

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

*The meeting was held in the main hall with social distancing and procedures set out in the meeting Risk Assessment.*

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

2106/1 - *Apologies for absence.* None received.

2106/2 - *Declarations of Interest:* No declarations were made.

2106/3 - *Public Forum:*

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow an extended period of public participation. Seven members of the public were present.

The matter of the church path and signage was raised and concern expressed about the wording of the signs. It was noted that, at the request of the PCC, the signs had been removed but then subsequently reinstated. The Parish Council had provided and erected the signs originally. Clerk to forward relevant information to the member of the public who raised the matter.

It was noted that the church gate from the main road was to be fitted with a new closing spring. The problem of broken glass in The Glebeland was discussed and thanks given to the person who had repaired part of the fence to the coral.

A problem with the emptying of the brown bin was raised, clerk to check on payment status.

Concern was raised about the 8% increase in the precept and a number of matters raised concerning items not included on the agenda.

Comment was made about the election of Cllr Goff as Vice Chairman and personal comments made, the Chairman responded to the comments and cautioned about the making of personal comments about councillors.

The matter of obscured road signs on Doultling Hill was raised.

Comments critical of the Parish Council's past decisions on planning applications and dismissive comments made about the effectiveness of Speedwatch were made. Concern was expressed about the management of the village hall to which Cllr Goff responded.

2106/4 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2106/5 - *Parish Council Response to Planning Applications*

- i) Application 2021/1091/PAA - Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to 1No dwelling house (Use Class C3) and for associated operational development | Higher Bodden Farm Bodden Lane Bodden Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4PU. Councillors had viewed the application and had not comments. It was agreed unanimously to support the application.

2106/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
  - a) A number of potholes had been reported.
  - b) A dangerous defect to the road surface at the top of Douling Hill was noted; Cllr Crewe to advise Highways.
  - c) Cllr Crewe reported on a meeting with the Highway Safety Officer.
  - d) Road closures at Waterlip were noted, apparently for drainage works.
  - e) Worn road marking near the school had been reported to Highways.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report.
  - a) A number of path surveys had been completed.
  - b) Cllr Crewe and the trimmer operator would be clearing paths in the near future. In response to a query a width of 450mm was suggested as a minimum width for a footpath.
  - c) Cllr Fidge raised an issue with footpaths in Prestleigh; Cllr Crewe to action and Cllr Fidge to speak to SM Landscapes.
- iii) Signs to churchyard. Clerk to send information to the PCC.
- iv) Speedwatch. Little to report.
- v) SID's to Waterlip. Awaiting erection of posts by Highways.
- vi) Trees on Parish land. Cllr Crowcombe commented that the price previously given to the Parish Council appeared to be about the norm for this type of work.
- vii) Confirmation of grass cutting by SM Landscape. Clerk to speak to SM Landscapes.
- viii) Suggested Parishioners Meeting in July. The date of 13<sup>th</sup> July was suggested subject to any continuing Covid restrictions.
- ix) Douling Village Hall update. Cllr Goff reported on the AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> June via Zoom. She advised that the school/village hall agreement had now been signed and that an Open Meeting was planned for 16<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm at The Village hall. She noted that the hall was starting to be used again subject to Covid restriction. Cllr Goff advised about recent works to lighting and noted that the village hall committee were not responsible for the problems with drainage in the car park, the works having been carried out by the school.
- x) Climate and Eco Emergency actions:
  - Proposed litter pick. This was to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> June, material collected would be recycled. Cllr Crewe was collating information about climate change actions.

2106/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Report on Glebeland Committee meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021:
  - a) A poster had been prepared and circulated about use of the Glebeland; this was agreed, Cllr Crewe to action.
  - b) A number of maintenance works would be taking place, a budget for these works had already been agreed.
  - c) Results of a tree inspection were noted.
  - d) The community event had raised £400 for the church.

2106/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- I) Report on inspection of play equipment. The loose panel had been repaired.
- II) Proposed shading structure. Cllr Wilkins outlined the proposal, clerk to advise approx. cost of timber structure.

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- III) Cllr Wilkins noted problems with a dog being walked in the play park which she had sought to address. Concern had been expressed about the demeanour of the dog; Cllr Wilkins to report matter to MDC.
- IV) It was noted that new grant funds were available from MDC.

2106/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Cllr Crowcombe asked the clerk to circulate details of the Wilmotts Permission for the new warehouse.
- ii) Cllr Fidge noted problems with footpaths on the Bath and West site.
- iii) Clerk to contact SM Landscape to clear overgrown areas of land in Prestleigh; Cllr Fidge to advise locations.

2106/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £373.33. This was agreed.
- ii) Information Commissioner fee £40.00. This was agreed.
- iii) Internal Auditor fee £80.00. This was agreed.
- iv) Acceptance of audited accounts to 31/03/2021. These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted unanimously.
- v) Internal Auditors Report. This had been circulated.
- vi) Completion and Agreement of Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21. Councillors unanimously agreed the Governance statement which was duly signed.
- vii) Completion and Agreement of Annual Accounting Statement for 2020/21. Councillors unanimously agreed the Annual Accounting Statement which was duly signed.
- viii) Confirmation of Electors Rights period in respect of accounts for 2020/21. The clerk confirmed that the period would start from 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

2106/11 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Crewe mentioned the proposed planting of trees for the Queens Jubilee in 2022.
- ii) Cllr Wilkins noted suspicious persons asking about caravans around Doultling
- iii) Cllr Goff mentioned noisy vehicles speeding in Chelynch Road.

2106/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – venue to be confirmed.

**Alan Butcher,**  
**Parish Clerk,**  
**18<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
**01749 870358;**  
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