

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th JUNE 2026 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

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

2606/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr Greaves.

2606/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2606/3 - 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.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning:
A representative of the bus partnership spoke about a recent meeting to discuss the proposed bus/train scheduling from Glastonbury. The meeting also discussed the problems with students over the age of 16 gaining access to transport to attend college/school where no reduced price travel was available.
The matter of the overgrown hedge along the footpath to the school from Church Lane was discussed. Clerk to write to school and landowner about the matter.
It was note that the Padfield Green play area had been used by a number of adults with dogs in contravention of the rules concerning age and dogs.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2606/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2026 be agreed and signed as a true record. These were so agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2606/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2026/0966/VRC - Variation of conditions 6 (Biodiversity Gain Plan) of Planning Consent 2025/0503/FUL. 1 Manor Farm Cottages Farm Road Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QG. Councillors expressed concern about the replacement of the “green” roof included on the original application with a metal clad roof which would detract from the original proposal. Councillors voted three in favour with one against to object to the application.

2606/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Councillors responsibilities for the coming year. These were agreed as follows:
Cllr Crewe – Speedwatch, footpaths; Cllr Baker – Village Hall; Cllr Yoell – quarries; Cllr Greaves – SID’s.
- ii) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Highway Maintenance update. The clerk outlined the proposals from Somerset to instigate devolved works noting that the process started with an application to the Highways Officer at LCN meetings. Clerk to discover the contact details.

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- b. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works and anticipated costs. The list produced by Cllr Greaves was reviewed. It was noted that some items had been completed by Somerset. Warning signs in Well Lane were discussed and it was suggested that a sign could be affixed to Cllr Baker’s wall, details to be discussed further.
Following inspection, minor repairs were needed to the retaining wall in Well Lane, it was suggested that a local tradesman could be employed to do this.
The re-lining of the school/village hall car park was discussed without a conclusion as to cost or responsibility.
- iii) Somerset Council matters
 - a. LCN – AGM 6th July 2026, Council Offices, Shepton Mallet. This was noted.
- iv) Highways and traffic –
 - a. It was noted that the local MP intended to write to Somerset about the difficulties of crossing the A361 at Padfield Green and Farm Road. A number of solutions were suggested, clerk to write to MP offering support.
- v) Parish Paths Liaison Officers report. Cllr Crewe reported that some paths had been strimmed and others were in hand along with two stiles which had been cleared.
- vi) Speedwatch. Cllr Crewe confirmed all was in place awaiting the go ahead from the police.
- vii) SID’s information, Somerset MOU and purchase of equipment. The clerk had contacted Traffic Safety without reply.
- viii) Village Hall matters. Cllr reported that a deep clean of the hall was scheduled and that the community room ceiling repair was in hand.
- ix) Somerset Bus Partnership and Bus Franchising Proposals. See 2606/3i above.
- x) SALC Training events. Cllr Baker had attended an AI Training event which he found very useful. He queried if councillors required safeguarding training; clerk to advise.
- xi) Parish Council website and email addresses. The process of updating the website was in hand and new email address had been circulated. On advice, it was agreed to retain the old address (doultingparish.org) for security.

2606/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Skate Park refurbishment. Proposals for renewal of the skate park were being developed although this could take a little time before an idea of costs was known.
- ii) The next meeting is on 1st July 2026.
- iii) Possible re-structure of the Glebeland Committee. The clerk had spoken to an SWT contact who had made suggestions about involving outside volunteers to help maintain the Glebeland.

2606/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Planting troughs around perimeter. Compliments about the planting had been received,
- ii) Shading structure. Proposals would be taken forward to 2027.
- iii) Car Park wall. The loose cappings had been removed and it was suggested that a local tradesman could be employed to tidy the wall up even though it appeared to be owned by Somerset. This could be done along with the Well Lane wall.

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2606/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) It was noted that the temporary traffic lights at the Farm Road junction were not deployed during the recent Bath and West Show, clerk to write to point this out to the Bath and West.

2606/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £559.88. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £114.20. This was agreed and a cheque raise
- iii) SALC Invoices - £70. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) The Information Commissioners fee request had been received - £52. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) Website Costs. The update was proceeding with the first-year cost of £250 and £350 thereafter.

2606/11 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Crewe asked if the Parish Council minutes could be published in the newsletter. It was noted that this could only be done after the minutes were approved at the following meeting.
- ii) It was suggested that notices should be posted in the school car park about idling engines as this was a continuing problem.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

2606/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 8th July 2026 at The Poachers Pocket, Doultling.
Following meeting - Wednesday 9th September 2026.

Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
24th June 2026
01749 870358;
email: parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org**