

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 12th JULY 2022 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

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

2207/01 - Apologies for absence. Cllr Crowcombe.

2207/02 – Co-option of one additional councillor following elections.

No candidates had come forward.

2207/03 - Declarations of Interest:

No declarations were made.

2207/04 - Public Forum:

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting and allow a maximum of 15 minutes for public participation. One member of the public was present, no matters were raised.

2207/05 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd June 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2207/06 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) SCC/3795/2021
Works ancillary to the operation and restoration of Westdown Quarry, including the construction of an upgraded access, on land that sits outside the ROMP and IDO boundaries.
It was noted that there was already permission for the quarrying works but this application was connected with access outside of the existing quarry area. Cllr Baker had looked through the application which ran to many pages. There were many concerns including increased traffic, environmental impact, effect on wildlife, noise and the destruction of an ancient woodland.
It was noted that amongst the comments from other parishes, the wildlife trust, etc that there was lack of information for consultees to make an informed decision and there was uncertainty as to when the decision would be made.
Cllr Shepherd felt that the comments about traffic were overstated given that electric vehicles would become common in the near future which would reduce noise and pollution.
It was agreed to respond with comments about traffic, environment, wildlife and lack of information concerns

2207/08 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – Cllr Crewe reported the following highway matters:
 - a) That roadworks on Sleight Hill would bring additional traffic onto the A361.
 - b) That treeworks in the church yard would be dealt with by traffic lights on the A361.
 - c) That works at the Thatched Cottage junction would start on 21st July.

- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report:
Cllr Crewe reported that the new “strimmerman” was now fully trained and dealing with paths as required.
- iii) Speedwatch and SID’s. Cllr Crewe reported that a new co-ordinator was taking over in August and that there had been two watches in Doultling recently.
- iv) Councillors Training events. Cllrs Crewe and Baker had attended training events.
- v) Somerset Council matters. The clerk reported on the meeting of parishes held on 7th July and that a group had been formed to liaise during the process of the formation of the new council. The meeting had agreed to widen its scope to include parishes Mendip wide.
- vi) Parish Council IT and website. Cllr Baker tabled a reported (appended to these minutes). He noted that the Parish Council website needed updating in two areas, clerk to action these updates. It was noted that the administrator for the Facebook page needed to be changed to a generic address. Cllr Baker to advise on use of parish council emails rather than personal addresses. It was agreed to purchase the domain “doultling.org” for use by the village website.
- vii) Matters arising from the Annual Inspection of the Skate Park and Padfield Green. See relevant sections /09 and /10 below.
- viii) Hearing loop for community room. Following a request from a member of the public the clerk had investigated hearing loop options. Previously a quote for £2000 + had been discussed but options were available for less than £1000. Cllr Baker to investigate further.

2207/09 - *Matters relating to The Glebeland:*

- i) Blocked footpath and fencing. The clerk had yet to write to the various parties. Cllr Crewe to check if the blockage was still in place.
- ii) Skate park. Offensive graffiti had been sprayed in the skate park and the matter reported to Mendip DC who had contacted the clerk. It was agreed to spray over the offensive material, clerk/Cllr Shepherd to organise paint.
- iii) It was noted that areas of the Skate Park were overgrown and that the presence of snakes, possibly adders, had been reported.

2207/10 - *Matters relating to Padfield Green.*

- i) New equipment – options had been circulated. Councillors were generally agreed that some form of Trim Trail should be installed plus the possibility of a pirate ship subject to cost. Clerk to circulate trail options to enable quotes to be obtained.
- ii) The clerk outlined concerns highlighted in the recent safety inspection included problems with the climbing tower. Cllr Shepherd and the clerk to meet on site on 13th July to review the problems.
- iii) New fencing. This was to be installed week commencing 18th July.

2207/11 - *Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.*

- i) A new representative for Prestleigh. No one had yet come forward.
- ii) NASS. The recent NASS event at the Showground had caused a number of problems and the former chairman had written to the council outlining those problems. Cllr Goff had attended a meeting when the lack of information was mentioned as well as problems with the times of arrival, traffic entering the site, attendees walking along

Draft Minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

the A371, problems with site security and security in Prestleigh. There had been complaints about noise, but complainers were unable to contact the designated line set up for this purpose.

2207/12 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £373.03 This was agreed.
- ii) Payment of election costs. £100.00. This was agreed.
- iii) Payment of ICO renewal fee. £40.0. This was agreed.
- iv) Payment of SALC invoice for Training. £25.00. This was agreed.
- v) The invoice for playground inspections was not received before the meeting.
- vi) Interim Accounts to 30th June 2022. These were circulated and the bank reconciliation signed by Cllr Crewe.

2207/13 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Shepherd reported on a conversation with the owner of Doultong Quarry concerning the land to the west of the school.
- ii) Cllr Crewe noted he Somerset County Council household support fund which was available and that funding had been provided for three domestic abuse advisors.
- iii) Cllr Goff reported on a bus partnership meeting and noted that some funding would be withdrawn in October 2022 but a cap on fares could be introduced
- iv) Cllr Crewe asked about the jubilee tree, it was agreed that a rowan costing around £125 should be provided, final details to be agreed at the next meeting.

2207/14 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting – Thursday 4th August 2022 at Doultong Village Hall.

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
20th July 2022
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doultongclerk@gmail.com**