

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2025 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

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

2510/1 - Apologies for absence. None.

2510/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2510/3 - 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. Four members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning:
Referring to the Local Transport Plan, a member of the public noted the lack of any bus service in either Doultong or Prestleigh.
A member of the public noted a recent LCN meeting about youth engagement which was poorly attended by local Parishes. Cllr Baker noted that communication about LCN meetings were often “last minute” and that no notes or minutes following meetings were produced. A forthcoming meeting in Shepton Mallet about Community Transport on 14th October was noted; Cllr Baker had received information about this although nothing had been sent to the clerk.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2510/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September 2025 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2510/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) **2025/1661/PAA** | Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 10no. dwelling houses. | Land At 363591 140245 Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4NJ. An objection had been received from a local resident. It was agreed to resubmit the Parish Councils previous objection and include the points raised by the local resident.
- ii) **2025/1618/PAA** | Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 3no. dwellinghouses (Class C3) & for associated operational development. | Barn At 365182 141263 Holcombe Lane Evercreech Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors had no comments or objections to these proposals.
- iii) A further re-consultation on the Moons Hill/Stoke Quarry extension applications had been received after the publication of the agenda for this meeting. These had been circulated. The clerk to review any changes and advise councillors if an extraordinary meeting to discuss the changes was required.
- iv) An application (2025/1740/VRC had been received just before the meeting. This concerned minor changes to an application approved for Evergreen House, Prestleigh Lane, Prestleigh. In reviewing the application at the meeting, councillors had no comments.
- v) Edge Tool Works. Clerk to discuss the footpath situation with Somerset Rights of Way.
- vi) Doultong Stone Quarry. Response from Somerset and MP and further actions. There had been no response to the email from Somerset; clerk to send follow up email.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Highway Maintenance update and Working Group. Cllr Baker was hoping to attend a meeting on 28th October 2025.
 - b. Volunteer Highway Maintenance scheme. The clerk had circulated various papers from Somerset referring to this scheme but it seemed that no specific information about registering or joining the scheme was in place currently.
 - c. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works and anticipated costs. Councillors expressed concern about taking on any works from Somerset Highways due to insurance and liability considerations on Doultling Parish Council. Councillors were unclear about the designation of the responsibilities of both the Parish Council and Somerset Council.

- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a. LCN – Report on recent meetings. No meetings had been attended, councillors expressed concern about the short notice given for meetings and the lack of any follow up paperwork.
 - b. Sunday parking charges consultation. Councillors had no comments to make.

- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a. Matters of report. No matters were reported.

- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officers report. Cllr Crewe reported that a new officer (name not included in these minutes) had taken over and was dealing with several footpath matters. She expressed concern that funding for the “strimmer operative” had been removed by Somerset and that a number of footpaths needed clearance. She noted that strimmer training was still available. It was suggested that SM Landscape could be approached to take on this task.

- v) Speedwatch. No watches had taken place; new volunteers were required to allow further watches to be organised.

- vi) SID’s information, Somerset MOU and purchase of equipment. Cllr Greaves tabled details of costs from three suppliers. He proposed that Westcotec be the preferred supplier given the the clerk had used this company for another council and that the price was in line with others received. They were also a preferred supplier for Somerset. Cllr Shepherd expressed some doubt in the effectiveness of these devices as well as the costs involved. Cllr Greaves noted that a grant had been obtained from A&S Police toward the costs of the installation. It was proposed Cllr Greaves, seconded Cllr Goff that Speed Indicator Devices be obtained from Westcotec Ltd within a budget of £5000 (VAT will be recoverable). Agreed five in favour with one against (Cllr Shepherd).
Clerk to update and submit MOU to Somerset; Cllr Greaves to advise if additional location should be added to the document.

- vii) Village Hall matters. Cllr Baker noted that wi-fi was to be installed and that cleaning and redecoration was to take place over coming months.

- viii) Somerset Local Plan. Details awaited from Somerset.

- ix) Somerset Bus Partnership. A meeting about a community bus service in Shepton Mallet on 14th October was noted.

- x) SALC Training. There were no takers for the current courses.

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- xi) Vehicles parked in various locations in Doultling. Cllr Baker confirmed that the vehicle parked in Chelynch Road was a highway land. Cllr Crewe had been advised that it was Somerset Councils responsibility to deal with instances such as this whereas the police would normally deal with crashed and abandoned vehicles. Clerk to contact Somerset.
- xii) Stone retaining walls in Well Lane. Cllr Baker had obtained a plan showing the extent of Parish Council land above Well Lane behind the stone retaining wall; he noted that that section of wall seemed to be in a fairly good condition. The section of wall which required attention was against land forming part of Doultling Manor. Clerk to contact landowner to advise that the wall needed inspection. The owners of the wall on the opposite side of Well Lane which bordered Bell House also to be advised that an inspection was required.

2510/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Cllr Baker reported on the recent meeting noting that more works to trees would be required. A useful meeting had been held with SM Landscape about the annual cut and that the enhancement of the name of the park was being considered. He reported that he would be in touch with someone who might become involved with the proposed refurbishment of the skate park. A new committee member (LT) was ratified and another possible new member to be contacted. The clerk thanked Cllr Baker for producing the minutes in his absence.

2510/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Matters of report. The willow shading shelter to be included on the next agenda.

2510/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. The possibility of a SID for Prestleigh was discussed.

2510/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £533.62. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £114.36. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Inspection invoice from Elite Playground had been received in the sum of £114.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Half year accounts to 30th September 2025. These were circulated by the clerk. The bank reconciliation was passed to Cllr Greaves for signature. On the clerks advice it was agreed to transfer the sum of £8000.00 to the Business Reserve Account.

2510/11 - Matters of Report

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

2510/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 12th November 2025 at Doultling Village Hall.
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
15th October 2025
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