

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD THURSDAY 23rd JUNE 2022

COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

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

2206/01 - Apologies for absence. None were received.

2206/02 – Co-option of one additional councillor following elections:

No candidates had come forward, Clerk to contact the former Chairman to see if there were any volunteers from Prestleigh.

2206/03 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Crowcombe advised that as a member of Cranmore Parish Council she had previously discussed application 2022/0849/FUL..
No other interests were declared.

2206/04 - Public Forum:

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for public participation on matters included on the agenda only. Six Members of the public were present.

- i) Planning applications; emails had been received regarding application 2022/0849/FUL, these would be read when the matter was discussed. There were no other public comments.
- ii) Matters on the Agenda. The matter of the sale of the quarry was raised. A member of the public raised questions about the Complaint Guidance recently adopted by the council. The clerk responded to the questions.
- iii) Reports from District and County Councillors. None received.

2206/05 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 17th May 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2206/06 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) 2022/0849/FUL | Conversion of redundant barn to a dwelling to include an extension. | Barn At Merryfield Lane Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset. The clerk read emails from a householder with a property near the proposed site which raised matters of highway safety, speeding vehicles and access onto the site. Whilst councillors concurred with the comments, they noted that the a pre-application process had been undertaken and that no concerns on the highways or access front had been raised by the planners. Councillors

then voted unanimously to support the application with a note included about highway and traffic concerns.

- ii) 2022/0948/FUL | Installation of canopy over an existing commercial vehicle washdown area. | Southway Scania Ltd Ball Lane To Piers Road Waterlip Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4RN. Cllr Crowcombe advised that this was a replacement application for one previously supported by the council. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application.
- iii) 2022/1037/HSE | Proposed garage & workshop with retaining wall behind. | Waterlip Cottage 30 Waterlip Waterlip Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4RN. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application.

2206/07 - Confirmation of Councillors individual responsibilities.

- i) Highways and footpaths – Cllr Crewe
- ii) Speedwatch – Cllr Crewe assisted by Cllr Baker
- iii) Waterlip – Cllr Crowcombe
- iv) Prestleigh and Bath and West – Cllr Goff to look after on a temporary basis until a new representative could be appointed.
- v) Padfield Green – the council as a whole agreed to look after Padfield Green.

2206/08 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic
 - a) Cllr Crewe noted that a number of roadworks in and around Shepton mallet were in the pipeline and were likely to cause disruption.
 - b) Cllr Crewe was still pursuing the warning lines at the Farm Road junction.
 - c) Cllr Goff noted that the traffic heading for the Glastonbury Festival had not been a major problem.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report.

Cllr Crewe reported on recent surveys and clearance works. The footpath adjoining the Glebeland had been blocked following problems with runaway horses from a nearby paddock. There was a need to establish owners of the horses and to ask for the footpath blockage to be removed and suitable fencing erected along the footpath to prevent the horses from staying.
- iii) Speedwatch - Cllr Crewe reported that she was still recruiting volunteers; Cllr Baker offered to assist.

Cllr Crowcombe reported that a type of SID previously discussed but, at that time, not approved for use by the police had now been approved. She was uncertain if they had been approved by Highways.
- iv) Councillors Training events. Cllrs Crewe and Baker had upcoming events, Cllr Goff advised that she was unable to attend recent events
- v) Somerset Council matters. The clerk advised that an informal meeting had been called for 7th July at Doultling Village Hall to consider the possibility of liaison between councils in the area.

- vi) Bus Services Funding. The clerk had written to the new councillors at Somerset expressing disappointment at the outcome of the funding which had mostly been awarded to the Taunton area. He had not received a reply.
- vii) Sale of Doultong Quarry. Cllr Goff advised that an informal meeting had been held with the quarry owner who had advised that the quarry was currently not on the market for sale. She advised that a good rapport had been established with the owner who had agreed to advise the council of any change in the situation.
- viii) Parish Council IT and website. Cllr Baker had reviewed the current website and email system and raised a number of issues with accessibility and email security. He advised that a new professionally built website could be put in place for approximately £1000 although cheaper options would be available. The clerk responded noting that the purpose of the website was to convey information that the Parish Council was legally required to provide and that the current site fulfilled that requirement.
Cllr Crewe and others raised the matter of the existing Village website which needed updating and improving. Cllr Crowcombe spoke about recent changes to the Cranmore website which had improved the site and made it more secure. It was agreed that Cllr Baker should look at the current village website with a view to improvement and updating and that the Parish Council site would have a link to the village website.

2206/09 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Mary Newman (committee member) advised that the knotweed in the skate park had been treated and that the rabbit scrapes had been filled as discussed.
- ii) The matter of the ponies in the Glebeland was further discussed and concern expressed about fencing, etc. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the landowner and owner of the horse expressing the Parish Councils requirement that the paddock and footpath should be adequately fenced.

2206/10 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) New equipment. The clerk had circulated details of various types of equipment and there was a general discussion about what should be installed. The clerk advised that a decision was needed by the next meeting so that quotes could be obtained in accordance with the terms of the MDC Grant.
- ii) New fencing. This was with the clerk awaiting collection by the installer.

2206/11 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) An email from the former chairman was read out, she was looking for a suitable recruit for the council in Prestleigh.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

2206/12 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £373.03. This was agreed.
- ii) Payment of SALC Invoices for Training - £55.00. This was held over until the next meeting.
- iii) Payment of election costs. These had not been received.
- iv) Payment of SPFA subscription – minimum of £15.00. This was agreed in the sum of £15.00
- v) Payment to L Caple for Audit Services - £80.00. This was agreed.
- vi) Agreement of Audited accounts for 2021/22. These had been circulated and reviewed previously and were now agreed unanimously following audit.
- vii) Internal Auditors report. This had been circulated and raised no issues.
- viii) Completion of AGAR Governance Statement. This was agreed and signed.
- ix) Completion of AGAR Accounting Statement. This was agreed and signed.

2206/13 - Matters of Report

- i) Reports on various Jubilee events were given along with thanks to the organisers
- ii) A Shared Funding Initiative was mentioned.
- iii) The Jubilee Tree in Padfield Green was discussed. It was agreed to plant a Rowan, final details and costing to be agreed at the next meeting.

2206/14 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting – 12th July 2022 at The Prestleigh Inn subject to availability.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
2nd July 2022
01749 870358;
doultingclerk@gmail.com