

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES THE ANNUAL MEETING OF DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2025 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Simon Baker (Chair), Bruce Yoell and John Shepherd; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk).

2505/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Sarah Goff, Jan Crewe and Les Greaves.

2505/2 - Election of Chairman: proposed Cllr Yoell, seconded Cllr Shepherd that Cllr Baker be elected, all in favour.

2505/3 - Election of Vice Chairman: this was deferred until the next meeting.

The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2505/4 – Confirmation of Proper Officer: Alan Butcher was confirmed.

2505/5 - Confirmation of Responsible Financial Officer: Alan Butcher was confirmed.

2505/6 - Appointment of Glebeland Committee.

Appointment of Parish Council representatives and Committee members. The following were appointed:
Cllr Simon Baker (Chair), Mary Newman, Margaret Hares, Lyn Knight and Emma Hill)

2505/7 - Appointment of Representative on the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Baker was appointed.

NB - Councillors individual responsibilities to be confirmed at the next meeting.

2505/8 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

2505/9 - 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. Five members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning.
The applicant spoke about planning application 2025/0503/FUL outlining the reasons for the application and its use. Councillors queried a number of matters including whether the building was likely to be used for commercial purposes in the future and the previous comments from neighbours. The applicant confirmed that discussions had taken place with neighbours and that the building was to be used as a home office replacing a premises currently rented in Frome. The applicant spoke about application 2025/0768/HSE outlining the reasons for the proposal extension and confirming they would be moving back to the village to support a relative. A member of the public spoke about application 2025/0799/TPO advising that the application had not been made by the church authorities but by a neighbour. Concern was expressed about the lack of report or approval from the Somerset tree officer.
A member of the public expressed concern about the positioning of a new Dog Fouling notice in The Glebeland; this to be raised with Cllr Crewe.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2505/10 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 9th April 2025 be agreed and signed as a true record. It was proposed Cllr Yoell, seconded Cllr Shepherd that the minutes be accepted. This was agreed unanimously and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2505/11 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2025/0503/FUL - Erection of a single storey workshop/studio; 1 Manor Farm Cottages Farm Road Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QG – previously 2025/0503/HSE. Councillors discussed the application, which had been resubmitted, noting comments submitted in respect of the previous application. After discussion it was agreed to support the application, two in favour with one abstention.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

- ii) 2025/0768/HSE - First floor extension to existing detached double garage, New Buildings 58 Doultling Hill To Farrington Lane Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QF. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application.
- iii) 2025/799/TPO - TPO M1360: T1 - Yew: reduce by approx 4m in height and shape accordingly to leave a low dome and remove the overhanging foliage from the access track. Pruning cuts up to an approx diameter of 250mm. Church Of St Aldhelm Church Lane Doultling Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QE. Councillors were concerned at the lack of a report and approval from the Somerset tree officer. They also noted that the church was not the applicant. Councillors agreed to leave the matter to the planning officer noting concerns about lack of input from the Somerset Tree Officer.
- iv) Doultling Stone Quarry. Submission to Planning Ombudsman and response. The agreed submission had been submitted to the Ombudsman who had advised a 12 – 14 week consideration period.

2505/12 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works to be prepared. Councillors briefly discussed how such a schedule could be prepared within a list of parameters connected with the works being devolved from Somerset.
 - b. Highways Working Group. Councillors expressed concern about the short notice given for a group meeting arranged for 29th May 2025 which had been notified today. Cllr Baker was unable to attend and would speak to other councillors about attending.
 - c. Grass cutting. Councillors confirmed that there were no areas of grass cutting within the parish which the council could take on.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a) LCN meeting – 13th May 2025. Cllr Baker expressed his concern that, after a successful LCN meeting previously, the agenda for this meeting failed to build on the highways information previously promised. As the agenda for this meeting seemed irrelevant he had sent his apologies and did not attend. All agreed that the LCN process failed to fulfil the expectations promised at their inception.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a) Doultling Hill drainage and signs. It was noted that some signs had been cleaned and repositioned.
 - b) List of white lining renewals for Somerset Council. This had been sent to Somerset.
 - c) Traffic Management proposals for:
 - a) Bath and West Show
 - b) Glastonbury FestivalNo comments were made on either event.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. No report.
- v) Speedwatch. No report.
- vi) SID's information, requirements, grant and letter from Somerset Council. No report.
- vii) Village Hall matters:

Cllr Baker reported good usage of the hall.

He would be meeting with the school to discuss mutual matters shortly.
- viii) Flood and Emergency Plans. No update.
- ix) Somerset Local Plan. Further information awaited.
- x) Trees on Parish Council land at Well Lane. To be reconsidered in the autumn.
- xi) Parish Newsletters. Information had been sent for publication.
- xii) Annual Parish Meeting 21st May 2025. No matters were raised for Parish Council consideration.

2505/13 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Replacement/repair of storm damage. Cllr Shepherd reported difficulties with installing the new support posts due to the rocky sub surface. It was agreed to consider new fencing and to remove the play wall. Cllr Shepherd to remove the timber play wall from site.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

- ii) Recent tree works and additional works proposed. It was agreed to budget £400 for clearance works and to leave further proposals for tree works until later in the year.
- iii) Refurbishment of Skate Park. There was some discussion concerning how any refurbishment should be achieved and it was suggested that a "local champion" was required to move the project forward rather than an outside consultant. This could be an item for the newsletter.

2505/14 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Concern was expressed about the apparent inaction by the authorities in dealing with the car parked by the notice board which appeared to be untaxed, uninsured or MOT'd. The matter to be reported again to the authorities.

2505/15 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. There was no further action from the police on this matter.

2505/16 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £538.79. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £110.60. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Invoice for tree works by Tibbs Trees. The invoice was awaited.

2505/17 - Matters of Report

No matters were raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

2505/18 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 11th June 2025 at Doultling Village Hall.
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
24th May 2025
01749 870358;
email: parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org