

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2025
AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL, DOULTING COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Sarah Goff, Simon Baker, Les Greaves and John Shepherd;
also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk).

2509/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Yoell and Crewe.

2509/2 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Baker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda items /5i and /5ii.

Cllr Shepherd declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item /5iv.

Cllr Greaves noted he was a neighbour to the applications noted in /5i and ii.

2509/3 - 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. Two members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning:
The location of the land for sale noted in the last minutes was queried.
The need for licensing for volunteer work such as litter picking was queried; no final details of any licensing scheme were available.
Cllr Shepherd spoke briefly in support of planning application iv) 2025/1528/AGB.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2509/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2025 be agreed and signed as a true record. The minutes were so agreed subject to a minor amendment to the location noted in minutes 25/07/11i. The amended minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2509/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) Cllr Baker left the meeting at this point.
2025/1466/TCA - T1 - Goat Willow - Crown Reduction by 2-3 metres, removal of branches overhanging lane. Well House Well Lane Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE. This application had already been determined.
- ii) 2025/1500/TCA - Reduction of shrubbery by 3-4 metres, removal of overgrown conifer and lowering height of other trees/shrubs. Well House Well Lane Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE. Councillors had no comments on this application and voted in support.
Cllr Baker rejoined the meeting at this point.
- iii) 2025/1501/HSE - Proposed single storey extensions to front and rear. New roof over building. Brynhyfryd Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4NL.
Councillors had no comments or objections to this application. They agreed to leave determination to the planning officer.
Cllr Shepherd left the meeting at this point.
- iv) 2025/1528/AGB - A general purpose agricultural building. Kings Farm Kings Road Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4PY. Councillors had no comments on this application and voted in support.
Cllr Shepherd rejoined the meeting at this point.

- v) Doultong Stone Quarry. Response from Somerset and MP and further actions. There was some discussion about the content of the email received belatedly from Somerset on this matter. Councillors queried several of the points made in the email and noted that the comments seemed to contradict the Constitution document published before the decision to approval the application was made. It was agreed to respond to the email pointing out the apparent contradictions and querying the role of the Somerset Councillors in the determination of the application. The clerk to draft a response for circulation.
- vi) Somerset Council Planning Emergency Actions to reduce backlog. These actions were noted.
- vii) Cllr Baker noted that the information on the Edge Tool Works discussed at the last meeting had been circulated. All were concerned about the continued diversion of the footpath and noted the condition of the planning permission about the footpath. Clerk to contact Somerset Rights of Way and, if necessary, contact Planning enforcement.

2509/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Highway Maintenance update and Working Group. It was noted that a meeting of the working group appeared to have been called at short notice such that no one was able to attend.
 - b. Volunteer Highway Maintenance scheme. Further details of this scheme were yet to be published.
 - c. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works to be prepared. Cllr Greaves had prepared a short list of works. It was agreed to contact Keir for a quotation for these works and also to send the list to Highways.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a. LCN – Local Transport Plan. This had been circulated. The clerk noted that neither Prestleigh of Doultong appeared in any of the location details included in the document. The consultation closed on 28th September and he would write noting the omissions.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a. Grit bins. Cllr Greaves had checked the bins and listed the contents of each, the bin in Prestleigh Lane needed to be checked. He agreed to agitate the contents of the bins prior to refilling by Somerset.
 - b. Cllr Baker was concerned about the stone wall on the Parish Land side of Well Lane which could become a repair liability for the council. The clerk advised that there could be a definitive map in the documents in the filing cabinet in the store otherwise it was agreed Cllr Baker should obtain a suitable LR plan of the area.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officers report. The clerk noted that a new strimmer person had come forward.
- v) Speedwatch. No action since the last meeting.
- vi) SID's information, requirements and grant. Cllr Greaves was organising quotes for the equipment and the additional location required. The type and cost of the equipment to be agreed at the next meeting and the revised Somerset MOU completed.

Draft Minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- vii) Village Hall matters including car park registration. Cllr Baker advised that he had had a successful meeting with the school. A wi-fi installation was being considered for the community room. He confirmed the completion of the Car Park Land Registration. He thanked a committee member Andy Pollard for his work on the hall including the installation of more sound proof doors between the main hall and community room.
- viii) Flood and Emergency Plans. These continued to be updated as required.
- ix) Somerset Local Plan. Awaiting details from Somerset.
- x) Somerset Bus Partnership. The Chairman invited a member of the public to speak briefly about this matter, she reported that work continued but that there was little new to report.
- xi) SALC Training. There were no takers for the current training events.

2509/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Next meeting 24th September 2025.
- ii) Annual Skate Park inspection. The clerk noted that the usual items had been highlighted once again but there were no pressing issues to be dealt with.

2509/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Annual Play Area inspection. The clerk noted that the usual items had been highlighted once again but there were no pressing issues to be dealt with.
- ii) The status of the area where the “car” is parked to be checked.

2509/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. Problems had been noted with speeding and overtaking traffic within the speed limits at the bottom of Prestleigh Hill and that, although the police were aware of this, no action had been taken to date.

2509/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £1060.94. This amount covered two months and also included the recent NALC pay increase. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) NALC Salary increase. The increase from 1st April 2025 of 64 pence per hour (gross) was agreed and an updated Standing Order mandate signed.
- iii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £235.60. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Payment of SPFA invoice for Annual Inspections £210. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) Invoice for tree works by Tibbs Trees. £1740. This was agreed and a cheque raised.

2509/11 - Matters of Report

- i) A recent consultation from Somerset about Sunday parking charges to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

2509/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 8th October 2025 at Doultling Village Hall.
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
17th September 2025**

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