

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2021 IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.45pm

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

2109/1 - *Apologies for absence.* Cllrs Ros Wilkins and Francis Hayden (MDC)

2109/2 - *Declarations of Interest:* No declarations were made.

2109/3 - *Public Forum:*

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation, 8 members of the public were present:

- i) Comments on planning applications. Members of the public raised concerns about the planning application for the proposed agricultural development at Brottens Yard citing location, distance from the highway making the application invalid and the size and use of the proposed barn. The need for the new barn was queried as there was an existing unused barn adjacent and it was suggested that the application should be a “full” application.
- ii) Matters on the Agenda.
The matter of the Parish Meeting proposed for the 7th September was raised. The clerk advised that there had been difficulty with securing a venue and that there had been a miscommunication as to the organisation of the meeting. He apologised for any inconvenience caused to parishioners over the lack of a meeting.
A member of the public raised the matter of the removal of a hedgerow at Ingsdon Hill and also thanked Cllr Crewe and the Parish Council for liaising with Somerset Highways to ensure the completion of a number of outstanding highways items.
A member of the public raised a number of matters which were considered to have been outstanding for many meetings; these included safety in School Lane, the setting of the precept, councillors contact details, hedges obstructing footways and matters concerning the village hall including the publication of minutes and accounts. Also mentioned was the question of a by-pass for Doultling and EDF grants. Concern over the level of attendance at Parish Council meetings was raised.
An unsubstantiated allegation was also made about the integrity of councillors. In response to the matter of overgrown hedges a member of the public commented that these hedges were trimmed back on a regular basis.
- iii) Reports from District and County Councillors. None received.
- iv) Report from the Police. None received.

2109/4 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 13th July 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record with a minor amendment to minute 2107/6ii)b.

2109/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- I) Application 2021/1944/AGB – Prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed building at Brottens Yard, Brottens Road, Doultling. Cllr Crowcombe felt that the proposal required a full planning application. Cllr Crewe was concerned about access to the site and also that the existing facilities are un-used. Cllr Shepherd understood that a third generation of the same family could be developing the facility. Cllr Fidge raised concerns about location, access and the substantial change in size of the proposed barn; she understood that the land owner had other barns available in the area. She felt that there was a need to ask the planners if these proposals required a full planning application. The matter was taken to a vote; Cllrs Fidge, Goff, Crewe and Crowcombe voted to object to the application, Cllr Shepherd voted in support. The Parish Council to object to the application 4 votes in favour, one against.
- II) Cllr Crowcombe raised a matter arising from the last meeting concerning the Westdown Quarry application and outlined discussions about lorry movements. She advised that an “action group” had been formed with sufficient funds available to fight the proposals. It was suggested that Doultling PC could send a representative to meetings of this group. Cllr Fidge was very concerned about the motives of such a group and felt that it would be inappropriate for the Parish Council to be involved with the group other, than to hold a watching brief. Cllr Crowcombe advised a liaison meeting on 19th October 2021; Cllr Goff to attend.

2109/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
 - a) It was noted that the drains on Doultling Hill had been cleared and the hedges cut back around signs. Clerk to write to highways thanking them for attending to these items. Cllr Shepherd felt that these works needed to become a regular operation as the drains would continue to become blocked over the winter period. Cllr Crewe noted that work was on-going to improve kerbing and drainage on the A361 through the village although Cllr Goff expressed concern about the possible narrowing of the road causing HGV's to mount the pavement. It was noted that with additional quarrying permissions being granted the volume of HGV's passing through the village would only increase. There was continuing concern about the safety of residents on the south side of the A361 who needed to cross over particularly when walking to and from school. The general view was that the building of a by-pass to resolve these problems was unlikely. Cllr Crewe noted the number of recent accidents on the A361 around the village. Cllr Fidge felt that efforts should continue to improve highway safety for residents needing to cross the A361 either with a crossing or using traffic lights such as the temporary lights used during the B&W event. Clerk to write to SCC about highway safety.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report including hedgerow removal. Cllr Crewe noted that the removal of the hedgerow on Ingsdon Hill could be reported to DEFRA. She had cleared a number of stiles and leaves had been cleared from Church Lane. She had a number of path surveys to complete and was meeting with volunteers in this regard. She reported that the footpath at the bottom of Well Lane was to be officially diverted by the landowner subject to his application.

- Cllr Fidge reminded Cllr Crewe about the footpath in Prestleigh, also clerk to ask SM Landscape to trim the unsightly area of ground on Prestleigh Hill. Cllrs Crewe and Fidge had a contact for a new “trimmer man”.
- iii) Somerset Bus Partnership Mendip. Cllr Goff was awaiting final synopsis of proposals due in November prior to further discussions.
 - iv) Consultation on Statement of Gambling Principles – ends 15th September 2021. The Parish Council had no comments to make on this matter.
 - v) Email from Mendip School – The school had written asking for evidence for a grant from Hinkley Point; it was suggested that they should contact local quarries.
 - vi) Date for next Parish Elections. Councillors were ambivalent about the possibility of a change from 2023 although it was agreed that any change could be governed by the progress of the setting up of the Unitary Authority.
 - vii) Mendip Local Plan update. There were no further comments from the Parish Council.
 - viii) Mendip Parish Forums. Cllr Crewe had attended the forum which took place earlier in the evening and gave a brief report. She advised that the date would remain as the second Tuesday in the month thereby always clashing with the Doultling meeting.
 - ix) Bus shelter clean. Clerk to contact local cleaning company.
 - x) Speedwatch – little to report; a new site had been approved in Chelynch Road.
 - xi) SID’s to Waterlip – still awaiting the erection of the new posts.
 - xii) Trees on Parish land. The clerk was in contact with a survey provider.
 - xiii) Suggested Parishioners Meeting – date and venue. It was agreed to book the main hall from 7pm on 13th October 2021 with the meeting taking place before the Parish Council meeting.
 - xiv) Doultling Village Hall update. Cllr Goff to speak to the existing secretary to arrange for the relevant papers to be transferred electronically to the clerk for inclusion on the website.
 - xv) Climate and Eco Emergency actions – Cllr Crewe was in the processing of updating the emergency plan. She noted a litter pick on 9th October.

2109/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Date for next meeting – This was agreed for 13th October 2021, 10am in the Community Room, Mary Newman to book. Mary Newman reported on a recent social event when a number of new volunteers had attended; in particular she thanked two younger volunteers who had cleared up the skate park. Clerk to contact SM Landscape to clear brambles from the roadside of the wall.

2109/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) The clerk confirmed that the application to Mendip for a grant for new equipment had been submitted. Cllr Wilkins to advise on Hinkley Point grant.

2109/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Road closure at Waterlip. This was continuing; Cllr Shepherd noted the poor diversion signage at Long Cross.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- ii) Cllr Fidge noted a recent successful social event in Prestleigh with others planned. Relations had been restored with the showground following a change of personnel. She noted the traffic problems caused by temporary traffic light near the Well pub.
- iii)

2109/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses - £696.46 being salary for July and August 2021. This was approved.

2109/11 - Matters of Report:

- i) An unofficial alteration to the speed signs near Dean was noted.
- ii) Cllr Crewe noted the restarting of coffee mornings at the hall, there would also be an event at Christmas and a defibrillator refresher course.
- iii) The forthcoming Queens 75th platinum jubilee was mentioned and the possibility of a beacon lighting discussed.
- iv) Cllr Crewe commented that the hedge outside her property has been cut and inspected by Mendip who made no adverse comments.
- v) It was noted that the chevron sign on Doultling hill had been damaged.
- vi) Cllr Shepherd was concerned that the council had heard no recent information about the Mendip DC investments.
- vii) The clerk advised that he had received today (14th) an invitation to a conference about the upcoming Unitary Authority; Cllr Fidge to confirm whether she would be able to attend.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

2109/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 12th October 2021 at Doultling Village Hall.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
23rd September 2021
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doultlingclerk@gmail.com