

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 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

*Present:* Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chair), Ros Wilkins, John Shepherd, Ann Crowcombe and Jan Crewe; also in attendance Cllr Francis Hayden and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2103/1 - *Apologies for absence.* None received.

2103/2 - *Declarations of Interest:*

Cllr Crewe advised that her property overlooked the site of the planning application for Beech Close (2103/5i)

Voting procedures – as previously agreed, votes will be recorded.

2103/3 - *Public Forum:*

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting and allow a maximum of 15 minutes for public participation; one member of the public was present.

- i) Comments on planning applications. None received.
- ii) Matters on the Agenda. It was noted that the recycling of rubbish from the last litter pick had been completed. A suggestion that a plant screen could be erected at Padfield Green to absorb traffic pollution rather than a hedge was discussed.
- iii) Reports from District and County Councillors. Cllr Hayden advised that works were continuing on multi-user paths in the Mendip District linking Shepton Mallet with Frome and asked for suggestions/options for the path from Shepton Mallet to Doultling. A number of options were discussed and the footpath along the River Sheppey was put forward by councillors as the best option.
- iv) Report from the Police. A newsletter had been received and circulated.

2103/4 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were agreed as a true record with a minor amendment to 2102/6e; changed to read Cllr Crewe rather than Cllr Wilkins at the start of the third sentence. The chairman signed a hard copy of the minutes.

2103/5 - *Parish Council Response to Planning Applications*

- i) Application 2021/0191/HSE = erection of single storey rear extension and extension of garage at 1 Beech Close, Doultling BA4 4QE. Cllr Crewe advised that the applicants had spoken to neighbours about the proposals and there were no objections. No other comments had been received. It was agreed unanimously to support the application.
- ii) Application 22021/0231/HSE – Erection of car port and additional access at The Store House, Bodden lane, to Chelynch Road, Doultling. No comments had been received and councillors noted proposals were in keeping with the existing buildings. It was agreed unanimously to support the application.

Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
  - a) Cllr Crewe reported the following matters:
    - The road surface in Prestleigh Lane was deteriorating and would be reported to Highways.
    - She advised that matters concerning blocked drains and the like could be reported to Somerset CC via the website or a telephone number.
    - She reported information about works carried out by mechanical street sweepers.
    - She would contact Mendip about cleaning the bus shelter opposite The Abbey Barn.
    - She had requested traffic management information again.
    - In response to a further question about the re-surfacing of Well Lane, Cllr Crewe advised that she had reported two large and dangerous potholes to Highways but, after inspection by the engineer, he had decided to resurface the entire area rather than infill the potholes.
    - Cllr Fidge noted that there was still a large volume of rubbish on the verges of the roundabout at the top of Prestleigh Hill.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe reported that further surveys had been carried out and that additional surveys requested; that a stie had been replaced and she was awaiting new way markers.
- iii) Speedwatch – these would continue following the lifting of Covid restrictions.
- iv) SID's to Waterlip – Cllr Crowcombe advised that the location of the new post was yet to be decided and that funds were now available for the purchase of the new devices. The clerk advised that the Doulting device was covered in the insurance renewal. It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to the local companies involved in funding the devices.
- v) Trees on Parish land including tree near The Well. The clerk advised that the order had been placed for the removal of the tree near The Well. He also advised that the insurers had suggested that trees on Parish Land should be formally inspected by a qualified and insured arborist on a bi-annual basis. Clerk to seek quotations from suitable persons for this work. Cllr Crowcombe to advise if a local quarry had a specialist and also Beacon Hill Woods Society to check if they had a suitable specialist.
- vi) Extension to contract with Shepton mallet Landscapes and Schedule of Works. The clerk had circulated a schedule of landscape works which was agreed. The clerk had proposed that the existing contractor offered good value for money and was aware of the Parish Council requirements and that his contract should be extended for two years (until the end of 2022). This was agreed unanimously.
- vii) Doulting Village Hall update. Deferred until next meeting.

- viii) Climate and Eco Emergency actions:  
Cllr Fidge suggested that a committee should be formed to deal with these matters; Cllr Crewe wanted to conduct a survey via Facebook in the first instance. This was agreed.  
Proposed litter pick. Cllr Crewe noted that the “Great British Spring clean” was scheduled for late May/early June 2021 and that a litter pick would be organised to coincide with that event. Cllr Crowcombe noted that the A361 was heavily littered, she would ask if quarry operatives could deal with this matter. It was advised that rubbish had been dumped just over the wall to The Glebeland.  
Cllr Crewe advised that the collection of plastic tree guards from the quarry bund was scheduled for 13/14<sup>th</sup> March. She was to collect the bags from the quarry on Friday. Clerk to ask quarry owner if he could dispose of the plastic as originally discussed.  
A query was raised about a possible charging point for electric vehicles. Cllr Crewe advised that this was a matter which was dependant on future actions by Mendip DC and that, as such, there would be no charge to the Parish Council.
- ix) Somerset re-organisation – consultation runs until 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. After discussion, it was agreed to formulate a response at the next meeting; councillors to research options put forward by both proposals.
- x) Mendip Local Plan Main Modifications consultation until 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. The clerk advised that he had reviewed the documents and there was no change to proposals for Doultling.
- xi) Annual Parish and Parish Council meetings. Subject to an extension to Government Legislation on remote meetings, it was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, before the 6<sup>th</sup> May deadline for the legislation, as it was currently not possible due to current restrictions to hold a face to face meeting including members of the public in the premises available. This was agreed as an option which could be reviewed should the legislation change.  
It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting later in May rather than in April as normal when restrictions had been eased.

2103/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Confirmation of restricted activities. The clerk had circulated a draft of these which would be posted on the website. The restrictions were agreed and it was also agreed to post a most “user friendly” notice about barbeques at the entrance to the Glebeland.

2103/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) There was some discussion about the merits or otherwise of a hedge around Padfield Green. Cllr Wilkins advised that the screening or enclosure of play areas was not recommended because of child safety. A number of emails had been received objecting to the proposals. The suggestion of a plant screen along the A361 was noted but discounted. It was proposed Cllr Fidge, sec Cllr Wilkins that no further action be taken on the matter of the hedge around Padfield Green. This was agreed without objection.

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2103/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Cllr Crowcombe noted no progress on the culvert and that the Warehouse Planning application had been approved although the clerk had received no confirmation of this.

2103/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £367.03. This was agreed.
- ii) Payment of annual insurance premium from 01/04/21 to include Waterlip SID – Came and Co. £550.07. This was agreed.
- iii) Thanks from CAB for Grant from Parish Council. This was noted.

2103/11 - Matters of Report:

- i) Cllr Shepherd noted that the trees and part of the bund had been removed from the Woolf Stone site on the A361 and queried whether this affected the planning permission for the site. Clerk to check back on the permission granted.

2103/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be a virtual meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

**Alan Butcher,**  
**Parish Clerk,**  
**10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
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