

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 17th MAY 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Sarah Goff, Ann Crowcombe, Jan Crewe, John Shepherd; also in attendance Pauls Fidge (Retiring Chairman), Simon Baker (Co-option candidate) and Alan Butcher (Clerk).

2205/1 - Apologies for absence. Two members of the public had given their apologies.

Before the formalities began, Cllr Crowcombe presented the retiring Chairman, Paula Fidge, with a gift to which all councillors had contributed and thanked her for her service to the community over the previous twenty years. All those present gave a round of applause.

A gift of flowers was to be delivered to Ros Wilkins who had also retired from the council.

2205/2 - Election of Chairman:

The retiring Chairman asked for nominations for the Chairman of the Parish Council. Several proposed and seconded Cllr Goff. There were no other nominations and Cllr Goff was elected unanimously.

2205/3 - Election of Vice Chairman :

The Chairman, Cllr Goff, asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Several proposed and seconded Cllr Crowcombe. There were no other nominations and Cllr Crowcombe was elected unanimously.

2205/4 – Co-option of two councillors onto the Parish Council following the uncontested election:

Simon Baker had applied to join the Parish Council and had completed an eligibility form. He was proposed by Cllr Crewe and seconded by Cllr Crowcombe. The Chairman asked for a vote and all voted in favour of his co-option to the council. He was duly invited to join the council.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Council members signed the various Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

2205/5 – Confirmation of Proper Officer – This was confirmed as Alan Butcher.

2205/6 - Confirmation of Responsible Financial Officer - This was confirmed as Alan Butcher.

2205/7 - Appointment of Glebeland Committee.

Appointment of Parish Council representatives – Cllrs Crowcombe and Baker were appointed and the Committee members Mary Newman, Margaret Hares and Emma Hill re-appointed en-bloc.

2205/8 - Appointment of Representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Goff agreed to continue in the role.

Councillors individual responsibilities to be confirmed at the next meeting.

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2205/9 - Declarations of Interest:

No declarations were advised.

Voting procedures – as previously agreed, votes will be recorded.

2205/10 - Public Forum:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation on matters included on the agenda only. Nine members of the public were present.

- i) Planning applications – there were no comments.
- ii) Matters on the Agenda. Mary Newman as a member of the BHWS expressed her disappointment about the situation in Beacon Hill Wood where much damage had been caused by recent logging operations and, despite assurances, no effort to rectify the situation made to date.
Concern was expressed about the removal of ancient stone stiles on footpaths to allow disabled access. Cllr Crewe advised the meeting that there was no intention from Somerset RofW to remove the stiles and that disabled access had been created in a number of places with the stiles left in situ.
- iii) Reports from District and County Councillors. None received.

2205/11 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 12nd April 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2205/12 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) 2022/0887/FDN | M1360 - T1- Horse Chestnut - Fell due to storm damage- (site visit completed by Steve Clark) | Church Of St Aldhelm Church Lane Doulling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application.
- ii) 2022/0796/APP | Approval of details reserved by condition 3 - (Surface Water Drainage System), 7 - (Construction Management Plan) on planning consent 2019/1369/FUL (Demolition and replacement of poultry buildings and associated infrastructure). | Clover Farm Merryfield Lane Doulling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4RF. This matter was noted by councillors.

2205/13 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic - matters of report.
 - a) Cllr Crewe was awaiting an update on the provision of “Slow” markings at the Farm Road junction.
 - b) It was noted that various verges needed cutting. Cllr Crewe advised that she had been contacted by a resident of Merryfield Lane about poor visibility when exiting her property especially with large tractors speeding past and reduced visibility with overgrown verges, etc. Cllr Crewe to contact the officer at Highways who dealt with highway safety.
 - c) Cllr Crowcombe noted that, despite several requests, the drainage grips at the top of Ball Lane on the main road had yet to be cleared.
 - d) Cllr Crowcombe also noted the continuing problem with the collapsing wall at Waterlip.

- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe advised details of the new Rights of Way website. She would check whether the new strimmer operator had received training so that a number of paths could be cleared. She would be carrying a number of surveys in coming weeks. In response to a question from Cllr Baker, she outlined the procedures in place for the clearance of paths and repairs of stiles, etc.
- iii) Speedwatch. Cllr Crewe advised that watches were starting again and more volunteers were coming forward. Also that the current liaison officer was leaving and, as yet, there was no replacement advised.
- iv) Councillors Training events. The clerk advised a number of forthcoming SALC Training events and several councillors agreed to attend a variety of relevant events. Clerk to book with SALC.
- v) Somerset Council matters.
 - a) Cllr Crowcombe outlined the recent LCN meeting in Frome and advised that Doulting had been asked to assist with the task of seeking views from organisations dealing with children. A number of suggestions as to local groups were made.
 - b) The clerk had written to a number of East Mendip parishes and had received positive replies about the possibility of liaison and co-operation during the transition period. It was agreed to arrange a meeting for interested councils some time in June.
- vi) Jubilee events. Paula Fidge had advised that the Prestleigh celebrations would be taking place on 11th June due to the B&W Show taking place over the actual Jubilee. Cllr Crewe advised details of the celidh. Cllr Crowcombe gave details and directions to the beacon being lit near Cranmore Tower on 2nd June.
- vii) Bus Services Funding. The clerk had circulated a letter advising that all of the funding had gone to Taunton and the surrounding area and there would be nothing for Doulting in this round of funding and none in the next round either. Councillors expressed dismay at the situation and it was agreed that the clerk should write to the leader of the newly elected Somerset Council to express their dissatisfaction.
- viii) Banners on Padfield Green Railings. The request to display banners by Shepton Mallet Sunday market was agreed.
- ix) Sale of Doulting Quarry. Cllr Shepherd gave a resume of the recent meeting with the owner of the quarry who had indicated his willingness to explore available options with the council. There was a general discussion about the extent of the land for sale and the parts of the land which might be of interest to the community. Cllr Baker was keen to pursue registration of the land as a community asset but other councillors were less enthusiastic noting that the land owner had indicated the such a move could have a detrimental effect on the sale. Cllr Goff wanted the council to approach this matter aware of the position of all parties involved and also an understanding of any planning issues. The clerk suggested an informal meeting with the landowner to discuss options and this was agreed. Cllr Shepherd to contact the land owner to arrange.

2205/14 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Report on meeting 3rd May 2022 – the minutes had been circulated and actions were as detailed in the minutes.

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- ii) Mary Newman advised that the rabbit scrapes would be filled in shortly using material donated by the quarry for which thanks were recorded.

2205/15 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Mendip grant for new equipment. The grant had been finalised but required action within the next three months. Several ideas were discussed and it was agreed that the clerk should circulate brochure information to councillors for discussion at the next meeting. It was suggested that any new equipment should be suitable for use by disabled children.
- ii) It was noted that some form of sun shelter should be erected and a request for additional seating made. Cllr Crewe advised that the Jubilee tree to be planted could have a seat around it.
- iii) New fencing. This had been ordered.

2205/16 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Paula Fidge had passed on a list of actions from the previous council which she would see through to conclusion. She had re-established contact with the showground and would pass on details. In response to a request she agreed to continue as a representative for Prestleigh for a month or so until a new rep could be appointed

2205/17 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £360.33 – this was agreed and a cheque signed.

2205/18 - Matters of Report:

- i) Cllr Crewe to report an abandoned lorry tyre at the junction of Farm Road.
- ii) Cllr Crowcombe advised the the Cranmore Grapevine editor was retiring and that this could effect the distribution of the Doultling newsletter in Cranmore.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

2205/19 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting – 14th June 2022

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
29th May 2022
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doultlingclerk@gmail.com