

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2021 AT THE PRESTLEIGH INN, PRESTLEIGH COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chairman), Ann Crowcombe, John Shepherd, Sarah Goff.
Also in attendance Cllr Francis Hayden and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2111/1 - *Apologies for absence.* Cllrs Ros Wilkins and Janice Crewe.

2111/2 - *Declarations of Interest:* No declarations were made.

2111/3 - *Public Forum:*

The Chairman will adjourned the meeting for public participation. Public comments on

- i) Planning Applications. There were no public comments about the planning application 2021/2260/TCA.
- ii) Matters on the Agenda.
Comments were made about the bus partnership report and the need to improve bus services in the area.
Concern was expressed about parking in School Lane which prevented access for bin and recycling collections, the suggested crossing on the A361 and road safety concerns for children in School Lane.
Further comments were made about the hedges in Church Lane and a response made by the householders.
It was noted that requested minutes for village hall meetings had been received but concern was expressed about the accounts which were still awaited. The clerk commented that he was awaiting the accounts from the treasurer but that they had actually been available in paper form at AGMs.
It was noted that MDC had turned a small profit on recent investments but had borrowed a further £80m to include funding for works to provide cycleways, etc. Comments were made about the lack of progress on some continuing matters; the Chairman responded that as much as the Parish Council wished for matters to be resolved in a timely manner, items which were within the remit of other bodies could only be resolved by action from those bodies irrespective of pressure from the Parish Council to get matters resolved.
- iii) Reports from District and County Councillors. Cllr Hayden spoke about progress toward the formation of the unitary authority now named Somerset Council. He noted that £16m was to be spent on the implementation of the transition and the biased nature of the various committees and panels set up in this regard. The final decision about the date for elections had yet to be taken but whether in 2022 or 2023 there would be a significant reduction in the number of councillors (currently 260). He noted concerns with budgets especially social care and with the scrutiny committee composition. Concern was expressed over the seeming lack of democracy within the current process,

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2111/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 14th September 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- ii) Minutes of Meeting held on 12th October 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2111/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) Application 2021/2260/TCA – Crown reduction of Goat Willow by 2 – 3 metres and removal of branches overhanging lane at Well House, Well Lane, Doultling. There had been no comment on the application and councillors agreed unanimously to support the application.
- ii) Westdown Quarry. Nothing further to report.

2111/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
 - a) Highway matters of report. Cllr Crewe had reported a number of matters to Highways.
- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report including hedgerow removal. Cllr Crewe advised she was getting a watching brief on the hedgerow which had been removed. It was agreed to fund strimmer training or the new strimmer operative. This would be in January 2022.
- iii) Somerset Bus Partnership Mendip. A report had been published and a new consultation was proposed which would require publicity. Cllr Hayden noted the inclusion of proposals for carrying bicycles on buses which would allow greater access to the bus network.
- iv) Additional Councillor for Doultling PC. The original proposal from 2019 was to review the matter in January 2022 in time for the 2023 elections. Councillors agreed unanimously to maintain this review date noting that if the elections were brought forward to 2022 then there would not be enough time to conduct the review.
- v) Bus shelter clean. The clerk would contact the company who had agreed to clean the shelter for £20.
- vi) Speedwatch. There had been a problem with faded speed signs which had prevented some watches in Chelynch Road taking place.
- vii) SID's to Waterlip. These had been erected although one post installed by Highways was in a difficult place to service. It was agreed unanimously to spend £280 on installing a solar panel to the northern SID to improve battery life.
- viii) Survey of Trees on Parish land. The clerk had contacted Idverde who would carry out the surveys for around £100. Clerk to instruct Idverde to carry out surveys on a bi-annual basis.
- ix) Parishioners Meeting – Tuesday 16th November 2021, 7pm at Doultling Village Hall. Cllrs Fidge and Goff to liaise to confirm arrangements for this meeting.
- x) Doultling Village Hall update. Cllr Goff reported problems with the new heating installation which had caused flooding in the community room and toilets and which was still to be completed. The problem with the drain in the car park was with the diocese as they had installed to drainage initially. She commented on the minutes and accounts which would be included on the website in due course.

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- xi) Climate and Eco Emergency actions. A successful litter pick had taken place
- xii) Queens 75th Jubilee. Details were awaited.
- xiii) Unitary Authority matters. Cllr Crowcombe reported on the recent meeting and advised on the setting up of Local Community Networks. It was suggested that Doultling should group with parishes to the east including Cranmore, Holcombe, etc. Cllr Crowcombe presented a brief questionnaire on facilities for young people in the parish which was discussed and completed.

2111/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Report on meeting 12th October 2021. Comments had been made on how good the Glebeland was looking following grass cutting and volunteer works.
- ii) Other matters. It was noted that a request to illuminate a tree was not within the Glebeland area.

2111/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Replacement equipment. Cllr Wilkins was seeking grants for the proposed works. The EDF Hinckley grant was mentioned.
- ii) Fencing against adjoining property. Clerk to seek quotation for fencing similar to the perimeter fencing.

2111/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Westfest. Cllr Fidge reported this had passed off without incident.
- ii) Waterlip. Cllr Crowcombe noted that speed had been reduced through Waterlip following the installation of the SID's
- iii) It was agreed to invite representatives from the Bath and West to the meeting in February 2022.

2111/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses (September £354.03 and October £354.03) were agreed
- ii) Accounts and Budget review to 30th September 2021. These were circulated at the meeting and agreed. Clerk to update budget for January 2022 meeting when the precept would be set.

2111/11 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Shepherd noted a recent incident when a road had to be closed twice due to lack of co-operation between parties.
The meeting closed at 9pm.

2111/12 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 14th December 2021 at Doultling Village Hall.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
16th November 2021
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doultlingclerk@gmail.com