

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 12th January 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge, Ros Wilkins, Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd, Jan Crewe and Sarah Goff (joined at 7.50pm); also in attendance Cllr Francis Hayden and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2101/1 - *Apologies for absence.* None received.

2101/2 - *Declarations of Interest:* Cllr Crewe declared a personal interest in item 2101/6v) – one of the tenderers was a neighbour. There were no other declarations.

Voting procedures – request for recording of votes to be confirmed. It was agreed unanimously to amend Standing Orders to include the recording of votes at every meeting.

2101/3 - *Public Forum:*

No members of the public were present and no matters were raised.

- i) Reports from District and County Councillors. Cllr Hayden reported that Mendip DC was now concentrating on a core of items; Public Health, Statutory Services and Supporting Business. All district councils in Somerset were now co-operating on a recovery plan partly based on the Stronger Somerset proposal. He reported that the Climate and Eco Group set up in 2019 would now fall under the Scrutiny Committee and its status would be re-considered. He noted that, from observation, the water at the bottom of Doultling Hill was flowing up of the adjoining lane where the drainage grips were blocked.
- ii) There was no report from Cllr Ham.
- iii) Report from the Police. The clerk had corresponded with the police who hoped to provide a more specific report in the coming months.

2101/4 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 8th December 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record. The chairman had signed a hard copy of the minutes.

2101/5 - *Parish Council Response to Planning Applications*

- i) No planning applications were received before the preparation of the agenda.
- ii) Planning applications decided.
Application 2020/1887/HSE – Conversion of garage to dwelling. Granted.
Application 2020/2380/HSE – Installation of a new window at The Second Barn, Prestleigh Lane, Prestleigh. Granted. These were noted.

2101/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
 - a) Problems with a culvert at Waterlip. This was now in hand with Wainwrights.
 - b) Signs for the churchyard. These had been erected; thanks was given to Cllr Shepherd for the post supplied.
 - c) Prestleigh roadworks. A lengthy email had been received from Highways outlining the notifications given prior to the previous roadworks and other details about the works and co-ordination of same. Cllr Fidge noted that, as mentioned at the time of the works, no notifications had been received by anyone in Prestleigh.
 - d) Other highway matters. Cllr Wilkins had received correspondence about vehicles entering the school at excessive speeds. It was noted that the reduction in vehicles going to the school had allowed some vehicles speed through Chelynch Park and into the school without apparent regard for Highway or pedestrian safety. Clerk to write to the school, diocese, Somerset County Council and the Police.
 - e) Cllr Wilkins had received a complaint from a parishioner about hedges overhanging the pavement in Church Lane. It was also noted that there was an overhanging tree in Beech Close. Cllr Fidge also noted an overhanging hedge in Prestleigh, she would speak to the landowner in this regard. It was agreed to put a note on the website asking landowners to trim back hedges causing an obstruction.
 - f) Cllr Crewe reported that she had been advised that the blocked drains on Maesdown Road had been cleared when , in fact, they were still blocked. She also noted water and mud at the bottom of Doultling Hill. She had been advised that the proposed re-surfacing of Doultling Hill would now not take place in 2020/21 but that the drainage would be upgraded in the year 2021/22.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe reported that some brambles had been cleared by the strimmer man. It was noted that the footpath diversion at Waterlip had been approved.
- iii) Speedwatch. Nothing to report.
- iv) SID's to Waterlip. Finance from local businesses and individuals was available to purchase two SID's to be positioned at Waterlip, one in Doultling Parish and one in Cranmore Parish. Somerset County Council had sent documentation to cover the positioning of these devices, the clerk noted a number of obligations on the Parish Council in respect of indemnity and the like. He also noted that the cost of £200 for additional mounting posts was included in the documents, Cllr Crowcombe to check if this charge will be levied for the Doultling device.

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- v) Volunteers managing the devices require Chapter 8 training, the Parish Council had already agreed to fund one such training course at £175.00. Clerk to check with insurers about any additional premium payable to cover this device.
- vi) Ash trees near The Well. The clerk had circulated a summary of the four tenders received for removing one tree which was overhanging the road. Tenders should remain confidential until the contractor to carry out the works is selected.
As the tree is in a Conservation Area an application to Mendip District Council is required. There was some discussion about traffic management during the felling of the tree. It was noted that the adjoining owner had agreed that access to the site could be gained via his property. The clerk advised that an application should be made to Somerset County Council in connection with road closures and traffic management. Clerk to make this application.
There was some discussion about the removal of the bulk timber from site and it was agreed to ask those tenderers who had not allowed to remove the timber to provide an additional price for the removal. The clerk is to write to the three lower tenderers to confirm their proposals for traffic management and to seek details of insurances and risk assessments. The final decision on the matter to be made at the February meeting.
- vii) Doultong Village Hall update and recent correspondence. Cllr Goff noted the problem with metal posts in the car park which needed to be infilled. She had had further correspondence with the school. The clerk had sent the documents held by the Parish Council. Cllr Goff asked if the clerk could review the documents in respect of the car park ownership and maintenance.
- viii) Climate and Eco Emergency actions. Cllr Crewe had circulated a draft plan; it was agreed to review this at the next meeting.
- ix) Road Safety Fund. Awaiting Somerset County Council site visit.
- x) Somerset re-organisation. Cllr Hayden advised that the documentation had been sent to the Government and that there would be no further campaigning on the proposals.
- xi) Westdown Quarry. Cllr Crowcombe had reviewed the documents and responded.
- xii) SALC Training events. The clerk had circulated details of forthcoming events.

2101/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) There was a general discussion about works in the Glebeland and the need for further volunteers. The clerk to circulate details of the Deed relating to permitted activities in The Glebeland.

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2101/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) SPFA loans and funding. Cllr Wilkins reported little progress on obtaining funding due to the current situation with Covid. Clerk to check details of SPFA Loan scheme.

2101/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Speeding lorries through Waterlip. A letter had been received from the company concerning the speeding lorries.
- ii) Cllr Fidge noted the likelihood of more traffic through Prestleigh when the vaccination centre opened.
- iii)

2101/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £361.03. This was agreed.
- ii) Payment to HMRC – Quarter 3 tax. £238.80. This was agreed.
- iii) Interim accounts and bank reconciliation to 31st December 2020. These were noted; clerk to forward reconciliation to Cllr Crewe.
- iv) Finalisation of budget for 2021 – 2022 and setting of Precept. The clerk had updated the budget in line with the interim accounts and this was agreed. It was agreed unanimously to set the precept for 2021/22 at £14,000.00
- v) Request from CAB for Grant from Parish Council. It was agreed unanimously to give a grant of £100.00

2101/11 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Crewe advised items which would be included in the Parish Magazine.
- ii) Cllr Crewe advised that a litter pick was being arranged as part of the climate and eco actions. She suggested that the remains of the plastic tree guards along the quarry bund should be removed and asked if the landowner could be contacted to remove them. Cllr Wilkins suggested that it would be better if these were removed by volunteers and that the landowner should be asked if access to the land could be granted. Clerk to write to the landowner.

2101/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be a virtual meeting on 9th February 2021

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
18th January 2021
01749 870358;
doultingclerk@gmail.com