

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

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

2410/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr John Shepherd.

2410/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2410/3 - 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. One member of the public was present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning.  
The planning application for Fig Tree Cottage was discussed and the lack of an arboriculture report noted.  
The lack of a response from Somerset regarding Doultling Stone Quarry was noted.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2410/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed unanimously and the minutes were signed by the chairman.

2410/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2024/1542/TPO - T1 - Lime - Fell Ref: M1326 | Fig Tree Cottage Well Lane Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE – Documents now available. Councillors noted that there was no arboriculture report with the documents, an essential requirement for tree works in a conservation area. Councillors felt that they were still unable to comment on the application; clerk to comment to the planners as such.
- ii) 2024/1650/FUL - Proposed Solar PV Farm with associated vehicular access and cable route to provide renewable electricity to Moonshill Quarry. Land South Of Old Wells Road Stoke St Michael Shepton Mallet Somerset. Cllr Baker had attended an open meeting about this application and gave a detailed account of the proposals. No comments had been received from the public and councillors had no comments. It was agreed unanimously to support the application.

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- iii) Doultling Stone Quarry:
  - a. Letter to Somerset Council and response. To date no response had been received to the Parish Council's letter from Somerset Council.
  - b. Further actions. It was agreed to send the letter again to all those who had received it before and to copy in the local MP to whom Cllr Baker had spoken on this and other matters.

2410/6 - 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. The clerk had signed up for the Enhanced maintenance scheme and was awaiting further information. It was agreed that councillors should prepare a schedule of highway works required around the parish with a view to preparing costings for those works.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
- iii) LCN meeting – Monday 30 September 2024 – Shepton Mallet Local Community Network.

The meeting was attended by Cllrs Baker and Greaves. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Ham with the assistance of a Somerset Liaison Officer. Both attendees felt that whilst the meeting was good for networking with other councils they did not have much input into the proceeding with the outcome being less than positive. There had been a brief discussion about Beacon Hill crossroads and flooding in various areas, the lack of clearance of road drainage, proposals for changes to Highway maintenance including costing and liability for parish Councils.
- iv) Highways and traffic –
  - a) Doultling Hill drainage and signs. It was noted that recent heavy rain had not affected Doultling Hill as badly as previously. There had been no works to signage as previously promised.
  - b) Village gateways. There was a general discussion about the provision of gateways in Doultling and Prestleigh including logistics and costs. It was agreed not to proceed with gateways at this time.

There was also a short discussion about speed limits on the A361 and the possibility of a reduction to 40mph between Doultling and Cranmore. It was suggested that the construction of a new access into Doultling Quarry off of the A361 could make speed limit changes a feasible proposition. This matter could be raised at the next LCN meeting.
- v) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe reported that the replacement footpath at the Edge Tool Works was now in place. Path surveys had been curtailed due to the wet weather. A query was raised about the footpath from Kings Road to Farm Road.

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- vi) Speedwatch. More volunteers are required. A query was raised about the requirement for volunteers to re-register by the end of September and whether this had actually taken place.
- vii) SID's information, requirements and grant. Cllr Crewe advised that the release of new grants was from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024.
- viii) Village Hall matters:
  - a. Cllr Baker noted the the account for the recent car park registration process would be paid by the village hall.
  - b. Cllr Baker to check on the bar licensing status which should be transferred to the trustees. He noted a trustees meeting is required.
- ix) Bus shelter cleaning. Cllr Goff to ask a local window cleaner if he could carry out these works.
- x) Playground and skate park inspections. A quotation is awaited for the repair works.
- xi) Flood and Emergency Plans. These are in hand; listed emergency venues to be confirmed.
- xii) Better Buses for Somerset correspondence. No further correspondence had been received.
- xiii) Parish Mapping initiative. Cllr Baker advised that nothing was happening with this initiative; matter to be removed from agenda.

2410/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Replacement fencing and other matters. Clearance works to the skate park vegetation had been completed by volunteers.  
Mary Newman had spoken to SM Landscape about a number of matters including bramble clearance. She noted that the paths had been cleared to a good standard by SM Landscape.
- ii) Essential tree works – JK Tree Services quote £380 has been instructed.
- iii) Agreement to proceed with arrangements for tree survey – amended cost £896.80 to include trees in the Well area. This was agreed and instruction to proceed issued.

2410/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Commemorative Tree. The clerk had spoken to SM Landscape who had advised that the tree had been positioned away from overhead cables and away from the adjoining boundary rather than in the originally specified location. The placing of a plaque on the tree to be considered next spring.
- ii) Sun shading structure and hedge proposals. It was agreed to postpone the installation of the willow structure until March 2025 due to current wet weather.
- iii) Padfield Green inspection reports and remedial works. See above.

2410/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. No further information on this matter.
- ii) Other Matters of report. Cllr Goff noted that sandbags had been requested for Prestleigh but were yet to materialise; Cllr Crewe to investigate.

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2410/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £506.68 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £107.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) SALC Affiliation Fee - £178.72 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Parish Council Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and Budget Review. Provisional accounts were circulated. These would be updated and circulated when an up to date statement was received from the bank

2410/11 - Matters of Report:

- i) Clerk to write to Somerset above approval for tipping in Ham Quarry.
- ii) Cllr Baker to resurrect the Neighbourhood Plan process and funding options to be investigated.
- iii) A community Litter pick was scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- iv) Flytipping was reported near the railway bridge in Brambleditch.
- v) The car parked by the Doultling Notice Board was apparently SORN'd and should not be parked on the road, this had been reported.
- vi) Lorry damage to roads and verges was reported near the parish boundary at Winterwell Farm.
- vii) The clerk reported that a notification had been received and circulated concerning Manor Farm, Prestleigh but that this was a notification – no comment application.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

2410/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024. It was agreed to enquire if the meeting could be held at the Bath and West showground.

Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,**  
**Parish Clerk,**  
**17<sup>th</sup> October 2024**  
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