

Draft Minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

*Present:* Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chairman), Ann Crowcombe, Sarah Goff, Jan Crewe, John Shepherd and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2203/1 - *Apologies for absence* were received from Cllr Ros Wilkins.

2203/2 - *Declarations of Interest:* No declarations were made.

2203/3 - *Public Forum:*

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow public participation. Twenty members of the public were present.

i) Planning Applications.

Application 2022/0101/FUL – Fernbank, Chelynch Road, Doultling. Many of those present spoke against this application for a dog walking field citing noise and nuisance, increased traffic, the introduction of a business into an established residential area, the possibility of kennels at some stage in the future, the effect on the adjoining nature conservation areas and unspecified hours of operation and the number of dogs at the facility at any one time. It was noted that a fence had already been erected blocking the views from neighbouring properties and that any cattle in the adjoining areas behind the fence could provoke uncontrolled barking from dogs. Application 2022/0248/FUL – Tyto Alba, Hurlingpot Farm The applicants spoke about the proposed dwelling outlining the ethos of the proposal and giving information about green credentials. Councillors were complimentary about the well thought out proposals.

Application 2022/0357/TPO – Works to trees at St Aldhelms Church. Mary New (in attendance) spoke about the proposals which had been recommended after a survey of the churchyard.

ii) Matters on the Agenda.

Mary Newman gave a resume of the recent works to thin Beacon Hill Woods which had resulted in extensive rutting and damage to areas of the woodland where extensive areas of bluebells had flowered in previous years. Damage had been caused to the edge of one of the historic barrows and the area was now a danger for those trying to walk in the woods. She had been in contact with the Woodland Trust who had advised that the operations were to thin the wood in specified areas were in accordance with their specified procedures whereas it appeared that logging had taken place on an indiscriminate basis.

Complaints Guidance. A members of the public requested a copy of the Guidance once adopted.

iii) Reports from District and County Councillors. No reports were received.

2203/4 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

i) Minutes of Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2203/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) Application 2022/0101/FUL – Part Change of Use Class C3 to Sui Generis to a dog walking field and associated parking, part conversion of stable to toilet and dog shower at Fernbank, Chelynych Road, Doultling. The Chairman gave a short introduction of the application noting that she had also received correspondence about the application. Councillors reiterated the comments made during public participation. Cllr Crewe spoke about other local facilities of a similar nature all of which were located away from residential properties. She noted the use of such fields for dog training but was concerned about the unspecified hours of operation and number of dogs on the site at any one time. She noted the fence already erected and the concern about increased traffic in the area especially at school times. Cllr Goff reiterated comments about the location of similar dog fields and felt that the proposed field was not in an appropriate place. Cllr Crowcombe was concerned about the proximity of the Glebeland, a nature conservation area where this facility could have an effect of the tree pants and overall bio-diversity of the area. Cllr Fidge noted that the bio-diversity achieved in the Glebeland was the work of many volunteers over several years which should be protected. The Chairman called for a vote on the application and councillors voted unanimously to object to the application. The following comments to be made to the planners:

That concern was expressed about the introduction of such a business into a residential area with likely increase in noise from barking dogs. It was noted that other such facilities were away from residential areas whereas this proposal is surrounded by an established residential area.

That concern was expressed about the increase in traffic in the area where there is already congestion at school dropping off and collection times.

That Councillors noted that there appeared to be no set hours for the operation of the facility or indeed any stated number of dogs using the field at any one time and were concerned about early morning or late night operation.

Councillors noted that a fence had already been erected around the site obstructing long established views enjoyed by neighbouring properties and concern was raised about uncontrolled noise from dogs using the facility when cattle or other animals were in the adjoining area.

That Councillors noted that the proposed field adjoins a nature conservation area and an area with extensive wildlife, trees and rare plants. Concern was expressed about the effect on the bi-diversity of the area.

- ii) Application 2022/0159/HSE – Relocation of existing oil tank from rear of property to front garden at 1 Manor Farm Cottages, Farm Road, Doultling. (previously submitted as a Non Material Amendment application). Councillors voted unanimously to support the application.
- iii) Application 2022/0248/FUL – Demolition of existing barn and erection of detached dwelling, etc at Tyto Alba, Hurlingpot Farm, Kings Road, Doultling. Councillors voted unanimously to support the application.

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- iv) Application 2022/0357/TPO – Works to various trees at the Church of St Aldhelm, Church Lane, Doulling. Councillors had no objections to the proposals and voted unanimously to leave the decision to the planning officer.

2203/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
  - a) Cllr Crewe noted ongoing works on the A361 Doulling Hill.
  - b) Cllr Fidge reported a pothole near Waterside Cottage on Prestleigh Hill.
  - c) Cllr Crowcombe advised that the drainage grips at Waterlip had still not been cleared and that there was no progress on the culvert or the collapsing wall.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe reported that she would be undertaking more surveys and would soon be starting on path clearance as required.
- iii) Parish Council Facebook page. This was in hand.
- iv) Social Media Policy – an updated draft had been circulated and was adopted unanimously.
- v) Adoption of Guidance Notes for Managing Complaints, Unreasonable Complaints and Complainant Behaviour – updated draft circulated. Cllr Crowcombe asked for additional wording to be included as mentioned at the previous meeting. The additional wording was agreed and an updated draft to be circulated for adoption at the next meeting.
- vi) Motion – “that the Unreasonable Complaints Policy adopted by the Parish Council on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 be withdrawn. It was unanimously resolved that the policy be withdrawn.
- vii) Village Hall representatives report. Cllr Goff reported that all arrangements for the forthcoming AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were in place. He noted that the village hall would be seeking sources of funding in the coming year for repairs and redecoration.
- viii) Bus shelter clean. This had been completed.
- ix) Speedwatch. There was little to report; volunteers were being recruited both in Doulling and Prestleigh.
- x) Climate and Eco Emergency actions. Cllr Crewe reported that the update of the emergency plan was ongoing and that there was a new contact for Prestleigh.
- xi) Queens 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. Cllr Crewe reported that there had been little initial interest in jubilee events and that it was proposed that the picnic now take place on the school field rather than the Glebeland subject to permission.
- xii) New Unitary Authority matters. There was some discussion about the recent meeting of the trial LCN in Frome. Councillors noted that there was a great deal of organisational detail still to be agreed and that they were unsure of how parishes would interact with the new authority. Cllr Crewe felt that there should be dialogue with other parishes in eastern Mendip and that there were parishes with similar demographics to Doulling (quarrying, traffic, etc) who might be interested in co-operating on UA matters. Cllr Fidge noted the success of the former Mendip Rural Taskforce. The UA were proposing a consultation on various matters in the summer. It was agreed that the clerk should write to east Mendip parishes suggesting co-operation during the forthcoming changes.

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- xiii) Beacon Hill Woods. As noted during the public participation, the woods had undergone extensive damage during recent works undertaken by the Woodland Trust. The damage to the barrow should be reported to English Heritage and it was agreed to write to the Woodland Trust to express concern about the damage and seemingly careless way the works had been carried out.
- xiv) Tenders for grass cutting 2022 – 2025 – verbal report from the Clerk. Two tenders had been received from three requested. There was little difference in the prices quoted except that the tender from J Hill was more expensive for the works in The Glebeland. After discussion it was agreed to proceed with the tender from the existing contractor Shepton Mallet Landscapes. Clerk to issue formal order and works to be monitored during the year.
- xv) Date for Annual Parish Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022. This was noted.

2203/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Hedge laying. This to be undertaken in the autumn.
- ii) Fence post repair. In hand.
- iii) Unsafe trees. JK Tree Services had removed the unsafe conifer and had agreed to cut down the unsafe branches shortly. For insurance reasons they would also cut up the branches when felled.

2203/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Replacement equipment. No further progress, clerk to confirm the date by which the grant received from Mendip had to be spent. Subject to any time constraints on the grant, it was agreed to leave this matter for the new Parish Council.
- ii) Fencing against adjoining property – The clerk advised the cost of the fencing panels were £1700. He was awaiting the quote for the erection of the panels. Subject to final costs, councillors agreed to proceed with the works.
- iii) Play equipment inspections. Clerk to confirm inspection arrangements and insurance implications.

2203/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Invite to Bath and West management to April Parish Council meeting. Cllr Fidge was endeavouring to contact a representative to attend the meeting.
- ii) Cllr Fidge advised that Jubilee events were being organised in Prestleigh although the Bath and West show coincided with the Jubilee weekend.
- iii) Cllr Fidge noted that the Prestleigh Inn had new management.

2203/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for February - £360.33. This was agreed.
- ii) Payment to Arien Signs for Church path directional sign - £18.00. This was agreed.
- iii) Grant request from Citizens Advice. A grant of £50 was agreed and a cheque raised.

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2203/11 - Matters of Report:

- i) Cllr Crowcombe reported on the recent Quarry Liaison meeting where speeding lorries and proposals to identify them were discussed. Quarries would be undertaking a reduced litter pick along the main roads.
- ii) Cllr Goff noted that bus funding had been extended until October 2022.
- iii) Concern was expressed about proposals for the manufacture of concrete sleepers for HS2 near Torr works originally to be transported by rail but now likely in the first phase to go by road.

2203/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at The Prestleigh Inn, Prestleigh.

**Alan Butcher,**  
**Parish Clerk,**  
**21<sup>st</sup> March 2022**  
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