

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.40pm.**

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

2312/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Jan Crewe and Bruce Yoell.

2312/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2312/3 - 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 and one apology had been received.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning applications.  
A query about the village hall car park was raised and it was confirmed that the school used the car park under licence. It could be used for public parking although it was suggested that robust signage was required to ensure that long term parking did not take place. The poor condition of the footpath between Church Lane and the car park was discussed. It was suggested that improvements should be sought. It was noted that there was no disabled access along the footpath but it was noted that disabled parking should be by the church. The continued problem of parking for church events was raised and a proposal that the church was seeking a time limited parking zone in Church Lane noted. Cllr Greaves noted that, at times, no vehicles were parked in Church Lane.  
The matter of poor drainage on Doult Hill was raised and comments about the poor drainage made. It was also noted that the displaced signs remained unresolved.  
A request that the letter of the Fire Brigade mentioned at the last meeting be published.
- ii) Somerset Councillors report. A report from Cllr Clarke had been circulated.

2312/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be agreed and signed as a true record. It was agreed unanimously that the minutes were a true record which were duly signed by the Chairman.

2312/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2023/2188/HSE and 2189/LBC | Conversion of Barn to Ancillary Accommodation. Alterations to Existing Kitchen Roof. | Oriel Cottage 51 Church Lane Doult Hill Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE. Cllr Baker gave a short resume of the applications noting objections made about parking. He advised that existing on-site parking was retained. Proposed Cllr Baker; seconded Cllr Greaves that the application be supported, all in favour.
- ii) 2023/2308/APP | Approval of details reserved by conditions 4 (Implementation of wildlife scheme) building consent 2023/0438/FUL. | Southway Scania Ltd Ball Lane To Piers Road Waterlip Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4RN. Councillors had no comments to make about this application.
- iii) 2023/2334/HSE | Erection of a Storage Building & Compensatory Bat Roost | Land At 364567 144070 Hurlingpot Farm Kings Road Doult Hill Shepton Mallet Somerset. Cllr Baker gave a resume of the application advising that this was required to fulfil a Natural England condition about a bat roost contained in the original application for the barn conversion which could not be fulfilled within a specified time limit. Noting the imposed time limit, councillors agreed to leave the matter to the planning officer.

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- iv) Applications referring to Moons Hill Quarry had been received on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, too late to be included on the agenda for this meeting. The due date was 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The clerk had asked for an extension until 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 noting that the planning officer was away until 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023. It was agreed to consider an extraordinary meeting should the extension not be granted.

2312/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Assets and Service Devolution proposals.  
Cllr Baker had represented the parish at a well-attended SALC AGM where representative from Somerset Council had addressed the meeting and answered questions. The clerk had also attended an on-line meeting of clerks to consider the devolution proposals.  
All agreed that, at present, there were insufficient details of the possible cuts to services, the required involvement of parish councils or the cost to parish councils of providing such services. There was general agreement that the Parish Council should consider raising and setting aside monies to cover the cost of future services.  
Regarding assets, Cllr Baker advised that the assets available in Doultling were the Padfield Green car park which also appeared to include the pavement to one side of Chelynch Road. Councillors agreed that taking on these assets could represent an unacceptable liability to the Parish Council in the future.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
  - a) LCN update Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Clerk to attend the online meeting.
  - b) Next LCN meeting date? This had not been confirmed.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
  - a) Parking in Church Lane. The earlier discussion was noted and the matter of the footpath to be included on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Goff tried to make contact with the church without success, Cllr Greaves to advise contact details.
  - b) Flooding in Merryfield Lane. This remained a problem.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Nothing to report.
- v) Speedwatch and SID's. Nothing to report.
- vi) Village Hall matters. It ceiling had, at last, been repaired and was awaiting a second coat of paint.
- vii) Neighbourhood Plan proposals. Nothing to report.
- viii) Somerset CCS Community Review. An application had been made by the clerk.
- ix) Fibre Broadband offer for Doultling. Cllr Baker noted that this was now being rolled out
- x) Sign at St Aldhelms Well. Cllr Baker had contacted a stone mason.
- xi) Appointment of Quarry Liaison representative. Held over until next meeting.
- xii) Upcoming SALC Training events. Cllr Greaves had signed up; clerk to speak to Cllr Yoell.

2312/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Nothing to report.

2312/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Tree planting.
- ii) Sun shading structure and green wall proposals.
- iii) Funding and grants for proposed works.  
There had been no further progress on these items.

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2312/9 - *Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.*

- i) Concern was expressed about the number of events being cancelled at the Bath and West Showground. Clerk to write to the showground management to invite them to give an update at a future meeting as had been done in the past.

2312/10 - *Financial:*

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £482.76. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £95.47. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Payment of SPFA subscription - £15.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Payment of village hall invoice for venue hire - £144.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) Draft Budget for 2024/25 – The clerk had circulated a draft budget showing anticipated year-end figures and proposals for the following years. There was a general discussion about the effect on the budget and precept of cuts in Somersets provided services. Cllrs Baker and Greaves to discuss the possibility of raising additional funds via the precept for inclusion in the final budget. The budget for 2024/25 to be agreed at the next meeting.

2312/11 - *Matters of Report*

- i) Cllr Goff noted the circulation from the Police about an increase in their precept. This consultation was due back before 22<sup>nd</sup> January; to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- ii) The clerk had circulated a consultation from the Rivers Authority which was due back be 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Councillors to respond individually if they so desired.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

2312/12 - *Date and Time of Next Meeting*

16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Subject to the Moons Hill Quarry planning application requested extension, an extraordinary meeting could be called on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
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