

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 9th MAY 2023 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. THE MEETING STARTED AT 7.30PM

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

2305/1 - Apologies for absence. None.

2305/2 - Election of Chairman.

Proposed Cllr Crewe, seconded Cllr Baker that Cllr Goff be elected Chairman. There were no other nominations and Cllr Goff was elected unanimously. Cllr Goff signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2305/3 - Election of Vice Chairman. Councillors agreed not to elect a vice chairman.

2305/4 – Co-option of councillor onto the Parish Council following the uncontested election.

2305/5 - Co-option of councillor onto the Parish Council to fill a casual vacancy.

Following the resignation of Cllr Ann Crowcombe, there is a vacancy for a councillor.

No candidates had come forward for either of the vacancies.

2305/6 – Confirmation of Proper Officer; Alan Butcher was confirmed.

2305/7 - Confirmation of Responsible Financial Officer; Alan Butcher was confirmed.

2305/8 - Appointment of Glebeland Committee.

Appointment of Parish Council representatives and Committee members (currently Mary Newman, Margaret Hares and Emma Hill). The committee members were re-appointed en bloc and Cllr Baker was confirmed as the Parish Council representative.

2305/9 - Appointment of Representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Goff was duly appointed.

NB - Councillors individual responsibilities to be confirmed at the next meeting.

2305/10 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2305/11 - 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. One member of the public was present with apologies from another.

Matters had been raised during the Annual Parish Meeting which were dealt with later in the meeting.

2305/12 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meetings held on 14TH March and 18th April 2023 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Both sets of minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2305/13 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) **2023/0424/FUL** | Erection of stable block and store for non-commercial use. | Manor Farm Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4NJ. Councillors had no objections to the proposals and agreed unanimously to support the application.
- ii) **2023/0438/FUL** | Erection of single storey ground floor extension to the rear elevation of the property to be used as storage. | Southway Scania Ltd Ball Lane To Piers Road Waterlip Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4RN. Councillors had no objections to the proposals and agreed unanimously to support the application.
- iii) **2023/0505/FUL** | Conversion of redundant barn to a dwellinghouse with extension, and new access. | Land At 365434 142607 Merryfield Lane Doulting Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors noted that this was a re-submission and that previously they had been concerned about the access. All agreed that although the access had been moved there was still concern on the matter and that whilst they had no objections to the dwelling the council should reiterate its concerns on the access.

2305/14 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic –
 - a) Padfield Green wall. The wall remained in a state of disrepair.
 - b) Road Signs. Highways to be reminded of this and item c)
 - c) Doulting Hill drainage. It was agreed to write to Cllr Rigby at Somerset Council about this continuing matter of concern.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report.
 - a) Cllr Crewe had not carried out any surveys but had reported a number of broken stiles.
 - b) Cllr Crewe had noted displaced signs on The Mendip Way.
 - c) Concern had been expressed about the footpath through the edge tool works where the path was obstructed by a locked gate. Cllr Crewe to contact Somerset Rights of Way.

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- iii) Speedwatch and SID's. There is a speedwatch meeting on 17th May at Frome Police Station; Cllr Crewe will circulate details.
- iv) Somerset Council matters. Awaiting information on LCN roll out.
- v) Hearing loop for community room. Cllr Baker reported that the wire loop had been fitted, the final connections were awaiting the roof repairs.
- vi) Tree Planting, Ed Woods, Bodden. No response to previous requests had been received, Cllr Baker to write to A.N.T's in due course.
- vii) Buses and rural transport. Cllr Goff noted that there now seemed to be two separate groups involved each with its own agenda. Further developments were awaited but, at present, there was nothing further to report.

2305/15 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Tree felling and hedge laying. Confirmation of a date for the hedge laying was awaited.
A quotation for the thinning of a number of trees within the Glebeland had been received from Tibbs Trees in the sum of £792.00 incl VAT. This was accepted, clerk to place an order.
- ii) Date of next meeting – 13th June 2023, 10am at the Community Room.

2305/16 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Tree planting, additional seating and sun shading.
 - a) An English Cherry tree would be planted in the autumn, cost to be finalised.
 - b) It was suggested by Cllr Shepherd that a metal framed shading structure could be fabricated with integrated seating, clerk to draw up some ideas.

2305/17 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) The traffic plan for the Bath and West Show had been published. It was noted that there was little disruption for last years show.

2305/18 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £366.73. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Further payments were made as follows:
 - a) Les Caple internal audit fee £85.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - b) HMRC tax payment. £72.20. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Internal Audit Report. This had been circulated, there were no negative comments and the report was accepted.
- iv) Audited Accounts. These had been circulated and were accepted.
- v) Completion of AGAR Annual Report:
 - a) The Governance Statement was completed at the meeting and signed.
 - b) The Financial Report had been circulated and was signed.

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2305/19 - Matters of Report:

- i) A planning application had been received after the publication of the agenda. The application 2023/0754/VRC concerned a variation of conditions at Beard Hill Farm, Pylle. Councillors had supported the original proposals for a dwelling and, after reviewing the proposed changes, had no objections to the proposals noting that they were unable to make a substantive decision on the matter.
- ii) The continuing problem with rabbits carrying disease was discussed. Clerk to check if permission had been given by the adjoining landowner to access his land.
- iii) Councillors asked that their Somerset Councillors should attend meetings, Cllr Goff to contact Cllr Clarke, clerk to write to Philip Ham.
- iv) The matter of abandoned cars in the village to be followed up.
- v) Details of the Shepton Mallet Neighbourhood plan was circulated and the possibility of preparing a Doultling plan discussed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

2305/20 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

13th June 2023 at Doultling Village Hall.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
21st May 2023
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