

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2024 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

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

2402/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr Les Greaves.

2402/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2402/3 - 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. Ten members of the public were present.

- i) Carol Paris from the Bath and West Showground gave a summary of events at the showground over the coming months. She spoke about changes at the showground since Covid and the work that had been undertaken to bring more events onto the site for the future. She noted that the NASS event was no longer taking place but several other new events had been brought in for 2024 onwards.
In response to a question from Cllr Baker she advised that there were 25 staff at the showground backed up by 600 volunteers to assist with events. The annual footfall onto the site was around 1.2m people. She noted that they were working with local businesses but sometimes had problems with local accommodation for events. She confirmed that the restaurant was still available for outside events and that meeting room were available a site for local bookings.
The Chairman thanked her for the presentation and there was a round of applause.
- ii) Planning applications; a representative from the Langdon Partnership will speak in support of application 2024/0081/FUL, Beard Hill Farm. He gave details of the application which was the replacement of a redundant timber building with a storage building similar to one already on site. Cllr Crewe asked about vehicle access which will be via the existing access onto the main road which has good visibility. There will not be a significant increase in vehicle movements. There were no other comments and the Chairman thanked him for the presentation.
- iii) Planning application 2024/0048/FUL, change of use of land at Manor Farm, Prestleigh to storage use. Members of public spoke about the use of an existing right of way access and difficulties accessing the A371 by HGV's especially with the entrance to the Bath and West and Mendip School being opposite the farm entrance. There was concern about the loss of farmland and also flooding on the site from Prestleigh Brook. It was suggested that the change of use to storage would have an adverse effect on the village
- iv) Matters on the Agenda.
2402/5iii – Actions by the applicant following a visit to the site by planning enforcement officers were detailed by a member of the public and concern expressed for the safety of nearby residents. Councillors suggested that contact should be made with the police over threats that had been made.

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2402/5iv -The matter of the siting of caravans at Waterlip was raised and information given about works taking place on site. Adjoining residents were concerned about the works being undertaken in the vicinity of several listed buildings.

- v) Somerset Councillors report. Various communications from Cllr Clarke had been circulated.

2402/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 10th January 2024 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2402/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2024/0048/FUL | Change of use from agriculture to storage (B8) and associated works. | Manor Farm Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4NJ. Councillors discussed the proposals at length and it was generally agreed that the loss of agricultural land should be avoided. Comments from Highways regarding access for vehicles onto the site was noted and all agreed that access to the site by HGV's would be problematic given the volume of traffic on the A371 and the proximity of entrances to the Bath and West and Mendip School. It was proposed Cllr Crewe, seconded Cllr Baker that the Parish Council object to the application siting access for vehicles, the loss of agricultural land and flooding on the land, this was agreed three in favour with Cllrs Shepherd and Goff abstaining.
- ii) 2024/0081/FUL | Change of use of land and replacement of redundant poultry building with construction of new commercial storage unit. | Building At Beard Hill Farm Fosse Way Pylle Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors had no objections to the proposals and it was agreed unanimously to support the application.
- iii) Concerns about activities at Hurlingpot Farm re: application 2023/2334/HSE. Councillors noted the visit from planning enforcement to the site and the problems caused by that visit for adjoining residents. Councillors reiterated their comments about involving the police. The clerk to write to the ward councillor, Philip Ham, to advise him of the problems caused by the site visit.
- iv) Caravans sited at Waterlip. This matter had been reported the planning enforcement detailing the works on site including the recently formed access onto the highway.

2402/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Assets and Service Devolution proposals. Cllr Goff expressed concern about the proposed level of cuts to services. It was noted that the request by Somerset to increase council tax by 10% had been rejected by government. Full details of cuts will be available after the Somerset budget meeting on 20th February 2024.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a) LCN meeting 11th January 2024 – minutes circulated.
 - b) Next LCN meeting - Monday 11th March 2024. Cllr Baker indicated he would try to attend.

- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a) Parking in Church Lane. Cllr Goff had met with the vicar and other discussions had taken place with the PCC and local residents. It was hoped that the matter had been resolved.
 - b) Village hall car park.
Footpath from Church Lane – volunteers had offered to clear the path and it was suggested that signage could be sited with directions to and from the church and car park.
Cars idling in the car park at school times. The pollution caused by idling cars both in the car park and on the roadside was noticeable at peak time. Clerk to write to the school on the matter.
 - c) Flooding in Merryfield Lane. This had been resolved.
 - d) Doultling Hill drainage and signs. The clerk had contacted the ward councillor who had spoken to highways who had responded with details of recent works. An inspection would be carried out to ascertain the state of the drains.
Cllr Crewe noted that the promised works to re-align the roadside signs had not been carried out.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe would be starting a series of surveys shortly.
- v) Speedwatch and SID's. Cllr Crewe had been in touch with Somerset over the type of machine to be used.
- vi) Village Hall matters.
It was noted that booking were increasing.
Improved liaison with the school was noted.
- vii) Neighbourhood Plan proposals. Cllr Baker advised that there were now no funds available for these plans. The group would continue with basic preparatory work.
- viii) Somerset CCS Community Review. The clerk to enquire about the progress of the application.
- ix) Sign at St Aldhelms Well. This had been completed and all expressed satisfaction with the result.
- x) Asset register update. The clerk circulated copies of the register and asked councillors to look through the list for errors and omissions.

2402/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Confirmation of appointment of new committee member.
The committee had put forward two new members; Lyn Knight and Becki Leyton. Both were formally approved as members of the Glebeland Committee with all councillors in favour.
- ii) Report on meeting 6th February 2024. The clerk briefly outlined the matters discussed at the meeting including a proposal for the use of the area by the school for Forest School activities, proposals to engage a specialist to review proposed works in the skate park and proposals for the replacement of fencing.
- iii) Glebeland Budget for 2024/25 – this would be discussed at the next Glebeland meeting.

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2402/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Tree planting. Cllr Crewe to advise the clerk of the details of the tree previously selected.
- ii) Sun shading structure and green wall proposals. A willow structure had been erected in Coleford, clerk to investigate.
- iii) Funding and grants for proposed works. Final details of proposals required.

2402/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Clerk to write letter of thanks to Carol Paris for her presentation and to enquire about the availability of a room at the showground to hold "Prestleigh" meetings.

2402/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses to include Internet Hosting charges. £621.67 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £107.00 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) A cheque was raised in the sum of £261.60 as a replacement for cheque 1062 which had been lost.
- iv) Additional bank signatories. It was proposed Cllrs Baker and Greaves become bank signatories. It was thereby proposed Cllr Goff, seconded Cllr Yoell that:
All members present at the meeting of Doultling Parish Council on 7th February 2024 agreed unanimously that Cllrs Les Greaves and Simon Baker should be added as signatories of the Parish Council bank account 60-19-11; acc 52134466 held with Natwest Bank.

This was so passed, all in favour..

2402/11 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Yoell advised of the forthcoming meeting of the planning board in respect of Doultling Stone Quarry. Details would be available at short notice and it would be necessary to notify the committee of the person from the parish council should the council wish to attend. It was agreed to send a representative, Cllr Yoell to monitor notification.
- ii) Cllr Crewe expressed continuing concerns about the Edge Tools works; clerk to ascertain current planning situation with the planners.
- iii) Cllr Goff advised that Joy Lees was unwell having returned from hospital. Councillors agreed to deliver flowers and a card with best wishes from the council. Cllr Goff to organise.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

2402/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 13th March; 10th April; 8th May (APCM)
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
12th February 2024
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