

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

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

2303/01 - Apologies for absence. Cllr Crowcombe.

2303/02 – Co-option of one additional councillor.

Cllr Baker advised that a candidate could come forward for co-option in the near future.

2303/03 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2303/04 - 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. Four members of the public were present. Matters raised included:

- i) The matter of the health consultation was raised. Councillors confirmed that they would be responding individually and would welcome comments from members of the public.
- ii) A report on the recent litter pick was given, concern was expressed about the number of empty alcohol bottles collected and the need for a specialist collection of a petrol container noted.
- iii) Thanks was given to the clerk for the surface repairs in the skate park.
- iv) It was noted that a number of road signs were at the bottom of their posts or had been turned around.
- v) Continuing drainage problems on Doultling Hill were noted; Cllr Crewe confirmed that these had been reported to Highways.
- vi) Concern was expressed about the continuing lack of a sixth councillor.

2303/05 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were agreed unanimously and signed as a true record.

2303/06 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

No applications were received before the publication of the agenda.

2303/08 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic –
  - a) Roadworks list requested by Cllr Ham – this had been sent and the proposed meeting held although the outcome was not known.

- b) Padfield Green wall – this had been partly repaired.
- c) The matter of road signs and drains would be reported again to highways.
- d) The matter of the displaced or turned road signs would also be reported.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe confirmed she had walked the footpath through the paddock above the Glebeland and found it open. She had reported two broken stiles.
- iii) Speedwatch and SID's. Two watches had taken place. The clerk confirmed a response about speeding cars at school times from the headteacher and that she felt that a police enforcement vehicle might help with the problem.
- iv) New Somerset Council matters – Councillors were awaiting the commencement of the new council on 1<sup>st</sup> April and hoped process and procedures would be clearer as time progressed.
- v) Hearing loop for community room. Cllr Baker was still awaiting the roof repairs to take place and would ask the builder to install the cable during the repair period.
- vi) NHS Consultation on acute care – councillors to respond individually.
- vii) Adoption of updated Asset Register – councillors voted unanimously to adopt the register.
- viii) Adoption of New Code of Conduct - councillors voted unanimously to adopt the Code of Conduct.
- ix) Update to Risk Assessment - councillors voted unanimously to adopt the updated assessment.
- x) Tree Planting, Ed Woods, Bodden. Cllr Baker had been in correspondence with ANT who had responded noting they were aware of local residents concerns. There had been no response from Mendip planners. Local concern was expressed about the erection of deer proof fencing and the effect on local wildlife. It was noted that at times there were lots of cars on the site with volunteers planting trees.
- xi) Buses and rural transport – The clerk read a press release from Somerset Council requesting feedback on rural transport and buses and ideas for improvement. Cllr Goff was surprised that this had been requested as there were still a buses group working along similar lines. There was a general discussion about local buses and it was agreed to prepare a response for discussion at the next meeting.

2303/09 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Report on meeting of Glebeland Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 including agreement of any expenditure requested. The minutes had been circulated. A quotation was to be obtained for the thinning/removal of some trees to be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

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2303/10 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Tree planting, additional seating and sun shading. The tree planting and seat were still in hand and would be planted to mark to coronation.
- ii) Councillors to consider options for sun shading to be obtained commercially for consideration at the next meeting.

2303/11 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) There were no matters of report.

2303/12 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses to include Glebeland repair costs. £386.73. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Invoice from SALC for training event. £25.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) HMRC Tax payment to year ending 31/3/23. £212.17. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Parish Council insurance renewal – comparison of quotes received and payment of premium. Quotes had been received from Gallagher, the council's existing insurer in the sum of £805.00 and from an alternative provider BHIB in the sum of £574.27 for a three-year agreement. Councillors voted unanimously to accept the quotation from BHIB in the sum of £574.27 and a cheque was raised in that amount.
- v) Appointment of internal auditor. The current internal auditor Les Caple was appointed for another year.

2303/13 - Matters of Report:

- i) A request to display a poster advertising the Shepton Mallet Experience at various times was agreed.
- ii) Cllr Crewe advised various forthcoming events.
- iii) An incident of fly tipping was noted.
- iv) An apparent abandoned car near Padfield Green to be reported.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

2303/14 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Doultling Village Hall.

**Alan Butcher,**  
**Parish Clerk,**  
**21<sup>st</sup> March 2023**  
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