

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2022 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Sarah Goff (Chair), Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd, Jan Crewe, Simon Baker; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2210/01 - Apologies for absence. None.

2210/02 – Co-option of one additional councillor. No candidates had come forward.

2210/03 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Baker declared an interest in agenda item 2210/06i

2210/04 - 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. Six members of the public were present.

- i) Complaints had been made about the roadworks on the A361 at The Thatched Cottage. These were over running and causing lengthy traffic hold-ups. The costs of the over running works were queried and it was suggested that Somerset Highways could be contacted about those costs.

2210/05 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 4th August 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record with a correction to item 2208/07ic to read Farrington Lane.

2210/06 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) 2022/1832/TCA | Ash trees x 2 - pollard to 1.5m | Well House Well Lane Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE.
Cllr Baker left the meeting at this point.
After a short discussion, Councillors agreed to support the application.
Cllr Baker re-joined the meeting.

2210/08 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic:
 - a) Traffic problems on the A361 had been discussed with highways.
 - b) The grit bins as identified were to be refilled
 - c) The drainage grips at Ball Lane had been dug out.
- ii) Highways Merryfield Lane/Farrington Lane junction – Cllr Crewe Somerset road safety officer.
- iii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Some strimming had been carried out.

- iv) Speedwatch and SID's – new volunteers were being recruited and some watches had taken place.
The matter of traffic negotiating Well Lane at speed was discussed, Cllr Crewe to investigate signage available and other options.
- v) New Somerset Council matters – LCN Information published. Cllr Goff outlined recent discussions between parishes and the options available for the proposed Local Community Networks. Councillors agreed that function was as important as form and that, as a parish, an ideal situation would be to be grouped with other parishes with similar interests and problems. Additionally, the Parish Council agreed that the LCN should represent their concerns including Highways and Highway infrastructure, speeding traffic, health provision, quarry issues, policing, planning including the local plan and developments and local services and resources. Clerk to prepare and submit response.
- vi) Parish Council IT and website. Cllr Baker was improving website links.
- vii) Hearing loop for community room. Cllr Baker had looked at two options; option 1 which was a desktop mounted system or option 2 which involved a loop around the room and a connection point for equipment. After discussion it was agreed to pursue option 2, Cllr Baker to seek costs for the installation.

2210/09 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Report of Committee Meeting 11th October 2022 – the committee had met earlier in the day, the committee had identified a beech tree that needed attention and asked the Parish Council employ JK Tree Services to carry out the work. This was agreed. It was also noted that the west hedge would be laid this year for which a quote was awaited.
- ii) Skate Park problems. The committee had visited the skate park and noted problems with the tarmac on the slope and water ponding at one end of the park as well as graffiti some of which had now been covered over. There was a general discussion about whether the skate park was still being used by many people. Cllr Shepherd felt that similar facilities were now less used as other attractions had replaced skate boarding. Concern was expressed about the deterioration of the ramps and the continuing graffiti problems. It was agreed to monitor usage and to install a surveillance camera with suitable signage to curb vandalism. It was also agreed to raise funds for the skate park after completion of Padfield Green works.
- iii) New litter bin. This had been ordered.

2210/10 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) New equipment – quotations and details circulated.
Three quotations had been received for trim trail equipment as supplied by each quoting company.

The results were:

Company 1 - £11,858

Company 2 - £14,976

Company 3 - £15,661

After a review of the equipment proposed, Councillors voted unanimously to accept the quote from Company 1 in the sum of £11,858 excluding VAT.

Clerk to place order and organise paperwork to complete the grant process.

The clerk noted that a grant of £1000 had been received from local quarries.

The total grant funded was £6000, Councillors agreed to fund the remainder of the cost from the council's own resources.

2210/11 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) A new representative for Prestleigh. No one had come forward.
- ii) Cllr Goff now had contact details for the Bath and West.

2210/12 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £707.96 (August and September) – This was agreed.
- ii) Payment of O J Landscapes invoice for erection of fencing £950.14. This cheque had been raised prior to the meeting and was in accordance with the accepted quotation. This was agreed.
- iii) Payment of Annual Inspection invoice from SPFA. £190.00 – this was agreed.
- iv) Accounts to 30th September 2022 – these were circulated, the bank reconciliation was agreed and signed by Cllr Crewe.
- v) Updated Financial Regulations. These to be adopted at the next meeting.

2210/13 - Matters of Report

- i) Thank you cards had been sent to Glebeland volunteers.
- ii) Cllrs Crewe and Baker were involved with Somerset Resilience Day.
- iii) Clerk to book Neighbour Planning Training for Cllrs Crewe and Baker when next advertised by SALC.
- iv) Details of the new Somerset Council discussions to be included in the village magazine.
- v) Cllr Crewe suggested that the Community Room could be used to provide a warm space for residents over the winter. This would be subject to agreement with the school

2210/14 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Thursday 10th November, provisionally at The Prestleigh Inn.

Alan Butcher,

Parish Clerk,

25th October 2022

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