

Draft Minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14th DECEMBER 2021 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

The meeting was held in the main hall with social distancing.

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

2112/1 - *Apologies for absence* were received from Cllr Ros Wilkins.

2112/2 - *Declarations of Interest:*

Cllr Shepherd declared an interest in planning application 2021/2384/FUL

2112/3 - *Adoption of updated Standing Orders* –

These had been circulated, were adopted unanimously and signed by the chairman.

2112/4 – *Adoption of Bullying and Harassment Policy*

This policy had been circulated, was adopted unanimously and signed by the chairman.

2112/5 – *Adoption of Unreasonable Complaints Policy*

This policy had been circulated, was adopted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

2112/6 - *Public Forum:*

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow a maximum of 15 minutes for public participation on matters included on the agenda only. Seven members of the public were present.

- i) Public comments on Planning Applications. Concerns were raised by a member of the public living near to the site of application 2021/2384/FUL about the location and validity of the access point associated with the proposed track to the farm building and the possible damage to the green triangle at the road junction.
- ii) Matters on the Agenda:
A member of the public requested copies of the policies adopted above.
A member of the public noted drainage improvements on Doultling Hill
A member of the public advised that he would respond to emails received from the Parish Council in the new year.
- iii) Reports from District and County Councillors. Cllr Francis Hayden gave an update on the new Somerset Council and noted that the election date was to be in May 2022 with the new authority taking over in May 2023. Mendip had been working with the police to target fly tippers and he noted that about 30% of vehicles carrying waste were unlicensed. He advised those using waste companies to check their status as a waste carrier on the government website.
He advised that Mendip would be planting 7000 trees within the district although he felt that the trees would be better planted in woodland settings. He noted that preservation of trees was sometimes included in planning applications rather than TPO's. In response to a question from Cllr Goff, Cllr Hayden would provide information about the progress of the Shepton Mallet Feasibility Study.

2112/7 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 9th November 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2112/8 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) Application 2021/2384/FUL – Construction of an agricultural stone track to connect farm building site to the access point at land west of Kings Road, Doultling.
Cllr Shepherd left the meeting at this point. Cllr Crewe noted that the nearby footpath had been realigned with a new access point. Cllr Crowcombe was concerned about the question of access and all were concerned about access by large tractors onto the new track which could damage the adjoining green triangle and could also be a danger to vehicles using Kings Road.
Councillors were concerned about highway safety and whether the proposed access onto the track had required planning permission and it was noted that the application only covered the construction of the track itself. Councillors agreed unanimously to leave the decision to the planning officer and to include the comments made above in the response.
- ii) Application 2021/2712/PAA – prior approval for change of use of agricultural buildings to 3 dwelling houses at Manor Farm, Prestleigh Hill, Prestleigh.
It was noted that the previous application for the site had been withdrawn. Cllr Fidge noted that the proposed larger dwelling was much larger than the current building footprint. Concern was expressed that this was a “no comments” application and that it referred to buildings described as redundant which were, in fact, still in use for their original purpose. Clerk to respond noting the above concerns.

2112/9 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
 - a) Highway matters of report.
The improvement to road drainage on Doultling Hill was noted.
The hedges on Doultling Hill had also been cut back further and various road markings repainted.
The grit bins had been checked, clerk to ask highways to fill as required.
Referring to previous comments about school traffic causing problems in Chelynch Park, Cllr Crowcombe advised that only one complaint had been received by the school on this matter.
The incident involving a resident entering their driveway and narrowly missing a child was noted and it was agreed that it would be helpful if the school reminded parents regularly about child and highway safety when arriving and leaving school.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report including hedgerow removal.
The clerk to write to a local landowner thanking him for clearing footpaths on his land.
- iii) Somerset Bus Partnership Mendip – Cllr Goff has put her name forward as the representative for Doultling.
- iv) Bus shelter clean – Cllr Crewe to check if this has been completed.
- v) Speedwatch – there had been no watches recently due to weather. New volunteers were also being recruited.
- vi) SID's to Waterlip – the solar panels had been received and data from the devices was now available, Cllr Crowcombe to forward.
- vii) Climate and Eco Emergency actions. In hand with Cllr Crewe.
- viii) Queens 75th Jubilee. Cllrs Crewe and Goff to liaise to establish any nearby events and to consider an event in Doultling.
- ix) Unitary Authority matters and date for elections – as previously noted the date for Parish Council elections would be in May 2022. There was an online meeting on 15th December, Cllr Crowcombe to attend.

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2112/10 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) A quote for laying the west hedge to be obtained.
- ii) The clerk to inspect the loose gate post.

2112/11 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Replacement equipment. It was noted a grant of £5000 had been secured but a lottery application had been unsuccessful.
- ii) Fencing against adjoining property. The clerk had sent out for quotations.

2112/12 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Cllr Fidge advised changes in staff at the showground and noted that there had been a packed programme of events recently.

2112/13 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for November. This was agreed.
- ii) Payment of invoice from Shepton Mallet Landscape (£1866.00 incl VAT) This was agreed.
- iii) Payment of invoice from Cranmore PC for SID Solar panel. Invoice awaited.
- iv) Advice from Shepton Mallet Landscape of price increase for 2022/23. It was agreed to seek quotes for the new season.
- v) Timetable for setting of precept for 2022/23. The clerk advised that accounts and an updated budget would be circulated in advance of the next meeting.
- vi) The annual grant for churchyard maintenance to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

2112/14 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Crowcombe to attend a liaison meeting at Whatley Quarry and a Frome TC meeting.
- ii) The matter of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue plan was raised, clerk to check if received.
- iii) The clerk noted that councillors could, if they so wished, have their personal addresses removed from contact lists following advice from NALC.
- iv) The setting up of a Parish Council Facebook page was discussed, to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

2112/15 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 11th January 2022 at Doultling Village Hall (subject to any further Covid restrictions being advised)

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
29th December 2021
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doultlingclerk@gmail.com