

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th
JANUARY 2026 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

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

2601/1 - Apologies for absence. None.

2601/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2601/3 - 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 representative from Prestleigh asked about the positioning of "SID's" on Prestleigh Hill.
- ii) The need for a meeting venue at Prestleigh was discussed, enquiries to be made locally.
- iii) Various reports from Unitary Councillors had been circulated.

2601/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th December 2025 be agreed and signed as a true record. These were agreed all in favour and signed by the Chairman.

2601/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2025/2227/PAA - Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Mendip Lavender Unit 1 Old Frome Road Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4FU. The site was a the boundary with Ashwick; councillors had no comments on the application.
- ii) Edge Tool Works. No further information had been received from Enforcement and the footpath was still blocked. It was suggested that the ramblers could visit and comment on the situation.
- iii) Moons Hill and Stoke Quarry extension. No further information.
- iv) Doultong Stone Quarry actions. A submission to the Somerset Monitoring Officer had been agreed and sent, a response was awaited.

2601/6 - 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.
 - d. There was no further progress on any of these items.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a. LCN – the next meeting is on 26th January 2026, 7pm at Shepton Mallet. This was noted. To date no agenda had been issued.
 - b. LCN Youth Survey. Cllr Goff had circulated this to youth organisations.
 - c. Election costs. A sum had been added into the budget to be discussed later.

- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a. Recent road closures. Farm Road had been closed for an unknown reason.
 - b. Comment was made about the new electricity poles in Chelynch Road.
 - c. A response had been received from Somerset about the poor placement of signs at the Chelynch Road/A361 junction during recent works.
 - d. The clerk noted plans to improve the Burnt Wood crossroads with a roundabout with the roads affected being closed for a period of 6 months..

- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officers report. Nothing to report.
- v) Speedwatch. Nothing to report.
- vi) SID's information, Somerset MOU and purchase of equipment. This was awaiting Somerset Council response; to be chased up with Somerset.
- vii) Village Hall matters. Ceiling repairs were in hand but suspect Artex finish was to be removed from the kitchen ceiling.
- viii) Somerset Bus Partnership. News of new grants to improve services in the Mendip area after September 2026 had been received in a written report.
- ix) Electoral Boundary Commission reconsultation. Proposals had been made for single councillor constituencies instead of the current two councillor constituencies. This would mean that the current Mendip Central and East would be replaced by a smaller Evercreech constituency which would include Doultling parish. Councillors had no comments on these proposals.

2601/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Quotation for additional tree works. These works had been completed, a site visit to take place to determine if any of the felled timber needed to be removed.
- ii) Unsafe trees adjoining the Glebeland north boundary. The clerk had written to the landowner on the matter.

2601/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Planting troughs around perimeter. The clerk had contacted the suggested person and was awaiting a reply.
- ii) Willow shading structure. To be discussed further at the March meeting.

2601/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. See minute 2601/3i above.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

2601/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £625.48. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £114.20. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Payment of Elite Playground invoice for playground inspection. £114.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Interim accounts to 31/12/25. These had been circulated. Cllr Greaves signed the Current Account bank reconciliation.
- v) Agreement of Budget for 2026/27 and setting of precept. Cllr Greaves noted some minor spreadsheet anomalies which were corrected. The budget for 2026/7 was agreed, all in favour, with the precept set at £27,500.00. The sum of £1250 had been added to the 2027/8 budget to cover possible election costs.

2601/11 - Matters of Report:

Cllr Baker was discussing possible works to the skate park with interested parties and a skate park supplier. He noted that a substantial amount of funds would be needed if the refurbishment of the park went ahead.

The being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

2601/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 11th February 2026 at Doultling Village Hall.

Meetings commence at 7.30pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
20th January 2026
01749 870358;
email: parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org