

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 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)

2401/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr John Shepherd.

2401/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2401/3 - 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. Eight members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning applications.  
A suggestion was made about grants for tree planting.  
The matter of recent flooding in Prestleigh was raised.  
The matter of the Moons Hill Quarry applications was raised and concerns noted about the closeness of the proposed extension to properties and the Wagon and Horses pub and the affect the extension would have on the latter's business.  
Concerns about the landscape, wildlife and the environment were raised as well as the impact of noise, dust and pollution. It was noted that the quarry had permission to continue until 2034 and there could be no seeming reason to extend this for 50 years although it was noted that possible legislation restricting the location of quarries away from properties could be a factor in applications of this sort now.  
Cllr Goff noted that the whole community has concerns about these proposals.  
Concern was also expressed about the length of the consultation period for large and complex applications such as this one where many documents needed to be viewed to gain a full idea of what was being proposed.  
A question was raised about the Parish Council Facebook page which was answered by Cllr Baker.  
The drains on Doultling Hill were again the subject of concern following recent heavy rain and it was confirmed that the Parish Council had written to highways again on the matter.
- ii) Somerset Councillors report. This had been circulated.

2401/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2401/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) SCC/4081/2023 Moons Hill Quarry Complex Stoke St Michael Radstock Somerset BA3 5JU  
Section 73 Planning Application to vary Planning Conditions 2, 8, 49, 50 and 51 of Planning Permission ref: M25/1/76 dated 9th December 2003 to amend the working

- plans, restoration requirements and end dates to facilitate the Extension of Stoke Quarry
- ii) SCC/4082/2023 Moons Hill Quarry Stoke St Michael Radstock Somerset BA3 5JU Planning Application for the Extension of Stoke Quarry.
  - iii) SCC/4079/2023 Moons Hill Quarry Complex Stoke St Michael Radstock Somerset BA3 5JU  
Application to vary Planning Conditions 1, 7, 37 and 38 of Planning Permission ref: IDO/M/24/B dated 11th July 1995 to amend the working plans, restoration requirements and end dates to facilitate the Extension of Stoke Quarry (Notice of determination of conditions to which an Interim Development Order (IDO) Permission is to be subject relating to IDO-M-24-B- Section 73 Planning
  - iii) SCC/4080/2023 Moons Hill Quarry Complex Stoke St Michael Radstock Somerset BA3 5JU  
Section 73 Planning Application to vary Planning Conditions 1, 7, 37 and 38 of Planning Permission ref: IDO/M/26/B dated 11th July 1995 to amend the working plans, restoration requirements and end dates to facilitate the Extension of Stoke Quarry.
- Concern had been expressed about the notification and consultation process for these applications. It was noted that a public meeting had been held about the applications but that it appeared that comments and complaints had not been taken into account.
- It was noted that the Wagon and Horse pub was a listed building which would be affected by these proposals.
- It was also noted that these applications extended the life of the quarry until 2080. It was noted that there were no proposals in the application that the volume of traffic would increase although it was also noted that, at times, the traffic plan for the existing quarry operations was ignored with lorries travelling through Stoke St Michael which was prevented by the traffic plan.
- It was noted that neither of the Somerset councillors had been involved in any discussions about the application.
- It was proposed Cllr Goff, seconded Cllr Yoell that the Parish Council object to all these applications, this was agreed unanimously. Clerk to write detailed objection and circulate the following morning for agreement and submission by 4pm on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024, last closing date of the consultation.
- iv) Pre-application by Clarke Telecom for upgrade to radio base station at The Bath and West Showground. After a short discussion, it was proposed Cllr Goff, seconded Cllr Baker that the council had no objections to the proposals. This was agreed unanimously.

2401/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Assets and Service Devolution proposals. Councillors discussed the various draft proposals published by Somerset but were concerned about the lack of detail and costings available to the Parish Council in advance of the setting of the precept. No decisions were likely to be made BY Somerset before Parish Councils had to submit their precept details which councillors agreed had put them in a very difficult position in setting their budget where they would have to make allowance to cover a reduction in services by Somerset without adequate information.

- ii) Somerset Council matters
  - a) LCN meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Clerk to send apologies on behalf of Doultling.
  - b) Budget setting consultation to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. This public consultation was noted.
  - c) Road closure costs. A suggestion from Shepton Mallet TC to combine applications for road closures due to increased costs was noted but, currently, there were no road closures planned for Doultling parish.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
  - a) Parking in Church Lane/village hall car park. Cllr Goff was meeting with the Vicar to discuss the matter and would report back in due course.
  - b) Flooding in Merryfield Lane. A road closure was in place to allow for roadworks.
  - c) Doultling Hill drainage and signs. Cllr Crewe had written to highways, Clerk also to write to raise the matter. Councillors noted that there were several locations in the parish which had been affected by flooding over recent weeks.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe was restarting surveys and noted a blocked footpath at Hurlingpot Farm. She would also be meeting with Rights of Way to discuss a number of matters.
- v) Speedwatch and SID's. Cllr Crewe had spoken to Somerset about the location of SID's on the A361 and also the use of ANPR devices which were now approved by the police for use. Cllr Crewe noted the Stoke St Michael has installed these devices.
- vi) Village Hall matters. The works to the ceiling had been completed.  
The question of registration of the car park land was discussed, it was noted that this could cost up to £1000 in fees and charges. It was also noted that the access into the car park was not owned by the village hall.
- vii) Neighbourhood Plan proposals. Cllr Baker reported that the next round of meetings were being organised for the end of January.
- viii) Somerset CCS Community Review. This had been submitted by the clerk but nothing had been received in response.
- ix) Fibre Broadband offer for Doultling. This was now proceeding.
- x) Sign at St Aldhelms Well Cllr Baker presented a quotation for £302 for a new sign from a local stone mason. This was agreed. An upfront payment was required which was also agreed.
- xi) Appointment of Quarry Liaison representative. Cllr Yoell to take on this role.
- xii) Police Precept consultation. Councillors had responded individually.
- xiii) Annual Parish Meeting date. This was set for 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 starting at 7pm.

2401/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Glebeland Budget for 2024/25. The meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 had not taken place and would be rescheduled toward the end of January.

2401/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Tree planting. Clerk to check previous details provided by Cllr Crewe.
- ii) Sun shading structure and green wall proposals.
- iii) Funding and grants for proposed works.  
The shelter and funding were held over until the next meeting.

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2401/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Contact details for Bath and West Showground. The clerk had emailed the showground and was awaiting a reply.

2401/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £473.28 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £107.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) St Aldhelms Well sign, Andrew D James. £302.00 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Finalisation and agreement of Budget for 2024/25 and setting of precept.  
The clerk had updated the budget for 2023/24 and for the following years from 2024/25 which was circulated. As agreed Cllrs Baker and Greaves had reviewed the budget in respect of possible service cuts by Somerset. They had proposed that the precept should be increased to bolster reserves given that, currently, no details or costing of cuts were known.  
A proposal that the precept for the next three years be set at £28,000 was discussed and Cllr Goff expressed disquiet about such an increase when the precept for 2023/24 had been £14,500. After further discussion the budget put forward by the RFO was agreed but with the precept set at £23,000 instead of the £15,500 proposed. The increase would be included within the budget as £1,500 to cover increased costs with the figure of £16,000 being comparative with the 2023/24 precept (£14,500 + £1,500) and the sum of £7000 being ringfenced in reserves to cover any shortfall of services provided by Somerset. The budget and increased precept were proposed by Cllr Crewe, seconded by Cllr Greaves and agreed unanimously.

2401/11 - Matters of Report

- i) The siting of caravans at a site near Waterlip was noted. Clerk to contact enforcement
- ii) . Concern about works being undertaken at Hurlingpot Farm were raised. The clerk noted he had reported this matter to Planning Enforcement.
- iii) There was a brief discussion about the footpath behind the school.

2401/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Forthcoming meetings:

13<sup>th</sup> March; 10<sup>th</sup> April; 8<sup>th</sup> May (APCM)

**Alan Butcher,**  
**Parish Clerk,**  
**19<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
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