F **DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley**

Clerk/RFO: Mrs Jean de Rusett , The Grange, Leinthall Earls, Leominster,

Herefordshire HR6 9TS

Tel: 01568 770640 email: diddleburypc@gmail.com website: www.diddleburyparish.co.uk

**MINUTES**

**of the**

 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

**054/18 - Present**

Cllr. D Hedgley

Cllr. K Worthington

Cllr. Mervyn Thomas

Cllr. Stephen. Povall

Cllr Robert. Povall

Cllr. T O'Boyle

Cllr. A Watson

Cllr. M Woodhouse

Cllr. S Thomas

**In attendance**

Mrs J de Rusett - Clerk and five members of the public.

**055/18 – Notice Convening the meeting**

In accordance with statute, the Notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the Parish Council’s Notice Boards throughout the Parish and on the Parish Council's website.

**056/18– Reports**

**056/18/1 – Report of Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2017/2018 – Cllr. David Hedgley**

There have been no changes in the membership of the council. The council held 2 Extraordinary meetings in August 2017 and May 2018 to meet extra work demands.

**Main Issues**

1. The improvement of the footpath F20 running from The Moors to the school was undertaken and new kissing gates installed.
2. A new Environmental Maintenance Officer (EMO) has been appointed in conjunction with Culmington and Munslow Parishes. In addition, Didddlebury contracted a JCB operator to clear the ditches and drain approaches. The future of the EMO is not certain as Shropshire Council is reviewing their roles and funding.
3. Close liaison has taken place with all interested parties over safe parking and access centred on Diddlebury Village Hall
4. Planning applications again formed the consistent part of our work. Shropshire's Planning continuing review of its Place Plan criteria and Local Plan Review has involved us in responding along with the Parish Plan Steering Group to this on behalf of the parish. The proposed CTIL centred on the Severn Trent water site in Diddlebury raised many concerns.
5. Speed limits and the use of diversions from the A49 and the damage done to roads by this is an ongoing issue.
6. The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) has proved to be very time consuming.
7. **Precept.**

The council meeting on the 24th January 2018 agreed to leave the precept for next year at its present level.

**Planning.**

20 planning applications have been made all of which bar 2 were supported. (22 last year, 3 not supported)

3 pre-planning enquiries (0 last year)

1 inquiry investigated for possible planning breaches. (3 last year)

**Responses to Consultations**

Shropshire Council - Place Plan Review, Local Plan Review, EMO role.

**Meetings attended.**

Planning Seminar, Place Plan Review, Leaky Dams, Chairs of Parishes with Cllr Motley.

**Public Sessions**

November 2017 - Open Forum re closures of the A49 and diversions

**Sample of other topics arising.**

War memorial Silent Soldier; numerous road issues including signage; broadband roll out; footpath route F26.

Over the last year the parish council has continued to work closely with the Flood Action Group, Diddlebury Village Hall Committee and the Parish Plan Steering Group. The work load and pressures on the council has continued to increase. More and more financial responsibility for local services and decisions continue to fall upon parish councils. As Chair I would like to thank my colleagues for the unstinting work they put in within a voluntary role and the extra work our Parish Clerk continues to absorb.

**056/18/2 – Diddlebury Village Hall Committee Report – Cllr. T O’Boyle**

Cllr. O’Boyle confirmed that the hall renovations were now almost complete, that bookings are very healthy and up-coming events include an autumn show and the harvest supper; as a result finances are looking healthy. The new website and Facebook entry are up and running.

The re-surfacing of the car park, creation of car parking spaces and landscaping are still to be completed, but tenders are currently out and grants are being investigated. Parking by users of the hall and church seems to have improved. The committee were selected at the AGM.

The Chairman thanked the village hall committee on behalf of DPC and Diddlebury residents for the sterling work they have done in creating such a pleasant new hall,

**056/18/3 – Local Joint Committee – report by Cllr. R Povall**

Cllr. R Povall reported on the LJC meetings held during the past year. Its future hangs in the balance as it is run by the Community Enablement Team, whose future is under scrutiny due to the budget cuts. For the time being, LJC meetings will only be called if there is a very important local issue to be discussed.

**056/18/4 – Parish Plan Steering Group – report by Mr Ian Davies**

The Diddlebury Parish Plan was refreshed in 2013.

Since then the Steering Group has continued to monitor the development of the proposals set out in the plan and maintains an ongoing action plan update. The Group reports to the Parish Council with an update of the outstanding action points.

Many of the actions from the Parish Plan have now been completed and since last year’s report we have seen the opening of the refurbished village hall in Diddlebury. This will provide fresh impetus for renewed activities in the Parish – key actions from the Parish Plan.

The Steering Group is planning to update their advice articles and submit for publication in the Corvedale News. It is also hoped to shortly publish a business directory of local services on the Parish Council website.

Shropshire Council have announced a refresh of the SAMDEV – the Shropshire Local Plan Review. The Steering Group has registered as a consultee to the process and responded to the consultation programme. The Group is liaising closely with the Parish Council to provide an effective input in the consultation. It is hoped that this time there will be a better communication process from Shropshire Council.

Last year an officer of Shropshire Council attended a Group meeting to explain about Community Led Plans. It was felt that resource requirements and timing meant that it would not be appropriate to embark on such a project at this time.

Funds held by the Committee remain at £778.

**056/18/5 – Website Manager’s Report – Mrs Sara Thompson**

The new Diddlebury Parish website has been up and running for two years now and continues to work well as a community asset and information hub.

The clerk obtained the initial funding for the website set up and five years annual hosting fees in 2016. Thus, three years annual hosting fees remain, after which time the Parish Council will need to fund the cost.

The website has recently been updated by Web Orchard to include the necessary Cookies and Privacy Policies required under the new Data Protection (GDPR) legislation.

Google analytics reports show that there has been some 4,900 unique page views over the last 12 months. The most popular pages are the Parish Council Meetings pages, Planning Applications and Flood Action Group. On average there are just under 200 active users per month (based on last 12 months).

As discussed in previous council meetings the next step is to include a directory of local business services. The list will simply show the name of the business, the type of service offered and the relevant contact details. You will recall that businesses advertising in the Corvedale News were asked if they would like to be included in a listing on the website as part of their renewal fee this year. A disclaimer will be included on the website page to the effect that the listing does not imply any endorsement or recommendation by Diddlebury Parish Council. The listing should be completed in the next few weeks.

The ‘Google Group’ which was set up to run alongside the website and is run by Geoff Neden now has 77 members (2017 - 69 members). The recent notice about the Google Group has produced a number of new members. Geoff often receives comments from users saying how useful they find the group notifications.

**056/18/6 – Diddlebury Charities Report – Cllr. K Worthington**

Cllr. Worthington advised this is a local charity which makes small grants to elderly people in the parish. She read out the report prepared for the meeting by Mr David Francis, the Secretary to the Diddlebury Charities. 13 recipients (4 married couples and 9 singles) received a total of £188 during the 2017 financial year, plus a donation was made to the Louisa Powell almshouses.

**056/18/7 – Diddlebury Flood Action Group – Cllr. T O’Boyle**

Cllr. O’Boyle reported on the works the FAG had been involved in during the past year, often working with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. To date 50 leaky dams have been installed in the Corvedale by SWT. More works are planned for the Piebrook catchment area.

A successful meeting was held with the Environment Agency and a campaign had been successfully mounted to challenge a new and punitive scale of fees for consents from the EA for flood alleviation works by groups like the FAG and SWT: the fees have now been reduced. Two multi-agency meetings had been held to co-ordinate flood issues throughout the parish. The FAG considers all planning applications and responds to them if there are flood issues involved. They are also working with farmers who have to prepare flood resistance plans.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. O’Boyle for his report and on behalf of DPC and the parish residents, he thanked Geoff Neden and the FAG for the work they do. He congratulated them on becoming such a professional outfit.

**056/18/8 – Louise Powell Almshouses Charity – Cllr. K Worthington**

Cllr. Worthington reported she had visited the Almshouses in Ludlow recently and attended a committee meeting. Lots of repairs are needed and Mr Eric Williams is currently working on the repairs. Diddlebury has to an extent lost touch with the almshouses as few residents of Diddlebury have needed a placement there, so empty properties were now going to people from a wider area.

The Chairman thanked all those who attended and gave reports, and for the work they carry out on behalf of the parish throughout the year.

No Open Forum matters were raised, so the Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.58pm and proceeded with the Annual General Meeting.

**MINUTES SIGNED BY David Hedgley**

**DATED 27th June 2018**