

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM ON TUESDAY 4th MAY 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm following the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

2105/1 - Apologies for absence. None received.

2105/2 - Election of Chairman – Cllr Paula Fidge; prop Cllr Wilkins, seconded Cllr Goff. Cllr Fidge was elected unanimously. The Chairman signed the Acceptance of Office which was in her possession.

2105/3 - Election of Vice Chairman – Cllr Goff; prop Cllr Crewe seconded Cllr Shepherd. Cllr Goff was elected unanimously. Councillors agreed that the incoming Vice Chairman would sign the Acceptance of Office provided by the clerk following the meeting.

2105/4 - Appointment of Proper Officer – Alan Butcher was duly confirmed

2105/5 - Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer – Alan Butcher was duly confirmed.

2105/6 - Appointment of Glebeland Committee.

Appointment of Parish Council representatives and Committee members (currently Mary Newman, Margaret Hares and Emma Hill).

The current committee was re-appointed en-bloc with Cllrs Crowcombe and Crewe representing the Parish Council.

2105/7 - Appointment of Representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Goff was proposed Cllr Fidge and Seconded Cllr Crewe and appointed unanimously.

Councillors individual responsibilities and port folio's to be confirmed at the next meeting.

2105/8 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Crowcombe declared an interest as a school governor. The clerk confirmed he had granted a dispensation in this regard.

Voting procedures – as previously agreed, votes will be recorded.

2105/9 - Public Forum:

One member of the public was present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda. No matters raised.
- ii) Reports from District and County Councillors. No reports received.
- iii) Report from the Police. No report received.

2105/10 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd April 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record. The chairman signed a hard copy of the minutes.

2105/11 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) No applications were received before the preparation of the agenda.

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2105/12 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
 - a) Cllrs Crewe and Crowcombe had met with an officer from Somerset CC to discuss highway safety matters. Cllr Crewe to forward previous ideas about traffic calming as part of the discussions. She noted that the change of a speed limit could cost between £5k and £10K. It was noted that traffic levels were reduced because of lockdown restrictions although lorry traffic was still at normal levels. The matter of lorries speeding through the parish from 5am was discussed.
 - b) Cllr Fidge noted a pothole near the top of Doultling Hill, Cllr Crewe to report.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe reported further path surveys received which were to be actioned by early June.
- iii) Speedwatch . Nothing to report.
- iv) SID's to Waterlip. The agreement with Somerset CC had been signed by the clerk and returned; Cllr Crowcombe advised that the devices would be installed once the new posts had been erected. SCC to advise when this work will be carried out.
- v) Trees on Parish land. including tree near The Well. The tree by the Well had been removed. The clerk had contacted a specialist about tree surveys; Cllr Crowcombe to advise details of an alternative specialist.
- vi) Doultling Village Hall. Cllr Goff advised ongoing issues concerning fire safety. She advised that the hall would be gradually re-opening after 17th May subject to continuing restrictions.
Cllr Fidge asked if the clerk would be prepared to assist the village hall committee with the recording of the meeting minutes. The clerk confirmed that he would be able to assist.
- vii) Somerset re-organisation – Poll opens on 18th May 2021. The clerk noted this indicative poll. Cllr Crowcombe reported on a meeting convened by Frome Town Council to discuss possible grouping of local Parish Councils. Cllr Crowcombe to advise Cllr Fidge of the dates of these proposed monthly meetings. There was a discussion about the proposals from Frome Town Council, Cllr Goff advised caution having had experience with FTC in a similar situation.

2105/13 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Proposed community event. This was planned for 8th May 2021 with arrangements well in hand.
- ii) Committee meeting to be called on 13th May 2021. The clerk advised that the agenda for the meeting would be published shortly.

2105/14 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Cllr Wilkins had responded to a letter which was critical of the Parish Council in the provision of fitness equipment in the play park. She had advised that the equipment provided was designed for use by children and was not available to adults as the park was for children under 12. She noted that the park had been busy recently.
- ii) The matter of the provision of a structure to provide shade was discussed. Cllr Wilkins suggested an open sided timber structure with willow or bamboo roofing and climbing plants; she was also seeking other suggestions.

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- iii) The chairman took this item after 2105/10 at the request of Cllr Wilkins who left the meeting after this matter was discussed.

2105/15 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Waterlip – Cllr Crowcombe noted little progress on the works to the culvert and that the proposed fencing at the Scania site was yet to be erected.
- ii) Prestleigh – Cllr Fidge noted that the NASS event was still taking place although she was unaware to the restrictions which might apply and was awaiting organisational details.

2105/16 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £373.33 – This was agreed
- ii) Invoice from JK Tree Services. £1460.00 – This was agreed.
- iii) Payment to Margaret Hares for use of electricity. £15.00 – This was agreed.

2105/17 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Crewe reported that the signs indicating the path through the churchyard had been removed following intervention from the diocese. It appeared that not only the signs but the use of the path required permission from the diocese. Cllr Crewe was seeking the name of a person at the diocese to contact about this matter. It was suggested that the signs could be repositioned away from church land although, without permission, the path could not be used as a permissive path.

2105/18 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

8th June 2021 at Doultling Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Attendance at this meeting will be subject to current covid restrictions as to numbers attending, etc. Cllr Goff to book the main hall which would allow for a socially distanced meeting subject to the covid capacity of the hall.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
11th May 2021
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