

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2022 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

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

2202/1 - *Apologies for absence.* Cllrs John Shepherd and Ros Wilkins.

2202/2 - *Declarations of Interest:* None were made.

2202/3 - *Public Forum:*

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation on matters included on the agenda only. Six members of the public were present.

- i) A member of the public referred to previous matters which the Parish Council had advised were closed for discussion. He felt that his freedom of speech was being impinged and that if councillors felt unable to deal with those matters, they should resign. He also referred to complaints to the school about traffic which he felt had been understated.
- ii) Reports from District and County Councillors. None received.

2202/4 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 11th January 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record with three minor corrections to 5ii) typo; 6i) changed to Temple House Farm from Ball Lane; 9ii) Mendip Rail rather than ES Railway.

2202/5 - *Parish Council Response to Planning Applications*

No notifications of planning applications were received prior to the publication of the summons and agenda

2202/6 - *Parish Council Matters.*

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
 - a) Cllr Crewe advised that major works to Doultling Hill were planned for early March and would take place overnight for three weeks. Works were also scheduled for School Lane and Church Lane. She was dealing with a drainage problem in Bodden. Cllr Crowcombe advised that there was a large pothole at Waterlip.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Jan reported that the loose signs in Prestleigh had been refixed. She would be undertaking more surveys and dealing with reports of footpath problems raised by parishioners.
- iii) Parish Council Facebook page. Cllr Crewe had discussed the matter with a parishioner and work on establishing a council page was progressing.
- iv) Social Media Policy. Clerk to review and circulate before the next meeting.

- v) Unreasonable Complaints Policy. The clerk proposed that the policy adopted in December be withdrawn and replaced with a set of Guidelines about how the council dealt with complaints. This would require a formal motion at the next meeting. All agreed; clerk to circulate final document for review.
- vi) Village Hall representatives report. Cllr Goff reported on a recent meeting. She confirmed that finances were healthy and that a reasonable reserve was being maintained. Bookings were still down but it was hoped they would increase over the coming months. The hall would be seeking funding for repairs. Quotes were being sought for works to the drainage problem in the car park. The AGM would be on 5th April 2022 at 7pm when all trustees would be standing again.
- vii) Somerset Bus Partnership Mendip. There was little to report at present.
- viii) Bus shelter clean. The clerk had been advised that this would be done on Friday 11th February.
- ix) Speedwatch – there was little to report, both Doultling and Prestleigh were seeking new volunteers.
- x) Climate and Eco Emergency actions. Cllr Crewe was updating the Parish Emergency Plan and register; Cllr Fidge to confirm Prestleigh contacts. A litter pick was planned.
- xi) Queens 75th Jubilee.
 - a) The planting of a suitable tree in Padfield Green was discussed, Cllr Crewe to seek advice a type of tree; all councillors were in favour of this idea.
 - b) Cllr Fidge to advise on any events planned for Prestleigh
 - c) The possibility of a beacon was discussed which would be a proper fire rather than a fire basket; Cllr Crewe to discuss possible location.
 - d) It was noted that there was a thanksgiving service in the Church on Friday 3rd June.
- xii) New Unitary Authority matters. Cllr Crowcombe advised that the next Network pilot meeting was in Frome and that such meetings would continue. Councillors felt that more information about the proposed Local Community Networks was required and that they should consider joining with other parishes in the area with similar demographics and interests and it was agreed that contact should be made with those parishes. All agreed that they should attend a meeting on 8th March to discuss all possibilities for the LCN's and, as a result, it was agreed to re-schedule the next Parish Council meeting to 15th March 2022.
- xiii) Date for Annual Parish Council meeting – 17th May 2022, this was agreed
- xiv) Date for Annual Parish Meeting – it was agreed that this should be held at The Prestleigh Inn on Tuesday 12th April before the Parish Council meeting.

2202/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Report on meeting held on 25th January 2022.
The clerk advised that he had contacted the hedge layer who would be happy to do the work and to provide training for anyone who wished to attend on the day. The approximate cost would be £300.
- ii) Quote from Ollie Mann for removal of Blackthorn (£195.00) This was agreed, clerk to place order.
- iii) Fence post repair. In hand.
- iv) A working party was being organised within the next two weeks.

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2202/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Replacement equipment. Awaiting funding.
- ii) Fencing against adjoining property. The clerk advised that he had not received any quotes for the work but that readymade fencing sections were available which could be purchased by the council and erected by a local contractor. This was agreed.

2202/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Invite to Bath and West management to Parish Council meeting. Cllr Fidge to contact with invite to the April meeting.
- ii) Cllr Crowcombe reported that the works to the culvert and walls at Waterlip were still outstanding with stones falling into the road. She also reported that the new solar panels to the SID signs had been fixed and appeared to be working successfully.
- iii) Cllr Fidge to speak to SM Landscape about the brambles on the corner in Prestleigh.

2202/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for January to include Website hosting charges (£494.71) This was agreed.

2202/11 - Matters of Report

- i) Clerk to organise church footpath sign from details forwarded by Cllr Crewe.
- ii) Cllr Crewe raised the matter of a parcel of land which was for sale in Doultling and which she thought the Parish Council should consider purchasing. There was some discussion about possible uses and although councillors struck a positive note the question of funding and management was a concern. Reference was made to the 2006 Commons Act and the need to secure time to complete the necessary formalities. Clerk to circulate information about land purchase and the options open to the council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

2202/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 15th March 2022 at Doultling Village Hall

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
14th February 2022
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doultlingclerk@gmail.com