

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 8pm.

Present: Cllrs Sarah Goff (Chair), Jan Crewe and Simon Baker; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2409/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Yoell, Greaves and Shepherd.

2409/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2409/3 - 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. Five members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning.
A query was raised about the use of “Gateways” at village boundaries as these were being used in other locations. The clerk noted that an approximate cost was £2500 for each location.
A query was raised about funding for the SID’s at Waterlip; clerk to confirm.
Concern was expressed about the application for tree works in Well Lane where no documents were available with the application.
Cllr Baker noted that the new MP would be holding a surgery at Doultong Vilage Hall in 26th September 2024.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2409/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 10th July 2024 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed and the minutes signed by the Chairman.
- ii) That the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 30th July 2024 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed and the minutes signed by the Chairman.

2409/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2024/1440/HSE - Erection of extension to garage, ensuite over porch & installation of solar panels | Manor Cottage School Lane Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE.
It was noted that the mature Hornbeam trees which were subject to a TPO would shade the proposed solar panels and concern was expressed that these trees should not be cut back or trimmed in any way. It was agreed unanimously to support the application and to include a comment about the aforementioned trees.
- ii) 2024/1542/TPO - T1 - Lime - Fell Ref: M1326 | Fig Tree Cottage Well Lane Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE. No documents were included with this application and councillors were unable to make any comment on the actual application. The clerk to comment as such to the planners.

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- iii) 2024/1492/APP - Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4 (Hard and Soft Landscaping), 5 (External Lighting) on planning consent 2022/0490/VRC | Willmotts Business Park Ball Lane To Piers Road Waterlip Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors had no comments to make about this application.
- iv) Doultling Stone Quarry:
 - a. Letter to Somerset Council and response.
The clerk had circulated the agreed letter widely to Somerset planners and councillors but was yet to received any reply. It was agreed to no further action could be taken until a response was received from Somerset.

2409/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Litter and dig bins emptying costs. From the information now available Somerset had agreed that three bins were on their land and would be emptied free of charge. The remaining five bins belonged to the Parish Council with the cost to the Parish Council for emptying of about £50 a time. Confirmation was required of the frequency of emptying as it was noted that some bins required to be emptied weekly.
 - b. Dog Poo bin on Chelynch Road. It was agreed to put the provision of this bin on hold.
 - c. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council in accordance with Somerset schedule of charges. It was agreed to sign up for the pilot scheme offered by Somerset.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a) Next LCN meeting – Monday 30 September 2024 – Shepton Mallet Local Community Network| 7pm at Council Chamber, Shepton Mallet, Council Offices Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BT| Join the meeting, Meeting ID: 320 689 466 319, Passcode: FiD6Jn. It was agreed that a councillor/s should attend this meeting.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a) Doultling Hill drainage and signs. Cllr Crewe advised that Somerset had confirmed that they would be attending to the displaced signs.
 - b) Parish Grit bins. Somerset had been advised of the location of the bins and that all bins were full.
 - c) Cllr Shepherd NRSWA S1 highway course passed. Councillors congratulated Cllr Shepherd; the actual Certificate was awaited.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe had little to report.
- v) Speedwatch. The AGM was taking place shortly.
- vi) SID's information, requirements and grant. The draft MOU agreement had been received from Somerset. The clerk advised the expected costs for the purchase of the machine/s. Cllr Crewe was dealing with the grant from Avon and Somerset Police.
- vii) Village Hall matters: Cllr Baker confirmed that the unregistered part of the car park had now been registered to the Parish Council.

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- viii) Bus shelter cleaning. The clerk had been unsuccessful in finding a contractor to do the work.
- ix) Playground and skate park inspections. The clerk had asked Elite Playgrounds to quote for some minor repair works to Padfield Green equipment.
- x) Flood and Emergency Plans. This was in hand with Cllrs Goff and Crewe. It was noted that sandbags had been sourced for Prestleigh residents.
- xi) Better Buses for Somerset correspondence. There was no further information on the matter.

2409/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Meeting report from 11th September 2024. Cllr Baker gave a brief resume of the meeting.
- ii) Replacement fencing and other matters. Cllr Baker noted that only two quotes for widely differing amounts had been received for the fencing and it had been agreed by the committee to postpone the works for 2025. An alternative type of fencing had been suggested and further details would be ascertained.
- iii) Skate Park inspection reports. Sundry vegetation clearance works had been carried out.
- iv) Agreement to proceed with essential tree works – JK Tree Services quote £380. This was agreed.
- v) Agreement to proceed with arrangements for tree survey – approximate cost £300. This was agreed.
- vi) It was noted that the paths had been well cleared by SM Landscape.

2409/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Commemorative Tree planting. It was noted that the tree not had been planted in the agreed location. Clerk to contact SM Landscape.
- ii) Sun shading structure and hedge proposals. Quote to be sought by Cllr Goff for this structure. Cllr Crewe noted that the hedging components would be delivered in November.
- iii) Padfield Green inspection reports and remedial works. See /6x above.

2409/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. No further information on this matter.
- ii) It was noted that the recent “New Wine” event at the Showground had taken place without incident.

2409/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £508.48 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £107.00 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) SALC invoices for Training - £100.00 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) SPFA Invoice for Annual Playground inspection - £195.00 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) It was agreed that £8000 be transferred into the Business Reserve account; Cllrs Goff and Baker signed that appropriate authority.

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2409/11 - Matters of Report:

- i) The clerk had circulated details of a proposed mapping initiative and the use by the Parish Council of a mapping system called Parish Online. Cllr Baker was sceptical about the proposals but would attend a free event which would give details of the proposals.
- ii) Cllr Goff noted that the new management at The Poachers Pocket had suggested that a future Parish Council meeting could be held at the premises. It was agreed to consider this for 2025.
- iii) Cllr Goff asked for her personal thanks to be recorded to all parishioners who had supported her husband on his recent fund raising trip to Ben Nevis in aid of Parkinsons Disease.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

2409/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 9th October 2024 at Doultling Village Hall.
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
24th September 2024
01749 870358;
email: parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org