

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

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

2501/1 - Apologies for absence. None

2501/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2501/3 - 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. An update on Abbey Quarry was requested – see 2501/5ii below.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated. This included details of proposed boundary changes. Cllr Baker had reviewed the details and had concluded that the proposals would have little effect on Doultling.

2501/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 be agreed and signed as a true record. These were so agreed signed by the Chairman.

2501/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) Re-consultation on applications relating to Moons Hill Quarry including Extension to Stoke Quarry and changes to planning conditions on several previous applications. Cllr Baker had reviewed the amended applications but advised that changes were minor and did nothing to address the objection and concerns detailed in the Parish Councils previous submission dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It was agreed unanimously that the previous submission be updated and resubmitted along with confirmation of the Parish Councils objection to the applications.
- ii) Abbey Quarry, Farrington Lane, Doultling – tipping on site. There was no further information from Planning Enforcement and nothing had happened on site to remove the tipped material. Concern had been expressed about the nature of the tipped material and whether this was polluted or toxic material.
- iii) Doultling Stone Quarry:
  - a. Letter to Somerset Council and response. There had been no response from Somerset.
  - b. The clerk had written to the local MP who had confirmed she would take the matter up with Somerset Council.

2501/6 - 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.
  - b. Highways Working Group.  
There had been no further information or action on any of the above matters.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
  - a) LCN meeting reports. No reports had been received.
  - b) Next meeting. No details of forthcoming meetings had been received. Clerk would check Somerset Council website.
  - c) Litter and dog bin charges. Details had now been received of the annual charge for the emptying of bins at £6.50 per bin per week plus VAT. This could amount to around £2500 per year for the Parish Council owned bins. The need for a weekly collection was discussed and the clerk suggested that most used bins be increased in size to allow twice weekly or greater period collections. Clerk to advise possible cost of this proposal.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
  - a) Doultling Hill drainage and signs. Still no action and recent weather had led to flooding and icy patches at the bottom of the hill resulting a several accidents. Clerk to write to Highways on this matter.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Work was continuing on several obstructed paths.
- v) Speedwatch. Weather conditions had prevented watches taking place. Speedwatch training and reviews to take place shortly.
- vi) SID's information, requirements, grant and letter from Somerset Council. Cllr Greaves had submitted an application to Somerset Council; news on the grant was awaited.
- vii) Village Hall matters: Cllr Baker advised that a new committee would be appointed at a meeting taking place shortly.
- viii) Flood and Emergency Plans. Cllr Crewe had circulated a poster giving details of the plans; clerk to set up "doultlingparish" email address to ensure coverage by the councils GDPR policy.
- ix) Somerset Local Plan. A call for sites had been sent out and more details awaited.
- x) Neighbourhood Plan. In hand.
- xi) Trees on land at Well Lane – matters highlighted in tree survey. The clerk outlined the situation with the mature beech trees on the southern boundary of the land owned by the council. The tree surveyor had suggested that the tree nearest the well should have overhanging branches removed. An allowance to be made in the budget for this work.
- xii) Forthcoming SALC Training opportunities. There were no takers for these courses.
- xiii) Housing Needs survey for Cranmore and surrounding parishes. This was a speculative communication received seeking to identify "rural exception sites in the area. No action was required but a watching brief would be kept.

2501/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Report on meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Cllr Baker reported on the recent meeting.
- ii) Tree survey - immediate and future actions. An allowance proposed by the committee to be added into the budget for 2025/6 and beyond.

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- iii) Replacement/repair of storm damage. Cllr Shepherd advised that the play-wall damaged in the recent storm was rotten and would need to be replaced. It was suggested that the wall could be replaced by a concrete slab structure; Cllr Shepherd to advise approximate costs. Cllr Shepherd was thanked for replacing the section of fencing blown over in the recent storm.

2501/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Padfield Green remedial works. In hand with Elite Playgrounds.
- ii) Cllr Crewe would be staking the new hedge when the weather improved.

2501/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. It was hoped to carry out a speedwatch in the near future.
- ii) Flooding issues. It was confirmed that flood advisers had visited Prestleigh.

2501/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £524.29 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £110.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Somerset Playing Field annual subscription £15 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Parish Council Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. These were circulated and a bank reconciliation signed by Cllr Crewe.
- v) Agreement of budget for 2025/26. The clerk had circulated a draft budget for 2025/26 which included allowances for tree works as discussed. The amount of £7000 remained ring fences for Somerset Council devolved works and a capital allowance of £6000 toward works to the skate park. An amount of £1500 was added to cover the cost of bin emptying and the precept for the year 2025 – 2026 set at £26,500.00. This was proposed Cllr Baker seconded Cllr Greaves and agreed unanimously.

2501/11 - Matters of Report:

- i) Fly tipping on the verge near the Wagon and Horses to be reported.
- ii) The clerk advised he had this afternoon received a planning application which had been circulated. The clerk to seek an extension to the consultation period until the next meeting to avoid the need for an extra meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

2501/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Doultling Village Hall.  
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,**  
**Parish Clerk,**  
**14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**01749 870358;**  
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