

**DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

<b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020 via ZOOM. The meeting started at 7.30pm</b>	
	<p><u>Present:</u> Cllrs Paula Fidge (Chairman), John Shepherd, Sarah Goff, Ann Crowcombe and Jan Crewe; also in attendance Cllr Francis Hayden and Alan Butcher (Clerk)</p>
2005/1	<p><u>Apologies for absence.</u> Cllr Ros Wilkins.</p>
2005/2	<p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr Crowcombe noted her declaration at the previous meeting in respect of item 2005/5i</p>
2005/3	<p><u>Public Forum:</u> The Chairman will adjourned the meeting. Two members of the public were in attendance, no matters were raised. Cllr Fidge had received a communication from a parishioner raising a number of points. These were discussed. Cllr Fidge to forward the email to the Clerk for response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Reports from District and County Councillors. Cllr Hayden noted that the number of recent Covid 19 cases in the Mendip area had been mercifully few. He commented on the ongoing developments that the Local Government review currently known as One Somerset. He outlined the options being put forward by both Somerset County Council and the district councils and noted that there could be a wider review in the autumn. He suggested that a proposal to divide the county into two areas rather than a single authority was gaining ground. He noted that questions had been asked by MP's about local authority investments but that Mendips investments were stable despite the current economic crisis.</li><li>ii) Report from the Police. A report had been received noting a number of incidents in Doultling. Cllr Fidge noted that Prestleigh appeared not to be included, clerk to contact Police.</li></ul>
	<p>The chairman reconvened the meeting</p>
2005/4	<p><u>Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record. The chairman signed a hard copy of the minutes.</li></ul>

2005/5	<p><u>Parish Council Response to Planning Applications</u></p> <p>i) Application 2020/0908/FUL – Change of use of agricultural land and engineering works to provide access and hardstanding for parking on land adjacent to Willmotts Business Park, Waterlip, Shepton Mallet BA4 4RN (revised submission). Councillors noted that additional information had been included about parking and that the retention of the current footpath route had been acknowledged. They also noted that the site had been flooded on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Councillors also noted that there was still no comprehensive travel plan in place.</p> <p>Cllr Crowcombe noted that the core policy used to justify the proposals was inappropriate for this application and that the information about parking included parking provision across a number of site and did not appear to add up. She also noted that the continuing development of the site seemed to require an unwelcome expansion into the surrounding countryside. Cllr Crewe commented on the footpath route, queried the comments about the validity of not publishing the ecological report and noted that no consideration had been given to the limestone aquifer beneath the site. Cllr Shepherd noted that it was possible that in 24 hour operation two HGV drivers would be required increasing the need for parking provision but that he was not in favour of the application. Cllr Goff also noted her objection to the application. Cllr Fidge commented that the proposal would likely increase the risk of flooding in the area. In response to a request from the chairman, Cllr Hayden commented on the need to protect water courses and the like from pollutants by the use of a non-permeable surface and level of development on the site which now required the additional parking.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that the votes for this matter be recorded. She called for a vote and councillors voted unanimously to object to the application. Those who voted against were Cllrs Fidge, Shepherd, Goff, Crewe and Crowcombe.</p> <p>Cllr Hayden advised that if the application went to the planning board this was likely to be on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020.</p> <p>ii) Application 2019/2542/PAA – Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling at Higher Farm, Bodden – Notification of appeal against refusal.</p> <p>The clerk noted that councillors had voted to support the application at the meeting in November 2019. It was agreed to make no further comments in respect of the appeal.</p>
2005/6	<p><u>Parish Council Matters.</u></p> <p>i) Highways and traffic – SCC</p> <p>a) General matters – Cllr Crewe noted ongoing works to potholes and surfacing at various locations in the Parish.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) Footpath matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe with the assistance of Cllr Goff were continuing a survey of local paths.</li> <li>b) Training course for volunteer strimmer operator. This was in hand and likely to take place shortly.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii) Speedwatch. Cllr Crewe reported that the Doultling speedwatch hoped to re-commence in the near future. She hoped to meet the new Police Inspector when it was possible to do so. Cllr Fidge commented that the Prestleigh speedwatch felt abandoned by Speedwatch and the police and had not been able to start up again. She suggested that some form of traffic calming should be considered for Prestleigh and noted Stratton on the Fosse where traffic calming had been introduced on an “A” road. She also suggested that “Covid” infrastructure monies from the government could be used to fund the work. It was also noted that traffic calming would be beneficial on the road down to The well in Doultling.</li> <li>iv) Report of ash trees near The Well and in The Glebeland. Mary Newman was still awaiting information from the tree surgeon about which trees needed immediate attention and the likely cost for the work to remove them. It was suggested that there could be grants and community funding available to fund the works.</li> <li>v) “One Somerset” – Proposed Local Government reorganisation. Councillors noted Cllr Hayden’s comments. The clerk had circulated various items of information and would check that a 40 page document which had been circulated to Cranmore PC had also been circulated to Doultling councillors.</li> </ul>
2005/7	<p><u>Matters relating to The Glebeland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) As previously noted information and quotes were still awaited for the removal of those trees requiring immediate attention. Cllr Crowcombe to seek grants and funding for the works, agreed unanimously.</li> </ul>
2005/8	<p><u>Matters relating to Padfield Green.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Re-opening of play park. This had taken place and the notices placed giving guidance on use of the play park were still in place.</li> <li>ii) Repairs to safety surface – quotes received. Two quotes had been received, one of £650 and one of £1500 both plus VAT. It was agreed to accept the £650 quote from Redlynch Leisure. Clerk to check if there is any warranty on the work and place order.</li> </ul>

2005/9	<p><u>Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Cllr Crowcombe noted that traffic lights were in use for facilitate road repairs.</li> <li>ii) Cllr Crewe to ask highways to attend to the drainage grips in Ball Lane.</li> <li>iii) Cllr Fidge noted that areas of the showground had not been mown and were in a poor state.</li> </ul>
2005/10	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Clerks salary and expenses. £355.40. This was agreed.</li> <li>ii) HMRC Quarter 1 Tax. £231.40. This was agreed.</li> <li>iii) SALC Affiliation fee. £173.43. This was agreed.</li> <li>iv) L Caple – Internal Audit fee. £80.00. This was agreed.</li> </ul> <p>Payment cheques had been sent to Cllr Fidge and Cllr Shepherd for signature.</p>
2005/11	<p>Updated Asset Register. This had been circulated.</p>
2005/12	<p>Acceptance of accounts to 31/3/20 and completion of Annual Return papers. These had been circulated to councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Councillors voted to accept the audited accounts and the Internal Auditors report.</li> <li>ii) Councillors confirmed that the Parish Council were Exempt from the limited review audit and the RFO and Chairman signed the Certificate of Exemption.</li> <li>iii) The Annual Governance was reviewed, agreed and signed by the clerk and Chairman.</li> </ul>
2005/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv) The Annual Accounting statement was reviewed, agreed and signed by the clerk and Chairman.</li> </ul> <p>Quarterly accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. These had been circulated. The clerk to send the bank reconciliation papers to Cllr Crewe for review and signature.</p>
2005/14	<p><u>Matters of Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) It was agreed that Cllr Crewe should include a Parish Council update in the Parish Magazine when published</li> </ul>
2005/15	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be a virtual meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (provisional)</p>

The meeting finished at 8.40pm

**Alan Butcher,**

**Parish Clerk,**

**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**

**01749 870358;**

**[doultngclerk@gmail.com](mailto:doultngclerk@gmail.com)**

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