

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Darah Goff (Chair), Simon Baker and John Shepherd; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk) and two members of the public.

2603/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Les Greaves, Bruce Yoell and Jan Crewe.

2603/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2603/3 - 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) A member of the public raised the matter of the passing of June Stott who had been the clerk for 40 years from the inception of the council. Councillors agreed that they should mark her service to the council and village and that an appropriate card sent to relatives.

Compliments were made about the way the Glebeland is kept and how it is enjoyed to villagers.

Concern was expressed about the coping stones on the low wall at Padfield Green which were loose and were a hazard to children using the playground.

- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2603/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th February 2026 be agreed and signed as a true record. These were so agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2603/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2025/1719/FUL – Demolition of existing barns and replacement with three dwellings at Manor Farm, Prestleigh Hill, Prestleigh.
It was noted that there had been several applications regarding this site, the latest being the conversion of the barns into 10 dwellings. Councillors felt that the application for the three dwellings was more realistic than previous applications. Councillors noted that the access onto the A371 was a problem and that local flooding had been noted in previous submissions. It was agreed, all in favour, to support the application and reiterate comments about highway access and local flooding.
- ii) Edge Tool Works. It was confirmed that adjoining landowners had been contact about the footpath diversion. Given that any decision on the diversion was likely 2 years away it was agreed to removal this item from the agenda.
- iii) Moons Hill and Stoke Quarry extension. The Strategic Planning Committee had approved these applications. The officers report had noted the Parish Councils detailed objections but the applications were passed by the committee unanimously.
- iv) Doultong Stone Quarry. A response had been received from the Monitoring Officer indicating why any formal compliant would fail. It was agreed not to proceed further with the compliant and, reluctantly, to call the matter closed.

2603/6 - 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 further actions or information on these matters.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a. LCN – Community Car Scheme – 10th March 2026. No one had attended this meeting which was felt would be of little benefit to the parish.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a. Doulling Hill signs. This had been reported to Highways.
 - b. Roads around Brottens Lodge. This had been raised by Cllr Crewe and details were not known.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officers report. Cllr Crewe was not present.
- v) Speedwatch.
- vi) SID's information, Somerset MOU and purchase of equipment.
Cllr Greaves was not present to report on these matters.
- vii) Village Hall matters:
Cllr Baker had met with the school and reported a productive meeting.
The results of an asbestos survey were awaited.
Cllr Shepherd and the clerk had arranged for a local contractor to use a gulley sucker to clear the car park drain.
Concern was expressed about cars waiting in the car park with engines running cause unnecessary pollution.
A deep clean of the hall was planned.
- viii) Somerset Bus Partnership. Nothing to report.
- ix) Dog Control consultation. This had been circulated and any comments given at the next meeting.
- x) Health and Wellbeing survey. This had been circulated.
- xi) Electoral Boundary changes. The parish was now in a smaller ward which would be known as Evercreech.
- xii) SALC Training events. There were no takers for these events.
- xiii) Bus shelter repair. Cllr Shepherd to look at the loose panel.
- xiv) Parish Council website and email addresses. Cllr Baker and the clerk had discussed updating the website to be fully accessible which would require the renewal of the website which would incur a cost to engage an external specialist. The council would retain its domain "doullingparish.org" but councillors using emails should, in future, use their council address rather than any personal email address. Cllr Baker and the clerk to liaise and prepare proposals for the next meeting.

2603/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Skate Park refurbishment. Cllr Baker had met with a soecilaist to discuss options for the renewal of the skate park and a number of options were discussed. Further details and proposals to be considered with interested parties.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- ii) Meeting 4th March 2026 did not take place. The clerk noted that a long-standing committee member, Emma Hill, had stood down from the committee. Councillors thanked her for her service.

2603/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Planting troughs around perimeter. The clerk had not been able to find anyone to plant and maintain the troughs. Cllr Shepherd proposed that the troughs be removed, it was agreed to canvass the village on whether the troughs should be retained and if there was some who would be prepared to maintain if retained.
- ii) Willow shading structure. A budget of £150 was agreed for this project.
- iii) Concern was expressed about the bushes on the corner of Padfield Green which obstructed visibility. It was agreed to ask SM Landscape the cost to cut back the bushes to allow visibility as required. To be discussed again at the next meeting.

2603/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Meeting venue for Prestleigh. No venue had been put forward.

2603/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £549.88. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £114.20. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Invoice for gulley emptying. This was awaited.
- iv) SALC Training invoices. £60. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) Parish Council insurance renewal. £711.85. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- vi) Year-end procedures. The clerk outlined these procedures.

2603/11 - Matters of Report

- i) A meeting at the Poachers Pocket was suggested, Cllr Goff to speak to the landlord.
- ii) Cllr Shepherd to inspect the loose panel on the bus shelter.

2603/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 15th April 2026 at Doultling Village Hall.
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
20th March 2026
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