

Draft Minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

## **DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Sarah Goff (Chair), Jan Crewe, John Shepherd, Simon Baker, Les Greaves and Bruce Yoell; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)

2405/1 - Apologies for absence. None.

2405/2 - Election of Chairman:

Proposed Cllr Shepherd, seconded Cllr Crewe that Cllr Goff be elected, there were no other Nominations and Cllr Goff was duly elected.

2405/3 - Election of Vice Chairman:

Proposed Cllr Greaves, seconded Cllr Goff that Cllr Baker be elected, there were no other Nominations and Cllr Baker was duly elected.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2405/4 – Confirmation of Proper Officer. The clerk, Alan Butcher was confirmed.

2405/5 - Confirmation of Responsible Financial Officer. The clerk, Alan Butcher was confirmed.

2405/6 - Appointment of Glebeland Committee.

Appointment of Parish Council representatives and Committee members - currently Cllr Simon Baker Mary Newman, Margaret Hares, Lyn Knight, Becky Leyton and Emma Hill. All members were reappointed en-bloc.

2405/7 - Appointment of Representative on the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Baker was duly appointed.

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

2405/8 - Declarations of Interest:

No declarations were made.

2405/9 - 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.

Comments were made about the recent use of a crusher at the quarry noted in the last minutes. It was noted that the level of noise, dust and vehicle movements would be more intrusive if the machine was in continuous operation. The clerk noted that the planning application for the quarry was still undecided. Cllr Goff reiterated the need to balance concerns about the quarry with the recognition that the quarry was an integral part of the village of Doultling.

The need for a dog bin in Chelynch Road was raised.

A suggestion was made that Parish Council and Somerset Council information should be published in the newsletter. Cllr Baker to consider this but it was noted that Parish Council minutes per sec need to be approved at the following meeting before they could be used in a newsletter.

The matter of speeding traffic on Chelynch Road and the A361 was raised and the installation of SID's suggested.

Speeding traffic on the A371 Prestleigh Hill was raised and conversations with Cllr Clarke noted. The clerk had written to Traffic Management about the issue and was awaiting a reply.

A suggestion was made that a number of suitable signs could be erected along the roads where speeding was taking place to deter motorists.

- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.
- iii) Somerset Councillors response regarding attendance at meetings. The clerk had written to Cllrs Clarke and Ham asking them to attend Doultling Parish Council meetings. He had received a negative response from Cllr Clarke. A member of the public responded in support of Cllr Clarke whose response had alleged that the council was undemocratic and that he would not attend meetings until he received an apology for council actions before he was elected to Somerset Council. Cllr Goff noted that there had been some issues with Cllr Clarke in the past, before he became a Somerset Councillor, when he had reported the council and some councillors to the Monitoring Officer who dismissed the complaint and ruled in the council's favour. It was agreed that the clerk would circulate the reply from Cllr Clarke to councillors for comments in advance of any response from the council.

2405/10 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 be agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Greaves that this be so agreed. All in favour.

2405/11 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) No applications were notified before the publication of this agenda.
- ii) Site works and caravans sited at Waterlip. Clerk to circulate response received from Planning Enforcement.
- iii) Bat roost shed at The Old Diary, Hurlingpot Farm. A response had been received from Planning Enforcement, clerk to circulate. Cllr Crewe queried the time limit for the completion of the bat roost. The clerk advised that the conditions imposed by the Planners contained no specific time limit other than the statutory one.

2405/12 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals. There were no further details of possible costs, etc although it was noted that it was proposed to reduce the amount of grass mowing to verges.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
  - a) LCN meeting – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April report. No councillor was able to attend this meeting.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
  - a) Village hall car park - footpath from Church Lane. This was in hand.
  - b) Doultling Hill drainage and signs. There had been no further action on these matters.
  - c) The drain at The Poachers Pocket was still blocked. This had been reported.

- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report – Cllr Crewe was writing a report on footpaths including the path at the Edge Tool works which was still disputed by the landowner.
- v) Speedwatch. More watches would be taking place as the weather improved.
- vi) SID's information and requirements. Cllr Crewe had received no response from Traffic Management about the SID's on the A361 and Chelynch Road, she would endeavour to contact the officer by telephone to discuss the matter.
- vii) Village Hall matters:  
There was no further information on the car park matter  
There were increasing bookings for the village hall.  
It was suggested that the main hall floor markings needed to be renewed.
- viii) Glastonbury Festival – potential problems with Charlton Road roadworks. Somerset had advised that the works would be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.
- ix) Dog Poo bin on Chelynch Road. There was uncertainty about continuing emptying arrangements; it was agreed to hold this matter in abeyance until this was clarified.
- x) Somerset Day event. This was noted, no specific events were planned for 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- xi) SALC Training events. No councillors wished to attend any of these events.
- xii) Bus shelters cleaning. Clerk to seek a quote for the Carey Close shelter.
- xiii) Playground and skate park inspections. A quotation from Elite Inspections was considered. It was agreed to instruct them to carry out quarterly inspections of the playground and skate park at a cost of £95 per inspection. The clerk advised that this company were substantially cheaper than other national companies he had researched.

2405/13 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Skate Park – committee member Lyn Knight had been in contact with a person who could advise on the refurbishment of the skate park.
- ii) Cllr Baker had produced a safety sign for the skate park; it was agreed to obtain a quotation for the supply of the sign.
- iii) Committee member Mary Newman reported on recent working party work where a hedge had been cut back and shredded. She noted that a further working party was being arranged.

2405/14 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Commemorative Tree planting – SM Landscape had been instructed to carry this out.
- ii) Sun shading structure and hedge proposals. SM Landscape had been asked for a quotation for the shelter but had not responded. It was agreed to leave this until the autumn.

2405/15 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Bath and West Licensing applications. These had been circulated and the council had no comments.
- ii) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. The clerk had written to Traffic Management and was awaiting a reply.
- iii) Details of the arrangements for the next meeting to be held at the Bath and West were to be confirmed.

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2405/16 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £495.88. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £107.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Additional bank signatories. Cllr Greaves to finalise the signature formalities.
- iv) Accounts for 2023/24 . These were still with the auditor and would be finalised at the next meeting.
- v) AGAR 2023/24 actions including amended Certificate of Exemption. This would be completed at the next meeting.

2405/17 - Matters of Report

- i) The clerk had received today a Flood Plan and it was agreed to review this and the emergency plan.
- ii) Cllr Baker noted that the landowner of the Edge Tool works would be away for a period of time but had advised that works would be taking place on site.
- iii) Clerk to send letter to landowner about the removal of diseased rabbits on his land
- iv) Details of traffic arrangements for the B&W show were discussed and forthcoming road closures on the A361 mentioned.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

2405/18 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the Bath and West Showground.  
Meetings commence at 7.30pm

**Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
16<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
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