

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12th April 2022 AT THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chairman), John Shepherd, Sarah Goff, Jan Crewe and Ann Crowcombe; also in attendance Cllr Francis Hayden (part of the meeting) and Alan Butcher (Clerk).

2204/1 - *Apologies for absence* were received from Cllr Ros Wilkins and Mary Newman (BHWS)

2204/2 - *Declarations of Interest:* No declarations were recorded.

2204/3 - *Public Forum:*

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation – six members of the public were present.

- i) Planning Applications – there were no public comments
- ii) Matters on the Agenda. Cllr Fidge was thanked by a member of the public for her service to the Parish Council over the last twenty years and was given a round of applause as an expression of thanks at her last Parish Council meeting.
A member of the public asked about the delay in publishing the Complaints Guidance, the clerk advised that the final version agreed by councillors would be adopted at this meeting.
A member of the public expressed concern over many matters which he felt had not been properly dealt with or resolved by the Parish Council over the last three years. Cllr Fidge commented that the council had written to him on these matters which the council considered satisfactorily resolved and, as previously stated, closed.
- iii) Reports from District and County Councillors. Cllr Hayden reported on the installation of 5G masts which he considered to be a problem noting that shortly masts up to 30m high could be erected without planning permission. He advised that the Licensing Board had dealt with an anomaly with the licensing of local taxi drivers and that a suggestion for the testing of drugs brought onto the Glastonbury Festival site had not been taken up by the Glastonbury organisers. Cllr Hayden left the meeting at this point.

2204/4 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 15th March 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2204/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) Application 2022/0364/HSE and 2022/0365/DUB - Demolition of redundant existing structures and erection of new outbuilding ancillary to dwelling. Well House Well Lane Doulling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE. The clerk read a letter from a local resident objecting to the application and another objection had been received verbally by a councillor. Cllr Crewe reported on a conversation with the applicant and other councillors remarked that the proposals would be an improvement on that currently on site. Cllr Crowcombe felt that there was no reason to object to the application. A vote was called and councillors voted unanimously to support the application.
- ii) 2022/0490/VRC - Application to vary condition 2 (drawings) of planning approval 2020/1992/FUL to allow for double apex roof design as opposed to single ridge and lean to; office lean to be absorbed into the new structure; and canopies on the western end to be reduced in length and the warehouse extended. Willmotts Business Park Ball Lane To Piers Road Waterlip Shepton Mallet Somerset. Cllr Crowcombe summarised the changes to the proposed warehouse noting that there were no local objections. A vote was called and councillors voted unanimously to support the application.
- iii) 2022/0522/APP - Approval of condition 3 - (Materials), 7 - (Surface Water Drainage System) on planning consent 2019/1050/FUL (Change of use and demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of new residence and ancillary building containing a carport, store and office). Plot West of The Old Stables Hurlingpot Farm Kings Road Doulling Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors noted that the drawings on the website were transposed and could not be read. Councillors agreed to note the application and advise the planners of the problem with the drawings.
- iv) Cllr Crowcombe spoke about a proposal for a concrete slab works just of the A361 to make sleepers for the HS2 project. She advised that most of the production from the site would go by road and outlined discussions with a representative of the company who would produce the slabs in which he advised that he would look again at the rail option. Cllr Hayden felt that the HGV's would travel east along the A361 and that problems would occur with roundabouts east of Frome which were already a bottleneck. Cllr Crowcombe suggested that Doulling PC should ask to be included on the consultee list.

2204/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
 - a) Cllr Crewe noted that the drainage grips in Waterlip were still outstanding.
 - b) Cllr Crewe noted that the wall at the entrance to Padfield Green had been repaired but, unfortunately, had been damaged again by a vehicle since the repair.
 - c) Cllr Crewe to ask Highway Safety about “Slow” markings at the A361/Farm Road junction.
- ii) Report on sale of Doulling Quarry. Since the meeting on 17th March only one comment had been received. Cllrs Fidge and Shepherd to approach the landowner as agreed at the meeting to discuss options.
- iii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe was starting path surveys and clearance; she also noted a new volunteer site on Somerset RofW website.

- iv) Parish Council Facebook page. This was being finalised.
- v) Adoption of Guidance Notes for Managing Complaints, Unreasonable Complaints and Complainant Behaviour. The amended Guidance Notes as circulated were agreed and councillors agreed unanimously that they be adopted; the agreed Guidance Notes were signed by the Chairman.
- vi) Village Hall representatives report. Cllr Goff reported on the recent AGM where all existing trustees had been re-elected. She advised that additional revenue was being sought to improve the hall finances and to cover repairs and replacements. She noted that no reply had yet been received about the resolution of the problems caused by the installation of the new heating system.
- vii) Speedwatch – Cllr Crewe advised that new volunteers were coming forward for training and it was hoped watches would start after easter.
- viii) Climate and Eco Emergency actions. Cllr Crewe advised that a litter pick had taken place and that she was updating the emergency contacts list.
- ix) Queens 75th Jubilee. Cllr Crewe advised that events were planned to include a duck race and a ceilidh in conjunction with the WI and Cranmore, Cranmore were organising a beacon at Cranmore Tower which be lit around 9pm. Cllr Fidge advised that events in Prestleigh were being organised for the week following the Bath and West show which took place over the Jubilee weekend.
- x) New Unitary Authority matters. The clerk had written to east Mendip parishes and had received several positive replies.
- xi) Beacon Hill Woods. Mary Newman had advised that the Woodland Trust had confirmed that the works carried out were in line with their thinning guidance and that the ruts in various parts of the wood would be levelled in due course. The clerk had written to the Woodland Trust as agreed but had, as yet received no reply.

2204/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Fence post repair. In hand
- ii) Unsafe trees. These had been removed.
- iii) Mary Newman had spoken to the SWT about the flora and fauna in the area.
- iv) The next meeting will be on 3rd May

2204/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Confirmation of Mendip Grant and signing of agreement. This was confirmed and the Agreement was signed by the clerk.
- ii) Fencing against adjoining property. The cost of the panels amounted to £1529.36 excluding VAT and a quote for erection of the fence received from OJ Landscapes for £950.14 giving a total price including VAT of £2785.37. This was agreed; clerk to purchase fencing and liaise with OJ Landscapes regarding erection.
- iii) Play equipment inspections. The clerk had discussed the inspections with Ollie Mann and was preparing a form to record the inspections. He had spoken to SPFA who had confirmed that the annual inspection would take place later in the year.

2204/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) There were no matters from Waterlip.
- ii) Cllr Fidge had been unable to contact a representative from the Bath and West for the usual update to the council.

Draft Minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

2204/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for February. £360.33; this was agreed.
- ii) Payment of quarter 4 tax HMRC. £314.60; this was agreed.
- iii) Payment of JK Tree Services Ltd invoice for the removal of wind blown trees £1008.00. This was agreed.
- iv) Payment of insurance renewal – Gallagher Insurance Brokers £661.44. This was agreed.
- v) Renewal of subscription to SPFA. £15 this was agreed.
- vi) A cheque for £1835.23 was raised in favour of the clerk for the purchase of the fencing panels for Padfield Green
- vii) Draft accounts to 31st March 2022 – these were agreed subject to audit.
- viii) Completion of AGAR Certificate of Exemption. This was completed and signed by the chairman and RFO.
- ix) Update of Asset Register to 31st March 2022. This was agreed.

2204/11 - Matters of Report

No matters were raised.

2204/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Annual Parish Council meeting - Tuesday 17th May 2022 at Doultling Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
18th April 2022
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