

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22ND April 2026 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Simon Baker (Chair), Bruce Yoell, John Shepherd and Jan Crewe; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk) and 18 members of the public.

2604E/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Sarah Goff and Les Greaves.

2604E/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2604E/3 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

That confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th March 2026 be held over until the next scheduled Parish Council meeting. This was so agreed.

2604E/4 - 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. The Chairman reminded members of the public about the limits on speaking time during the forum.

Two members of the public spoke about various concerns about the several planning applications for Manor Farm, Prestleigh and were disappointed that the council had supported an application for three dwellings on the site at the previous meeting asking for that decision to be reversed. The Chairman explained that the council, in reviewing the application, had no reason not to support it as a standalone proposals. The clerk explained that Standing Orders prevented a change in a previous decision within a six month period unless a protocol and proposal from councillors had been received. Members of the public explained problems with the ownership of the access track and the legal rights of way across this access.

Several members of the public spoke about the proposal for works on an existing site at Farm Road, Doultling citing the use of local barrow lanes by heavy goods vehicles damaging road surfaces, verges and underground infrastructure. Concer was expressed about the proposals for industrial units on the site which could generate more traffic in the area. Much concern was expressed about the access to the site via the junction of Farm Road with the A361 at the Abbey Barn junction already agreed as being hazardous for the existing level of traffic using the junction. Access to the A361 via the narrow lane adjoining the railway was also highlighted as being unsuitable.

The owner of the site explained the proposals and intentions behind them noting that the site already was accessed by heavy goods vehicles in its existing use. The provision of small business units on the site was not intended to increase the amount of traffic from the site. He also noted that the damage to lanes and verges were caused by large tractors and the like using other properties in the area rather than vehicles accessing his site.

Concern was expressed by an adjoining landowner about the the type of works that would take place in the new units and the hours of working as this would have an impact on livestock housed in barns very close to the proposed development.

The Chairman closed the public forum and thanked those attending for their comments.

Draft Minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting
2604E/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2026/0474/PAA - Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to 5no. dwellinghouses (Class C3). Manor Farm Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4NJ.
- ii) 2026/0646/PAA - Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 3no. dwellinghouses (Class C3). Barns At 363591 140245 Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset.
- iii) 2026/0157/FUL - Proposed widening and improvements to existing access, Manor Farm Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4NJ

Councillors discussed all the Manor applications as one and noted the Highway Department comments about the access which was currently not suitable for the proposed developments and had not received their approval.

Councillors voted unanimously to object to the proposals included on all three applications on the grounds of lack of Highways approval.

- iv) 2026/0461/OUT - Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except for access and layout, for the redevelopment of site to provide eight industrial units for B1 and B2 uses, use of existing building for B2 and B8 uses and associated parking and access alterations with details of access and layout. Land At 364524 142018 Farm Road Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset.

Councillors were concerned by the problems of heavy vehicles and access to the site as outlined by members of the public. As a result, after discussion, it was agreed to leave the determination of the application to the planning officer and to include comments above traffic and access as well as adjoining owners concerns. This was agreed all in favour.

- v) 2026/0349/HSE - Erection of steel frame storage barn. Southberry Close Chelynch Road Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4RQ. This application had been approved on 21st April 2026.

2604E/6 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £599.88. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £114.20. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Elite Playground Inspections. The clerk confirmed he had renewed the contract for the following year with a 10% increase (from 2024). An invoice for a recent inspection for £126.00 had been received. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) SALC Annual Subscription £282.24. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) Draft accounts to 31/03/26 – these had been circulated awaiting audit.
- vi) AGAR process. The council was not exempt from external audit for 2025/6. The accounts were with the internal auditor and the audited accounts and AGAR Return would be presented at the next meeting.

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2604E/7 - Matters of Report

- i) Hedge cutting at junction of A361 and Chelynch Road. Cllr Shepherd noted that the home owner had complained of vandalism to the hedge which had been cut back to improve visibility. He was unaware of who had carried out this work.
- ii) It was noted that the status of land around the quarry had changed but that the quarry itself was still operating normally.
- iii) A query about the age limit for children using Padfield Green play area was raised.
- iv) Dog fouling was reported in the wood behind the Glebeland.

2604E/8 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 14th May 2026 at Doultling Village Hall at 7pm

Annual Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 14th May 2026 at Doultling Village Hall at 7.30pm

Advance notice that the June meeting of Doultling Parish Council will take place on 17th June 2026 and not the second Wednesday, 10th June.

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
29th April 2026
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email: parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org**

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