

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 16th July 2025 AT THE POACHERS POCKET, DOULTING COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Sarah Goff (Chair), Simon Baker. Les Greaves, Bruce Yoell and Jan Crewe.

2507/1 - Apologies for absence. Mary Newman.

2507/2 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Greaves declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 2025/1095/TCA.

Cllr Baker declared a personal interest in planning application 2025/1148/TCA (neighbour).

2507/3 - 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. Seven members of the public were present.

i) Matters on the Agenda including planning.

A number of people spoke about the proposal for 10 dwellings at Manor Farm, Prestleigh (2025/1081/PAA) citing poor access and visibility onto the A371, flooding on site, the poor state of the existing buildings which were understated in the documents, the presence of bats and the validity of the ecological survey. An adjoining landowner noted that the access track into the proposed site was not owned by the applicant and that permission would not be granted for any works to that track.

Members of the public spoke about the re-consultation of the Moons Hill Quarry application noting the proximity to a listed building (Wagon and Horses) and other dwellings noting that there had been no significant changes to the application now under consideration.

A representative from the Bus Partnership spoke about recent developments and proposals and offered advice if required.

Cllr Greaves spoke briefly about planning application 2025/1095/TCA.

ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2507/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

i) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11TH June 2025 be agreed and signed as a true record. These were so agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2507/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

i) 2025/1095/TCA. 3 x Betula Pendula Trees – Fell - Rowan Cottage School Lane Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE. Cllr Greaves left the room for this item.

Councillors had no objections to the application and agreed unanimously to support it.

ii) 2025/1081/PAA. Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 10no. dwellinghouses (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Barns At Manor Farm Prestleigh Hill Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset.

Councillors raised objections to this application which had been submitted previously. They echoed concerns about the access onto the A37, local flooding and the validity of the structural report which took an optimistic view of the state of the existing structures. Councillors were concerned about the ecological report of the validity of the bat survey being unsure if this had been carried out by a suitably qualified bat ecologist. Councillors voted unanimously to OBJECT to the application and to submit the above comments.

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- iii) 2025/1148/TCA. T1 Beech - Fell T2 Ash - Fell T3 Cypress – Fell - Oriel Cottage 51 Church Lane Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE.
Councillors had no objections to the application and agreed unanimously to support it.
- iv) 2025/1172/HSE. Erection of a single storey extension and associated external terrace/patio works - Evergreen House Prestleigh Lane Prestleigh Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4NG.
Councillors had no objections to the application and agreed unanimously to support it.
- v) Applications SCC/4079, 4080, 4081, 4082/2023 - Moons Hill Quarry Complex Stoke St Michael Radstock Somerset BA3 5JU – Re-consultation. (The Parish Councils previous responses will be emailed to councillors separately). Councillors noted minor changes to the applications but saw no reason to withdraw the previous objections to the applications. Councillors voted unanimously to OBJECT to the application. It was agreed to update and re-submit previous comments; clerk to update and circulate in draft.
- vi) Doultong Stone Quarry. Submission to Planning Ombudsman, response and further actions. Cllr Yoell advised that a new submission to the ombudsman was being prepared. Clerk to forward contact details.
- vii) Edge Tool Works – further correspondence. Clerk to circulate most recent communications.
- viii) Somerset Council Review of Planning Process. The contents of this review were noted.

2507/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Highway Maintenance update and details. The clerk had attended an online presentation about the proposals recently circulated. He noted that the proposals were presented with great optimism. A number of clerks present had asked specific questions about the operation of the proposed scheme and he had asked a question about Doultong Hill drainage and Somerset Councillors responsibility for highway safety on the A361 and A371. He was advised that Somerset Council were reviewing drainage on the A361 although no specific location was mentioned.
 - b. Volunteer Highway Maintenance scheme. Work by volunteers on the highway would require all volunteers to be trained and volunteer activities such as litter picking, weed clearance, etc would require a licence; the training and licences were provided free of charge by Somerset Council.
 - c. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works to be prepared. Cllr Goff asked for councillors to consider this item in time for the September meeting.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a. LCN meeting – 7th July 2025 at Shepton Mallet. No one had been able to attend. Cllr Baker had written to Cllr Clarke about the Highways Working Group. It was noted that no previous meeting minutes appeared to have been issued.
The clerk advised that a review of the LCN process was to take place over the coming months.
 - b. Somerset Chairs awards. Councillors had no input to this process.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a. The clerk noted a new reporting system was in place for highway defects and issues.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officers report. Cllr Crewe reported that this had been taken over by another member of the public.
- v) Speedwatch. This was in abeyance until September.

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- vi) SID's information, requirements and grant. Cllr Greaves reported the receipt of a £5000 grant for the installation of the SID's. He was currently seeking quotes for the equipment.
- vii) Village Hall matters. Cllr Baker reported good bookings and proposals for decoration works.
- viii) Flood and Emergency Plans. These were on going.
- ix) Somerset Local Plan. The clerk had circulated a consultation which required a response after the September meeting.
- x) Somerset Bus Partnership. Cllr Goff had passed on her details as the Doultling representative.
- xi) Defibrillator vandalism. The machine had been repaired and was back in place. No information about the perpetrators of the vandalism was known although the police had been involved.

2507/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Report from meeting 10th July 2025. The minutes had been circulated.
- ii) Refurbishment of Skate Park. This was ongoing.

2507/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Vehicle parked outside Padfield Green. The status of the area where the vehicle is parked to be confirmed.

2507/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. There had been no further action on this matter.
- ii) An email concerning flooding in Prestleigh had been received and circulated.

2507/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £549.18. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £110.60. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Payment of Elite Playground inspection invoice £114. This was agreed and a cheque raised.

2507/11 - Matters of Report

- i) It was reported that a parcel of land behind the school had been sold. There was a general discussion about the purchase of adjoining land if it became available.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

2507/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 10th September 2025 at Doultling Village Hall.
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

There is no scheduled meeting in August

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
25th July 2025
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