

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM ON TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Paula Fidge, Ros Wilkins, Jan Crewe, John Shepherd, Sarah Goff and Ann Crowcombe; also in attendance Cllr Francis Hayden (MDC) for part of the meeting and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2008/1 - *Apologies for absence.* Mary Newman (BHWS)

2008/2 - *Declarations of Interest:*

Cllr Crowcombe advised that she had discussed planning application 2020/1992/FUL at a meeting of Cranmore Parish Council but retained an open mind for the discussion of the matter at Doultong Parish Council.

Voting procedures – request for recording of votes was made by Cllr Fidge.

2008/3 – *Motions relating to the meeting:*

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for item 2008/13 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. This was so resolved unanimously.

2008/4 - *Public Forum:*

The Chairman will adjourned the meeting for public participation.

- i) Comments on planning applications:
Representatives of the applicant outlined the proposals for the new warehouse at Waterlip. Willmotts currently employs 150 people and operates from a number of warehousing sites in various locations. The new warehouse will be classed as food grade allowing the company to deal with goods associated with the food industry although not food products themselves. The proposals would allow the company to rationalise their warehousing and to reduce traffic movements between sites. Increased traffic movements were not as great as had been suggested with between 45-50 movements per day Monday to Friday. This would be offset by the loss of the current movements associated with the current warehousing. The building would be set down below road level and although the building was 12.5 metres high, they considered the impact would be small and additional screening would be introduced. Vehicles would be loaded at the rear of the building and efforts made to reduce the noise impact. Similarly, lighting would be kept to low level only, there would be no high level lighting. They proposed to prepare additional documentation to include information about the construction phase, working hours, contact details to be included with the application papers. The chairman thanked them for the information about the application.

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- ii) Reports from District and County Councillors. Cllr Hayden gave a brief report later in the meeting but it is included here for clarity. He noted that he had asked that the warehouse application be referred to the Planning Board and that he was concerned about a possible conflict between the previous application for additional car parking and the current proposals to remove existing parking.
He advised that the full Mendip Council had ratified the Climate and Eco Emergency Plan as had the other councils in the county but that the accompanying action plan had yet to be prepared.
He advised that Mendip was proceeding with proposals to build 66 units of social housing on various sites it owned. Cllr Wilkins noted that similar housing built in Doultong had very quickly purchased and become “commercial” rather than social housing. Cllr Hayden left the meeting after his report.
- iii) Report from the Police. None received.

2008/5 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of Meeting held on 13th October 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record. The chairman signed a hard copy of the minutes.

2008/6 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) Application 2020/1992/FUL – Construction of food grade warehouse and offices to replace existing industrial building with associated access, yards and parking at Willmotts Business Park, Ball Lane to Piers Road, Waterlip. The clerk advised he had received three emails from members of the public regarding the application; two in support citing the economic and employment benefits of the proposals and one raising concerns about the size of the proposed building, the lack of site screening, noise and the need for some form of management plan to alleviate residents concerns during the construction phase. These were read out to the meeting.
Councillors commented on the application as follows; Cllr Shepherd was happy with the proposals and was unaware of any large volume of complaints about previous building projects on the site.
Cllr Wilkins was happy with application citing the economic and employment benefits.
Cllr Crewe asked if the Parish Council could have sight of the proposed documentation about the construction phase of the development; this was agreed by the applicant. She also noted the need for screening on the site and for keeping the lighting of the site at a low level.
Cllr Fidge noted that she and Cllr Crowcombe had visited the site at the applicant’s invitation. She noted that the existing warehousing was unsightly and that the proposals would tidy up the site and adjoining car parking area. She cited employment and economic benefits of the proposals.

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Cllr Crowcombe felt that the transport Statement which had been prepared by a third party did not reflect the problems with the local roads around the site which she considered “unfit for purpose”.

Cllr Goff advised the need to ensure good communications between the company and residents over the construction period.

Cllr Fidge proposed that the application be supported, passed unanimously. Clerk to include comments about proposed additional documentation as discussed.

- ii) Application 2020/1967/CLP – Lawful Development Certificate for the insertion of a new window opening and install a new window to the rear elevation at The Second Barn, Prestleigh Lane, Prestleigh. After a short discussion, this application was noted.

2008/7 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Highways and traffic – SCC
 - a) Improvements to the Old Wells/Frome Road and Beacon Hill Crossroads. Response received. Councillors were un-impressed with the response received.
 - b) Problems with a culvert at Waterlip. Cllr Crowcombe gave a resume of the investigations which had taken place and it was hoped that a local quarry company would contribute to the repairs as well as dealing with collapsing wall on the edge of their land adjoining the culvert. Additionally, an offer had been made to partly fund two SID’s to be placed at a distance either side of the entrance to the warehousing to slow traffic speeds. Further funding was sought and permission from Highways was required.
 - c) Signs for the churchyard – details, positioning and budget. A quotation of £59 had been received from Arien Signs, this was agreed, clerk to order. Two posts are required to mount the signs, clerk to liaise with Cllr Shepherd on the provision of these posts.
 - d) Other highway matters.
 - Cllr Crowcombe noted that lorries from a certain haulage company seemed to be speeding through Waterlip; clerk to contact company about this matter.
 - Cllr Fidge advised about the completion of the Prestleigh roadworks and noted that the post box had been sealed off as a matter of course by the contractors.
 - An email received from a parishioner about inconsiderate parking around Chelynch Park was read out. Vehicles were parked on pavements and blocking driveways especially at school time. Clerk to contact the police on the matter.

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- ii) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe was continuing to carry out path surveys
- iii) Speedwatch. Cllr Fidge noted that the Prestleigh watch was in abeyance. Cllr Crewe advised that the Doulling watch would be operating with two people only.
- iv) Report on ash trees near The Well. One quote had been received to deal with two trees. It was agreed that the “leaning” tree was not an immediate priority. The quotation for the larger tree was £2200 plus VAT. The clerk advised that three quotes would be required for this level of expenditure; Cllr Crowcombe to seek further quotes.
- v) “One Somerset” – Proposed Local Government reorganisation. A further consultation was expected in 2021.
- vi) SALC Climate event 24th October 2020. Cllr Crewe had attended the event and gave a brief resume. Matter to be added to the next agenda.
- vii) Shepton Mallet 4 year Town Plan. Clerk to circulate link to these proposals.
- viii) Doulling Village Hall update. Cllrs Fidge and Goff outlined the proposal received by email suggesting that the school take over the village hall. A meeting had been held with the school where it was established that this proposal was not instigated by the school and that they were still working toward an agreement between the school and trustees by the end on 2020 There was to be an AGM of the Village Hall on 26th November 2020. It was agreed to purchase a suitable map showing the school/village hall and environs for £22. Clerk to action.

2008/8 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Works to remove ash trees. The works had been completed satisfactorily and an invoice submitted for payment.

2008/9 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- I) Problem with Odin Tower equipment (installed 2016). Cllr Wilkins had spoken to Vitaplay, the supplier, who was in conversation with the manufacturer. Clerk to post a Notice and tape off the area affected pending repair.
- II) Action on Annual Inspection report. Clerk to check on Activity trail woodwork and report back. It was agreed that the equipment should be removed if found defective.

2008/10 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

No matters were raised.

2008/11 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £352.40. This was agreed.
- ii) Payment of SALC Training invoices (2). £55.00. This was agreed.
- iii) Tibbs Trees invoice for works in the Glebeland. £960.00. This was agreed.

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- iv) Clerks cost of living increase. This had been agreed by NALC and would be backdated to April, it represented a very small increase per hour. Councillors agreed unanimously to the increase.
- v) An invoice from Shepton Mallet Landscape had been received just before the meeting. Councillors queried items concerning the drain at Waterlip and the Well. Clerk to contact SM Landscapes.

2008/12 - Matters of Report:

- i) An email had been received concerning the dangers of pedestrians crossing the A361 at the Farm Road junction and requesting consideration of an official crossing. Clerk to forward email to Cllr Crewe.
- ii) Cllr Crewe advised that she was currently in a support bubble with Cllr Goff. This was duly noted.

2008/13 – Budget Review.

The press and public were excluded from this part of the meeting.

- i) Accounts to 31st October 2020, Budget Review and draft budget for 2021/22 and onwards. The accounts had yet to completed awaiting receipt of the bank statement.

The clerk had updated the draft budget to include the possible cost of the ash tree at The Well and other minor adjustments. This revised budget was shared on screen. There was some discussion about the annual grant to the church which had legal implications. Clerk to circulate relevant documents and advice on the subject prior to further discussions.

It was agreed to further update the budget and circulate before the next meeting to allow provisional agreement at the December meeting prior to the precept being set in January 2021.

2008/14 - Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be a virtual meeting on 8th December 2020

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
11th November 2020
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