

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2023 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Sarah Goff (Chair), Jan Crewe, Simon Baker; also in attendance Bruce Yoell, Les Greaves and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2311/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr John Shepherd

2311/2 – Co-option of councillor onto the Parish Council following the uncontested election.

Les Greaves had come forward to fill the vacancy, he was proposed and seconded and unanimously elected.

2311/3 - Co-option of councillor onto the Parish Council to fill a casual vacancy.

Bruce Yoell had come forward to fill the vacancy, he was proposed and seconded and unanimously elected.

Both new councillors completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and were welcomed onto the Parish Council by the chairman.

2311/4 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Baker declared his membership of Somerset Wildlife Trust re; 2311/7iv.

Cllr Greaves declared an interest as a member of St Aldhelms Church re: 2311/12vi

2311/5 - 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.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning applications.
The matter of the lack of car parking for church events in Church Lane was raised and suggestions had formal traffic restrictions put forward. It was noted that there was adequate parking in the village car park. The Parish Council were asked to support proposals for the control of parking in Church Lane.
The reason for the closure of Farrington Lane was queried (Openreach works)
The need for the replacement sign at The Well was queried (sign missing)
Questions concerning the Doultling Quarry application were raised. The chairman advised that this item was not on the meeting agenda.
- ii) Somerset Councillors report. These had been circulated.

2311/6 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 17TH October 2023 to be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2311/7 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2023/2077/VRC | Application to vary condition 2 (Plans List - Compliance) of planning approval 2020/0925/FUL (Proposed demolition of existing agricultural buildings and the erection of a new 3 bedroom dwelling with associated outbuilding at Hill View Farm, Prestleigh) to internal layout and addition of 6no. rooflights. | Plot Adjacent To The Second Barn Prestleigh Lane Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors agreed unanimously to confirm support for the application and to reiterate previous comments about access.
- ii) 2023/2030/PAF | Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to Business Use for B8 Storage and Distribution. | Buildings At Long Cross Farm Old Wells Road Leigh On Mendip Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors noted the application and agreed unanimously to leave the application for determination by the planning officer.
- iii) Plot West of The Old Stables, Hurlingpot. App 2019/1050/FUL. Concerns had been raised about the works being undertaken. The clerk was asked to raise the matter with planning enforcement.
- iv) Westdown Quarry Proposals:
Application No: SCC/3795/2021
Proposal: 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.
Application No: SCC/3836/2021/IDO
Proposal: An application in respect of an Interim Development Order (IDO) consent for the determination of mineral planning conditions made under the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 at Hanson's Westdown Quarry (incorporating an area known as Asham Wood Void): IDO permission reference IDO/M/1/A (original planning reference 70 - dated 1 November 1947) registered as an IDO on 23 October 1992. This covers the main Westdown Quarry area and extends across an area of ~54ha.
Application No: SCC/3838/2021/ROMP
Proposal: An application in respect of the following Review of Mineral Planning Permission (ROMP) consent for the determination of mineral planning conditions made under the Environment Act 1995 at Hanson's Westdown Quarry: - ROMP reference 016248/0051 for the winning and working of limestone – Approval of Schedule of Conditions dated 4 November 1998. This ROMP consolidated two separate parcels of land to the north-east of IDO/M/1/A and an area within the south-west of IDO/M/1/A, collectively covering an area of ~14ha.
Location: Westdown Quarry, Whatley, Frome, Somerset - OS ST 719 661) GRID REF 371433 145340
Cllr Baker gave a brief summary of the changes to the application including the removal of works to Asham Wood. However, this remained a very large application. Although the application was not in Doultong Parish, councillors agreed unanimously to confirm previous objections including traffic and environmental concerns.

2311/8 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic –
 - a) Obstruction of Church Lane by parked vehicles.
Cllr Crewe had received a letter from the Fire Brigade confirming that they had had no difficulty in accessing Church Lane to deal with the recent fire.
The matter of parking for church events and services was discussed and it was noted that there was also parking available in the village car park. A number of solutions were suggested including parking restrictions and bollards which could be deployed as required. Cllr Crewe to speak to highways on the matter.
 - b) Farrington Lane road closure. As requested Openreach had confirmed the closure for cable laying to the clerk.
 - c) Car parked near Padfield Green. Cllr Crewe had spoken to the owner who was hoping to sell the vehicle.

- d) Flooding and blocked drains in Merryfield Lane were noted.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Surveys, etc would recommence in the new year.
- iii) Speedwatch and SID's. The siting of a SID on the A361 was discussed. An agreement with Somerset would be required, Cllr Crewe to speak to Sara Davies at Somerset.
- iv) Village Hall matters. The ceiling was to be plastered on 24/25th November.
- v) Facebook and social media. The new Facebook page was proving useful for disseminating information.
- vi) Neighbourhood Plan proposals. There had been a successful first meeting and a steering group was to be formed. Cllr Baker was appointed as liaison with the council. It was agreed unanimously to make available a discretionary grant of £150 toward set up costs.
- vii) Somerset CCS Community Review. The clerk advised that this was a good way of gauging parishioner views on various matters and could be useful to the Neighbourhood plan process. Clerk to make application to CCS.
- viii) Fibre Broadband offer for Doultling. Cllr Baker advised that the application was proceeding.
- ix) Sign at St Aldhelms Well. In hand with Cllr Baker.
- x) Somerset Council matters
 - a) LCN Meeting minutes and papers from 18th October 2023. No one had been able to attend the meeting.
 - b) Somerset Assets and Devolution proposals. This had been received and circulated. The clerk advised that two land assets at Padfield Green were listed. He also advised that he would be attending a meeting with other councils to discuss options and would report back after the meeting.
 - c) Boundary Commission proposals. The circulated paper had set out a timescale for any changes up to the 2027 local elections. No action would be necessary until 2024.

2311/9 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) It was advised that the annual grass cut had been completed.

2311/10 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Tree planting. Cllr Crewe had sourced a 3m flowering cherry for £170. It was agreed to purchase this tree which would need to be collected.
- ii) Sun shading structure and green wall proposals. In hand.
- iii) Funding and grants for proposed works. Awaiting final details.

2311/11 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) It was noted that a number of regular events at the showground had been cancelled for next year.

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2311/12 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses.
- ii) Adjustment of clerks salary from April 2022 (paper circulated)
- iii) Local Government National Pay Award from April 2023 (details circulated)
All the above adjustments and the clerks salary were agreed and a cheque for £1768.10 raised.
- iv) Payment of HMRC Tax. A payment of £426.33 was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) Shepton Mallet Landscape invoice. £2119.20. The was agreed and a cheque raised.
- vi) Request from St Aldhelms Church for grant towards upkeep of churchyard. A grant of £850 had been budgeted. This was confirmed and a cheque for £850.00 raised.

2311/13 - Matters of Report

- i) It was noted that the date for objections and comments regarding the Doultling Stone Quarry application was now 23rd November 2023.

Cllr Goff noted concern raised by some parishioners about the need to consider the future of the quarry given the current planning application and the implications should the proposals in that application not proceed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

2311/14 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

12th December 2023

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
20th November 2023
01749 870358;
email: parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org**