

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2024 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

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

2411/1 - Apologies for absence. None received.

2411/2 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Greaves declared a personal interest in agenda item 2411/10v – St Aldhelms Church.

2411/3 - 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. Six members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning:
A member of the public spoke in support of application 2024/1696/FUL.
A member of the public about application 2024/1877/FUL and gave details of changes from the previous 2021 application.
A member of the public spoke about application 2024/1716/CLE noting that the caravan had been on site for more than 10 years.
A member of the public raised a query about tipping at Abbey Quarry.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2411/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 9th October 2024 be agreed and signed as a true record. The minutes were unanimously agreed and signed by the chairman.

2411/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2024/1696/FUL - Conversion of an outbuilding into a standalone residential dwelling and garden. (amended plans rec'd 08.11/2024). Land At Old Forge House Ball Lane Waterlip Shepton Mallet Somerset. Cllr Yoell noted possible structural problems. There were no other comments and councillors voted unanimously to support the application.
- ii) 2024/1716/CLE - Certificate of lawfulness of existing use as residential (C3) dwellinghouse, The Caravan Old Forge House 1 Ball Lane Waterlip Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors had no comments on the application and agreed to leave determination of the application to the planning officer.

- iii) 2024/1768/PAA - Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 10no. dwellinghouses (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Manor Farm Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4NJ. Councillors noted that Highways had raised objections to the proposals and that there were a number of local objections. It was noted that the site was prone to flooding. Councillors voted unanimously to Object to the application.
- iv) 2024/1877/FUL - Retrospective application for the construction of a new dwelling, including the provision of solar panels and car charging points, following previous approval under Class Q (a) and (b) for the conversion of a farm building to a single dwelling granted June 25th 2021, under planning ref 2021/1091/PAA. Land At 364130 144371 Bodden Lane Bodden Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors voted unanimously to support the application noting that it was in support of the long established family farm.
- v) 2024/1878/LBC - Installation of anodised aluminium posts to oil store & inside of the front door to hold demountable flood barriers. Brook House Prestleigh Lane Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4NG. Councillors voted unanimously to support the application.
- vi) 2024/1440/HSE – Manor Cottage, School Lane, Doultling: Notice of appeal. It was noted the consideration of the application had been deferred.
- vii) Abbey Quarry, Farrington Lane, Doultling – tipping on site. The clerk read an email from planning enforcement outlining details of their conversation with the quarry operators who had been advised that the current material on site should be removed and no more tipped on site without a planning application for such use being in place.
- viii) Somerset Council – Planning Validation Consultation. This matter would be dealt with at the next meeting.
- ix) Doultling Stone Quarry:
 - a. Letter to Somerset Council and response. No response had been received to the letter sent by the clerk.
 - b. Further actions. It was agreed to contact the local MP to whom Cllr Baker had already spoken about the matter.

2411/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council in accordance with Somerset schedule of charges and Enhanced Highways Maintenance. It was agreed that a list of outstanding highway works should be compiled to enable those works to be costed by the highway contractor and for the Parish Council to have a more accurate idea of those costs when preparing the budget and precept.
 - b. Highways Working Group. Cllrs Greaves and Baker had attended and expressed concern about the aims of the group which they felt should give transparency and information about what works Somerset were prepared to undertake. The use of the FixMy Street online application was briefly discussed.

The clerk also noted a recent presentation about One Network which offered information about works on the highway.

- c. Highway training. The clerk noted that “Chapter 8” training would be required if the proposals for SID’s went ahead.

- ii) Somerset Council matters
- iii) a) LCN meeting reports. It was noted that no minutes were available for the last meeting.
b) Next meeting. Date yet to be advised.

- iv) Highways and traffic –
 - a) Doultling Hill drainage and signs. Cllr Crewe had spoken to Highways about drains on the A361 and understood that Highways were checking drains on Doultling Hill but none had been cleared. Two recent accidents at the bottom of Doultling Hill were noted.
 - b) Other matters of report. Cllr Crewe noted that a number of other drains in the area had been cleared although clearance of drains in Bodden had resulted in only two drains being cleared rather than all the drains on Bodden Lane. Cllr Crewe had spent time finding and uncovering various drains blocked by leaves and vegetation.

- v) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe had taken photographs of paths which needed clearing.
- vi) Speedwatch. Two watches had taken place. It was noted that the update of the system promised for September had not yet taken place.
- vii) SID’s information, requirements, grant and letter from Somerset Council.
Cllr Greaves outlined the process and permissions required to site the machines and the associated costs to purchase and maintain.
It was proposed Cllr Greaves, seconded Cllr Crewe that the Parish Council proceeds with the purchase and installation of the devices.
Cllr Shepherd expressed concern about the costs to the Parish Council and felt that an enhanced Speedwatch operation would be more effective. More volunteers for Speedwatch are required. Cllr Yoell noted that a number of roadside Speed Advisory signs had been positioned around Priddy; clerk to discover more information.
It was agreed that the original proposal be amended to defer the final decision about the provision of SID’s until details of costs and funding had been finalised. This was agreed unanimously.
- viii) Village Hall matters: Cllr Baker advised that a Trustees meeting was to be called.
- ix) Bus shelter cleaning. This had been completed at a cost of £35, Cllr Goff to forward invoice to the Clerk.

- x) Playground and skate park inspections. The quarterly inspections had been completed. Elite Playground Inspections had provided a quote for maintenance works to the Padfield Green equipment in the sum of £1760 excluding VAT. After discussion about the costs it was proposed Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Goff that an order be placed for all the specified works. This was agreed 5 votes for and 1 abstention to instruct Elite Playgrounds to proceed with the quoted works.
- xi) Flood and Emergency Plans.
Cllr Crewe had attended the recent Flood Resilience Day and details had been included in the Parish Magazine. She had made contact with a Flood Support Group and a representative was to visit Prestleigh.
Cllr Goff advised the work on the emergency plan was continuing with a new introduction. She noted that, with the closure of the Prestleigh Inn, there was currently no place of safety for Prestleigh.
- xii) Somerset Rivers Authority grants. The clerk had circulated details.
- xiii) Somerset Local Plan. Initial details had been circulated and the clerk would complete the initial questionnaire. The consultation would take place during 2025.
- xiv) Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Baker advised work on the plan would start shortly.
- xv) Public Space protection orders. The clerk advised that he had added Padfield Green play area to the list but that the Glebeland was ineligible for inclusion on the list although the dog fouling orders still applied.
- xvi) Fire and Rescue service precept consultation. This was noted.

2411/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Hedgelaying – confirmation of quote of £300 for works to east hedge.
The quote was accepted, clerk to place order for the work. The “brash” arising from the work would remain on site to be cleared later.
- ii) Tree survey instructed – to take place on 22nd November 2024.
- iii) Replacement fencing and other matters. Cllr Baker advised he was exploring other options for the replacement fencing.

2411/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Padfield Green inspection reports and remedial works. See minutes 2411/6x above.
- ii) Hedging. Cllr Crewe had planted the hedge plants.

2411/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. There was a brief discussion about the placing of a SID on Prestleigh Hill and additional Speedwatch activity.
- ii) Sandbags. These were no longer available. Cllr Crewe had noted that a representative from the Flood Support Group would be visiting Prestleigh.

2411/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £519.88 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
The clerk noted a recent NALC pay rise. Councillors agreed that this should be paid from the November 2024 payment.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £107.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Elite Playground Inspections invoice - £114.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) The annual invoice from Shepton Mallet Landscape had been received in the sum of £2347.20 which included the cost of the new tree at Padfield Green. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) An invoice had been received for the bus shelter clean in the sum of £35.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- vi) Parish Council Accounts to 30th September 2024 and Bank Reconciliation. The updated accounts had been circulated before the meeting. Cllr Greaves checked and signed the Bank Reconciliation.
- vii) Request for grant from St Aldhelms Church for graveyard maintenance. The budgeted sum of £850.00 was agreed and a cheque raised.
- viii) Request for grant from Citizens Advice. It was proposed Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Goff that a grant of £35 be made. This was agreed and a cheque raised.

2411/11 - Matters of Report

- i) Suggestions were made about improving some slippery footpath steps.
- ii) An increase in traffic and loose dogs was reported at The Well. The status of Well Lane to be confirmed.

The being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

2411/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 11th December 2024 at Douling Village Hall.
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
29th November 2024
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