

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

DOULTING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th APRIL 2025 AT DOULTING VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

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

2504/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Jan Crewe and Les Greaves.

2504/2 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Baker made a declaration concerning the reimbursement for the padlocks purchased on behalf of the council.

2504/3 - 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. Three members of the public were present.

- i) Matters on the Agenda including planning:
A member of the public raised concerns about planning application 2025/0503/HSE and the fact that it was a standalone structure with access via a shared right of way on land where the ownership was unclear. The designation as a workshop and its future use was also a concern. Cllr Yoell noted that the application should have been a “full” application rather than a householder type as this required less information about the proposal to be given.
A member of the public raised concerns about the recent works to trees in the Glebeland.
- ii) Somerset Councillors reports – circulated.

2504/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of Meeting held on 12th March 2025 be agreed and signed as a true record. This was so agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chairman

2504/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications:

- i) 2025/0503/HSE - Erection of a single storey workshop/studio; 1 Manor Farm Cottages Farm Road Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QG. Letters of objection to the application had been received from adjoining neighbours expressing concern about the look and use of the proposed workshop. Cllr Yoell raised concerns about the type of application submitted as well as the siting of an industrial style building adjoining residential properties outside of the building line. Traffic using the access could be a problem and a possible future commercial use of the building discussed. Councillors were concerned that the information included with the application was vague and insufficient for proper consideration. Cllr Shepherd was concerned that no reason or purpose was given to support the application and that future commercial use could have a great effect on the neighbouring properties. Councillors voted unanimously to object to the application.
- ii) 2025/0508/CLP - Lawful Development Certificate of Proposed Use for the siting of a mobile home (caravan); New Buildings 58 Doultong Hill To Farrington Lane Doultong Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4QF. Councillors commented that the caravan should only be used for domestic residential purposes rather than commercial letting use. It was agreed to leave the determination of the application to the planning officer.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

- iii) 2025/0546/AGB - Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed building; West Bodden Farm Bodden Lane Bodden Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4PU. Councillors had no comments on this application.
- iv) 2025/0555/PAA - Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 2no. dwellinghouses (Class C3); Barn At 365182 141263 Holcombe Lane Evercreech Shepton Mallet Somerset. Councillors had no comments on this application.
- v) Doultong Stone Quarry. Draft submission to Planning Ombudsman; summary to be sent to Somerset CE and MP. Councillors voted unanimously to approve the V3 submission circulated by the clerk.

2504/6 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council Highway Service Devolution proposals:
 - a. Highway works commissioned by the Parish Council – Schedule of works to be prepared. This was still in hand.
 - b. Highways Working Group. No further information – see LCN below.
- ii) Somerset Council matters
 - a) LCN meeting – next meeting 28th April 2025. It was understood that this meeting would focus on Highways matters; Cllr Baker to attend.
- iii) Highways and traffic –
 - a) Doultong Hill drainage and signs. Cllr Goff noted that signs at the bottom of the hill had been cleaned and adjusted.
 - b) List of white lining renewals for Somerset Council. The clerk had received a request from Highways to confirm areas in Doultong parish where white lining needed to be renewed. Councillors agreed Chelynch Road from the A361 past the Poachers Pocket required attention.
 - c) Traffic Management proposals for:
 - a) Bath and West Show. It was agreed that traffic management for the show had always been a problem.
 - b) Glastonbury Festival – councillors had no comments as this seemed to present only minor problems.
- iv) Parish Paths Liaison Officer report. Cllr Crewe was not present.
- v) Speedwatch. No report.
- vi) SID's information, requirements, grant and letter from Somerset Council. Cllr Greaves was not present.
- vii) Village Hall matters: Cllr Baker advised that the bar licensing situation had been resolved.
- viii) Flood and Emergency Plans. This was still in hand with Cllr Crewe.
- ix) Somerset Local Plan – more information was awaited.
- x) Trees on Parish Council land at Well Lane. The clerk was waiting to speak to JK Tree Services.
- xi) Dog Fouling Notices. The clerk handed the new notices to Cllr Goff who would arrange for the notices to be positioned.
- xii) Parish Newsletters. There was no further details on this matter.
- xiii) Annual Parish Meeting 21st May 2025. Clerk to circulate agenda.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

2504/7 - Matters relating to The Glebeland:

- i) Replacement/repair of storm damage. This was in hand.
- ii) Recent tree works. Concern was expressed about the way the arisings from the works had been left and that some debris had been deposited on important grassland habitat. Cllr Baker to speak to the contractor. It was agreed that the brief given to the contractor was not specific enough about the disposal of the arisings from the works and that a small additional cost for resolving the matter would be incurred. This was agreed.
Some concern was expressed about the tree survey report prepared for the Parish Council and that any future report would need to consider the environment of the Glebeland as well as the trees within it.
- iii) Proposals for changes to Skate Park access. Any alterations would take part as part of the overall refurbishment of the skate park. There was a short discussion about the current usage of the park. Information on possible specialists in skate park or bump track installations to be sought.

2504/8 - Matters relating to Padfield Green.

- i) Nothing was reported.

2504/9 - Matters relating to Prestleigh, Bath and West Showground and Waterlip.

- i) Prestleigh Hill speeding and enforcement. No further information.

2504/10 - Financial:

- i) Payment of Clerks Salary and expenses. £616.41. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Payment of HMRC Tax. £110.80. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iii) Insurance Renewal – Clear Councils. £686.22. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- iv) Invoice for Glebeland padlocks (via Cllr Baker) £31.97. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- v) Draft accounts for 2024/25 prior to audit. These had been circulated for information.
- vi) AGAR and Certificate of Exemption. The Certificate of Exemption was agreed and signed by the Chairman and RFO.

2504/11 - Matters of Report

No matters reported.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

2504/12 - Date and Time of future Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 21st May 2025 at Doultling Village Hall.
Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 7pm followed by the
Annual Parish Council meeting commencing at 7.30pm

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
28th April 2025
01749 870358;
email: parish.clerk@doultlingparish.org