

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM ON TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ann Crowcombe, Jan Crewe, Sarah Goff, John Shepherd;
also in attendance Cllr Francis Hayden, Mary Newman (Glebeland) and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2009/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr Ros Wilkins.

2009/2 - Declarations of Interest:

No declarations were made.

Voting procedures – request for recording of votes was confirmed.

2009/3 - Public Forum:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow for public participation.

A member of the public spoke about recent problems with the closure of the A371 at Prestleigh Hill which, having been closed for a period of time, reopened and was then closed again for further works causing disruption and an impact on the local economy. He felt that the Parish Council should take the matter up with Cllr Ham and with Somerset Highways. Cllr Fidge noted that she understood there were more works to come associated with drainage and that the Parish Council had already raised the matter with Highways and local councillors. Cllr Hayden suggested that Highways should be asked for details of all roadworks in the last twelve months at Prestleigh and how those works were co-ordinated. Cllr Crowcombe agreed that this information should be sought. Cllr Crewe to contact Highways on this matter and clerk to write to Cllr Ham.

- i) Comments on planning applications – there were no public comments.
- ii) Reports from District and County Councillors.
Cllr Hayden reported that the B&W Showground could become a vaccination centre. He updated councillors about the Stronger Somerset case for two Unitary Authorities which had now been presented to the government and which, it appeared, would offer greater financial savings than the proposed single authority.
- iii) Report from the Police. A recent newsletter had been circulated to councillors. There was no specific report.

2009/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 10th November 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record with an amendment to 2008/7v) amended to read “the clerk to seek further quotes”. The chairman will sign a hard copy of the amended minutes.

2009/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) Application 2020/1992/FUL – Construction of food grade warehouse and offices to replace existing industrial building with associated access, yards and parking at Willmotts Business Park, Ball Lane to Piers Road, Waterlip. Additional documents submitted.

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Councillors welcomed the additional information but were disappointed that the existing hedge near the proposed warehouse was now to be removed. They welcomed the proposed for additional mature planting along the road boundary and the replacement of the green screening mesh with a mesh of a darker colour. They also welcomed the proposal for the formation of a liaison group with residents. Clerk to write to Willmotts to support the proposal for the liaison group. Cllr Crowcombe noted that residents were still concerned about the level of lighting to the warehouse. Clerk to respond to the planners about the additional documents and include the above comments.

- ii) Application 2020/2380/HSE – Installation of a new window at The Second Barn, Prestleigh Lane, Prestleigh. Councillors gave unanimous support to this application.
- iii) 2020/0925/FUL (re-submission) - Proposed demolition of existing agricultural buildings and the erection of a new 3 bedroom dwelling with associated outbuilding (as amended by revised drawings received 07/09/2020) at Plot Adjacent To The Second Barn, Prestleigh Lane, Prestleigh , Shepton Mallet. The clerk outlined the amended application and the email received from the planning officer. Whilst it was noted that the proposal is now a lower profile, councillors still expressed concern about access onto the A371. Cllr Fidge noted that local residents were still concerned about the proposal. Councillors agreed to support the amended application 3 votes to 2 with Cllrs Crowcombe, Goff and Shepherd in favour and Cllrs Fidge and Crewe against. Clerk to respond to planning officer to express continuing concern about the access onto the A371.
- iv) Loft Conversion and Ground Floor residential extension to the rear of 1 Manor Farm Cottages, farm Road, Doultling. Cllr Crewe noted that the proposal will make a big difference to this family home and it was agreed unanimously to support the application.

2009/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
 - a) Problems with a culvert at Waterlip. Cllr Crowcombe advised this was in hand with Wainwrights and also awaiting a risk assessment.
 - b) Signs for the churchyard – these had been received and the clerk had liaised with Cllr Shepherd regarding the posts. It was hoped to position the signs shortly.
 - c) Cllr Crewe had dealt with problems of blocked drains including the drain at the Poachers Pocket. She was to meet a highways engineer to discuss these continuing problems.
 - d) The problem with water running across Doultling Hill was raised as with the offset of colder weather there was concern about ice forming on the road surface. Cllr Crewe understood that the problem would be addressed when the road was re-surfaced although a date for this work was not known.
 - e) The proposal for the provision of SID's at Waterlip was discussed. Cllr Crowcombe noted that the volunteer training for positioning these devices needed to be renewed. It was agreed to cover the cost of £175 for one training course.

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- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe had carried out three path surveys and cleared two stiles.
- iii) Speedwatch. Cllr Crewe reported recent two watches.
- iv) Ash trees near The Well. In hand with the clerk to obtain further quotations.
- v) Doulling Village Hall update. Cllr Goff reported the current situation with the hall and noted that the school had queried the amount for heating and lighting being paid by the village hall. Clerk to seek clarification of documents relating to the village hall and school held by their solicitors.
- vi) Climate and Eco Emergency actions. Cllr Crewe outlined recent meetings and discussions and the need to empower the community to prepare an action plan to address climate concerns. A number of suggestions had been made and councillors to put forward further ideas. The setting up of a community group was suggested. The matter to be included on future agendas.
- vii) Road Safety Fund. Cllr Crewe had spoken to an officer at Somerset County Council about the use of this fund to make a safer crossing point on the A361 as discussed at the November meeting. She was to meet the officer to discuss options although the proposal for a pedestrian crossing was not viable on the A361. It was also noted that some action needed to be considered about speeding traffic going to The Well.
- viii) Mendip DC – Sharing Councillors contact details. Councillors agreed to allow the sharing of their details with Mendip DC.
- ix) Updated Risk Assessment. This had been circulated and was agreed and adopted.

2009/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Mary Newman (GC) noted that volunteers had cleared brambles from the skate park and had offered to do so on a continuing basis. Clerk to write letter of thanks.
- ii) She noted that a notice designating the Skate Park as an Outdoor Recreation Area had been removed.
- iii) She asked that a timetable be prepared for specific works to the Glebeland and noted that the Information Board needs a small repair.

2009/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- l) Problem with Odin Tower equipment – This had now been repaired.

2009/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Cllr Fidge noted that Prestleigh Hill had a new surface which was unfortunately disturbed by a later drain repair. She had also written to the local MP about the continuing difficulties experienced by public houses.

2009/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £393.83. This was agreed.
- ii) Payment of Blake Training Invoice £81.00. This was agreed.
- iii) Payment of Shepton Mallet Landscape Ltd amended invoice. £2064.00. This was agreed
- iv) Payment of Vita Play invoice – fitting new Odin Tower parts. £321.60. This was agreed.
- v) Payment of Arien Signs invoice for signs to Church path. £70.80. This was agreed.

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- vi) Review of amended budget for 2021 – 2022. The clerk summarised the budget which had been circulated and now included more detailed information about “Open Spaces” costs. He advised that tenders for landscape maintenance would be sought in 2021 to ensure value for money is maintained. He suggested that a sum should be ringfenced from reserves for the planned replacement of play equipment at Padfield Green.
The budget as circulated was agreed in advance of the setting of the Precept at the January meeting.

2009/11 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Crewe thanked the volunteers who had cleared the area around The Well footpath.
- ii) Cllr Crewe noted an outdoor Carol Service at the Church.
- iii) Cllr Crowcrow had attended a course concerning the role of Custodial Trustees.
- iv) Cllr Shepherd asked that a letter of thanks be sent to SM Landscapes for all their recent work and advising them of the requirement for a tender process in 2021.
- v) Cllr Hayden spoke about proposed for the re-opening of Westdown Quarry near Nunney. He suggested that, although a consultation had just ended, the Parish Council should make a response to Hanson’s about the proposal. Clerk to circulate consultation information, Cllr Crowcombe to prepare a draft response.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

2009/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be a virtual meeting on 12th January 2021

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
14th December 2020
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