

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2025 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Sarah Goff (Chair), Jan Crewe, Les Greaves, Bruce Yoell and John Shepherd;
also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2502/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr Simon Baker.

2502/2 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr John Shepherd declared a personal interest in planning application 2025/0049/FUL: neighbour.

2502/3 - 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. Two members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning.
A member of the public asked for clarification about the proposed interval for bin emptying.
It was noted that the proposed works to trees in Wells Lane should take into account the bird nesting season.
A query about the new hedging in Padfield Green was answered.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2502/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 8th January 2025 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed unanimously and the minutes were signed by the Chairman with a correction to 2501/6iic to “twice weekly”.

2502/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2025/0027/HSE - Demolish existing garage & replace with a new garage. Trendsber Chelynch Road Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4PZ. Councillors raised previous concerns about the commercial use of the premises. It was agreed to reiterate the comments made on the previous application and to leave the determination of the application to the planning officer.
- ii) 2025/0049/FUL - Change of use land, agricultural to residential. Southberry Close Chelynch Road Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4RQ. Councillors agreed to support the application.
- iii) Abbey Quarry, Farrington Lane, Doultong – tipping on site. These had been no further action on this matter, it was agreed to remove the item from the agenda.

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- iv) Doultong Stone Quarry. There had been no further action on this matter and the result of the intervention by the MP was awaited. It was agreed to escalate the matter to the planning ombudsman on the grounds of the failure by Somerset to observe their planning protocol. Cllr Yoell to liaise with the clerk to provide a draft submission by the next meeting. The clerk to write to the Somerset Chief executive and MP advising of this proposed action.
- v) Email from Stoke St Mary Parish Council. Councillors were in support of the points raised in the email about the planning situation in Somerset and agreed to write in support of the points raised in the email.

2502/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works to be prepared. Councillors to list works which would be no longer undertaken by Somerset around the parish to be costed; clerk to circulate Somerset list of highway works.
 - b. Highways Working Group. No further action since the last meeting.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a) Next meeting – 3rd March 2025. Cllr Greaves hoped to attend this meeting.
 - c) Litter and dog bin charges. Replacement of smaller bins cost. The clerk advised a cost of £233 (excl VAT) for a 50 litre bin. Councillors felt that this size would still require frequent emptying, larger bin sizes to be investigated. There was a general discussion about the increase in dog fouling around Doultong and on public footpaths and it was agreed to produce and display appropriate notices asking dog owners to pick up after their dogs.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a) Doultong Hill drainage and signs. An email from Somerset had been circulated detailing gully emptying periods, recent works on Doultong Hill and minor proposed works to remedy the problems highlighted by the parish council.
 - b) Cllr Greaves reported on a conversation with Somerset Traffic management about the safety on the A361 following recent fatalities. Measures such as reduced speed limits were being considered although there was no timetable for any works to be undertaken.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe was asking volunteers to check footpaths and to clear any obstructions on paths as the year progressed. She also noted that the “strimmer man” was not currently in place.
- v) Speedwatch. Re-registration of volunteers and training renewal was to be undertaken.

- vi) SID's information, requirements, grant and letter from Somerset Council. Cllr Greaves reported that Somerset had rejected the councils application and that a new application taking into account Somerset's comments about locations, etc was being prepared.
Previous discussions about the introduction of village gateways were mentioned.
- vii) Village Hall matters. It was understood that new trustees had been appointed.
- viii) Flood and Emergency Plans. Cllr Goff noted that the update of the plans was in hand. Cllr Crewe noted that there was no place of safety for Prestleigh and suitable places were being sought.
- ix) Somerset Local Plan. It was noted that the final date for completion of the plan had been postponed by twelve months.
- x) Trees on Parish Council land at Well Lane and in the Glebeland. The clerk confirmed that quotations had been requested for the works outlined in the tree surveys and should be available at the next meeting.
- xi) Housing Needs survey for Cranmore and surrounding parishes. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on this but to remove it from the agenda.
- xii) Bus Service Improvement Plan. Details of proposed future expenditure had been circulated to councillors although it was noted that, once again, funding proposals were very "Tauntoncentric".

2502/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Replacement/repair of storm damage. Cllr Shepherd was seeking to source the concrete panels for the replacement play wall but advised that, currently, it was too wet to access the site with machines.

2502/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Padfield Green remedial works. These had been completed.
- ii) Other matters of report.

2502/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. A representative from Prestleigh advised that pothole repairs and drainage works had been carried out on the A371. He noted the discussion about dog poo bins and suggested one was required in Prestleigh.

2502/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses to include website hosting costs and provision of fireproof storage cabinet for documents. £803.29 which included the cost of £147 for a fireproof cabinet to hold important and historic council papers as discussed with Cllr Goff. The cabinet has been positioned in the corner of the store room. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £110.60. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) JK Tree Services - £456.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Elite Playgrounds survey and repairs - £2226.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.

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2502/11 - Matters of Report:

- i) There was a brief discussion about the skate park and the need for refurbishment. It was suggested that expert advice was required for any proposed refurbishment and that the current frequency of use should be monitored. It was suggested that some form of bench seating could be provided for onlookers.
- ii) Cllr Crewe noted Doultling events which included a skittle evening at the Poachers Pocket (13th March 2025 and a proposed litter pick on 15th March 2025.
- iii) Cllr Crewe requested volunteers to help with preparations for the plant sale on 10th May 2025.
- iv) In response to a previous query Cllr Shepherd advised that part of the wood north of the Glebeland had been sold but that the section immediately beyond the Glebeland was still in the same ownership as before.
- v) The Clerk had circulated information about car parking charge alterations throughout Somerset and also information about forthcoming council tax increases.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

2502/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 12th March 2025 at Doultling Village Hall.
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
25th February 2025
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