorough clean up after the event was proposed.

The covenants relating to the Glebeland prevented the restriction of access into the Glebeland for members of the public.

The clerk expressed concern about the possible Parish Council liability as landowner to members of the public not attending the event but using the Glebeland as was their right.

The Chairman called for a vote on the matter of allowing the dog event to take place in the Glebeland with Cllrs Yoell, Greaves and Shepherd voting against allowing the event, Cllr Baker voting in favour and Cllr Goff abstaining. Permission was therefore denied for the proposed dog event on 7th June 2026.

2602/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Planting troughs around perimeter. The clerk had contacted the person suggested who had subsequently advised that they were unable to undertake the work to the troughs. Another person or business to be sought.
- ii) Willow shading structure. To be discussed at the next meeting.

2602/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. No further information.
- ii) Meeting venue for Prestleigh. No suggestions had come forward.

2602/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £696.27 to include the website hosting package. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £114.20. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Invoice from Somerset Council for bin emptying. £507. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
The Clerk had received the renewal quote for the bins for 2026/27 which was a similar amount to the current year. It was agreed unanimously to accept the quotation.
- iv) Bank Reconciliation – Business Reserve Account. This was signed by Cllr Greaves.

2602/11 - Matters of Report

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

2602/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 11th March 2026 at Doultling Village Hall.

Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
18th February 2026
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