

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING COMMENCING AT 7.50pm.**

**Present:** Simon Baker, Jan Crewe, John Shepherd, Les Greaves and Bruce Yoell; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk). In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Simon Baker, took the chair.

2511/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr Sarah Goff.

It was with sadness that Doultong Parish Council recorded the passing of former councillor Tony Blaker. Tony served on the council for many years continuing to attend meetings to support his interest in local issues after he left the council in 2016. The Parish Council extends condolences to Tony's family at his passing.

2511/2 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Baker noted he was the recipient of a Parish Council cheque for the purchase of a LR map.

2511/3 - 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. Two members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning.  
The matter of the planning application 2025/1815/TPO was raised and concern expressed about the proposed works to these trees. See /4i below.  
Comments were made about the bus stop at the junction of Farm Road and the A361 with concern expressed about the safety of passengers alighting at that point. It was noted that the bus often stops at a safer place away from the bus stop. Concerns to be followed up with bus company.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2511/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed and the minutes signed by the Chairman.

2511/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2025/1815/TPO. T1 & 2 (M1326) - Hornbeams - Crown lift x 3m, remove all growth within 2.5m of property to give clearance. Doultong Manor Church Lane Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE. The clerk had spoken to the tree officer who had advised that the works proposed would be closely monitored and that they were the maximum that Somerset would allow. The clerk had submitted comments about concerns previously stated.
- ii) Edge Tool Works. The clerk had submitted a report to Somerset Planning Enforcement advising that it appeared that the pre-commencement condition regarding the footpath had not been complied with.
- iii) Moons Hill and Stoke Quarry extension. The clerk had reviewed the additional documents submitted which were concerned with environmental issues. He had updated and re-submitted previous objections.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- iv) Doulting Stone Quarry. Response from Somerset and MP and further actions. A reply to the Parish Council's email in response to the reply received in July from Somerset was still awaited.

2511/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
  - a. Highway Maintenance update and Working Group.
  - b. Volunteer Highway Maintenance scheme.  
Further information about the scheme was awaited.
  - c. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works and anticipated costs. The list of works was yet to be finalised.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
  - a. LCN – Report on recent meetings including Community Car scheme and Safer Roads Forum.  
The chairman invited a member of the public to give details of the proposed “Mendip Central Community Car Partnership” which had some funding and involved volunteer drivers but not in a similar way to Mendip Community Transport. Further details would be advised in due course.  
Cllr Baker reported on the recent Safer Roads Forum which involved local haulage companies and Parish Councils and discussed highway issues on the A361. One matter that was raised was the Beacon Cross Roads on the A37 T Beacon Hill. A Somerset representative advised that improvements to this junction were unlikely to take place within the next five years.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
  - a. Recent road closures – these were noted.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officers report. Cllr Crewe reported that she was now looking after paths local to Doulting; clearance of paths was still an issue.
- v) Speedwatch. Nothing to report.
- vi) SID's information, Somerset MOU and purchase of equipment. Cllr Greaves to forward location details and photo's to the clerk for the revised MOU.
- vii) Village Hall matters.  
Cllr Baker to check on double booking of hall/community room which delayed the start of the meeting.  
Cllr Baker reported that a programme of painting and decorating was to be arranged.
- viii) Somerset Local Plan. Next consultation April 2026.
- ix) Somerset Bus Partnership. See minute /3i above.
- x) SALC Training. Clerk to book event for Cllr Baker.
- xi) Vehicles parked in various locations in Doulting. These had been removed.
- xii) Stone retaining walls in Well Lane.  
The owner of Doulting Manor had been contacted and was aware of the need to inspect/repair the walls retaining his property.  
Clerk to check walls at the lower end of Well Lane.  
The owners of The Old Bell House were aware of the need to check the wall on their side of Well Lane.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

2511/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Report on meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025. This was discussed and matters noted.  
A meeting to be arranged with Tibbs Trees to discuss further works.

2511/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Planting troughs around perimeter. Cllr Crewe to advise a gardener who might replant, maintain the troughs.
- ii) Willow shading structure. Deferred to next meeting.

2511/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. Nothing to report.
- ii) Emails concerning the state of Prestleigh Lane had been shared with the Parish Council as well as the reply from Somerset Highways.

2511/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £533.78. 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 map - £7. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Somerset litter bin emptying invoice £507. A credit of £84.50 had been given for the unemptied bin in the Skate Park. A cheque for £422.50 was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) Donation to St Aldhelms Church for churchyard maintenance. The sum of £850 was agreed and a cheque raised.
- vi) An invoice from Shepton Mallet Landscape had been received in the sum of £2149.20. This was in accordance with the quote given plus £25 for cutting down brambles which was agreed as being very reasonable; the invoice was agreed and a cheque raised.
- vii) Draft budget for 2026/27 and onwards. This was circulated and discussed prior to the January meeting. Cllr Greaves suggested that 3% should be added to the precept for inflation. Budget to be finalised and precept set at the January meeting.

2511/11 - Matters of Report

No matters were reported.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

2511/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Doultling Village Hall.  
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2025  
01749 870358;  
email: parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org**