**DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley**

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, The Grange, Leinthall Earls, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9TS Tel: 01568 770640 "e" mail address: diddleburypc@gmail.com

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**MINUTES**

**Of the Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 18th May 2016 8.20pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

**064/16: Present and apologies for absence**

Cllr. D Hedgley – Chairman

Cllr. K Worthington

Cllr. Selina Thomas

Cllr. Mervyn Thomas

Cllr. Stephen Povall

Cllr Robert Povall

Cllr. T O'Boyle

Cllr. A Watson

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. M Fowler

**In attendance**

Unitary Cllr. C Motley, Mrs J de Rusett - Clerk and three members of the public

**065/16: Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.**

Members are requested to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Cllr. Selina Thomas, Cllr. A Watson and Cllr. T O'Boyle all declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 (a request for information concerning Diddlebury Village Hall car park received from DPC's solicitors, MFG dated 18th May 2016) due to their associations with the Diddlebury Village Hall Committee.

**066/16: Public involvement session:**

No matters were raised by the members of the public present.

**067/16: Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 27th April 2016.**

 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th April 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting. A correction was made to 052/16 by the deletion of the last line. Cllr. O'Boyle **proposed** that the Minutes be approved as a correct record, Cllr. A Watson **seconded** the proposal: the members **unanimously voted** to approve the amended Minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

**068/16 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 27th April 2016 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda**

050/16: The Chairman confirmed he had responded to the letter from Shropshire Council about Post-16 Education Transport Assistance and read his response to the members.

**069/16 - Reports**

069/16/1 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a round-up of his parish council activities for the past month.

 He had considered the response from the Empty Homes Officer, Julia Preston, concerning the empty houses at Bouldon and discussed the matter with Cllr. Motley. He had had numerous contacts with Carol Byng and Paul Smith, the Chairs of Culmington and Munslow Parish Councils, concerning the joint appointment of an Environmental Maintenance Officer, discussing applicants and organising interviews, which will be held on 9th June at Culmington Village Hall. He gave a round-up of RSN News, including that fly-tipping can now attract on-the-spot fines of £400: this includes the tipping of green garden waste.

069/16/2 - Unitary Councillor's Report

Cllr. Motley spoke of the recent spate of break-ins to village and community halls and advised that Sgt. Woolley is willing to send police officers to village meetings, fetes, etc. to demonstrate what anti-theft devices are available.

She spoke of a two-day RSN conference to be held at Cheltenham which she will be chairing. She also reported on the deeply disappointing visit to Shropshire Council by the Minister for Local Government Matters, Greg Clarke MP. He had refused to accept any of the arguments put forward that Shropshire has been historically underfunded and was burdened with a large number of elderly people and children with complex needs to fund. Requests for additional funding were brushed aside and his only suggestion was Shropshire Council should amalgamate with Telford & Wrekin in order to achieve savings.

**070/16 - Finance**

Balance of **Precept Funds** brought forward from April 2016 £4,422.32

**ADD:** Precept for 2016/2017 rec'd 27.4.16 £5,149.00 **£9,571.32**

**Less: cheques to be authorised for payment on 18.5.16**

1. Clerk’s net salary for May 2016 £343.60

2. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk’s salary for May 2016 £ 85.80

3. Came & Co. - insurance premium for 2016/2017 £276.49

3. Clerk’s expenses for May 2016 (itemized below) £ 33.10

Total deductions from Precept Funds for May 2016 £738.99 £ 738.99

**Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to June 2016 £8,832.33**

**Clerk's expenses for May 2016**

1. May 2016 contribution towards

 telephone and Internet expenses £ 5.00

2. Postage stamps (12 x 2nd class) £ 6.60

3 1 x HP364 XP black ink cartridge £ 8.20

4. Travelling expenses claimed at 30p per mile

18.5.16 - to Diddlebury for PC meeting - 44 miles £13.30

 Total expenses claimed £33.10

**Total funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council after this meeting**

**1.** Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to June 2016 **£8,832.33**

**2.** Highways & Environment Grant funds

 b/fwd from April 2016 £1,527.07

 Add: 2016/2017 Grant received 24.4.16 £3,000.00

 **£4,527.07 £4,527.07**

**3.**  Other ring-fenced sums held in Diddlebury PC’s Account

* **Corvedale Youth Club** **£ 650.39**
* **Diddlebury Stream Management Group**  **£ 128.75**
* **Balance of Donations for** **War Memorial**  **£ 105.13**

**4. Transparency Code Funding Grant** - received 23.02.16 £2,004.20

 Less: Web Orchard Inv. No. 4728 dated 12.04.16 £1,164.00

 £ 840.20 **£ 840.20**

 **Total of DPC funds c/fwd to June 2016 £15,083.87**

No Cash Book/ HSBC Bank Statement reconciliation could be prepared by the Clerk for verification by a councillor, as the latest bank statement had not arrived.

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that the Finance Report be approved and the cheques requested authorised for payment: **seconded** by Cllr. Worthington and **unanimously voted by the members.**

**071/16 - Highways and Environmental Matters**

071/16 /1- Highways & Environmental Maintenance Officer

The Chairman outlined details of the four applicants to date, and what duties it is envisaged they will perform.

The list of suggested jobs for the HMO in Diddlebury submitted by Mr Geoff Neden was considered and will be dealt with once an applicant has been appointed.

071/16/2 - Footpath from The Moors to the school

Cllr. Watson asked whether the footpath linking The Moors to the school could have a hard surface, to make it easier for parents with small children to get them to school without getting muddy. She regretted that the school had made using the path more difficult by closing the gate from the footpath onto the school premises. This was going to make life especially difficult whilst the village hall renovations were taking place. The suggestion was considered. Cllr. Motley suggested the surfacing issue be taken up with Mr Paul Butter of the Outdoors Partnership Team at Shropshire Council: he will need to know the number of the footpath. The Chairman to discuss the closed gate with the school in his role as school governor. It was recalled that this resurfacing issue has arisen before: the landowner will need to be contacted for permission. It is believed the landowner is Mrs Wilkes of Ludlow and the land is rented by Phil Norton. The Clerk will make enquiries.

**072/16 - Correspondence and Communications**

1. Minutes of Corvedale Chair's meeting on 26th April 2016

2. 28.4.16 email Clerk to mfg solicitors confirming adoption of Resolutions by meeting on 27.04.16 re DVHC.

3. Let. 28.4.16 - Chairman to Shropshire Council re Post 16 Education Transport Assistance for Entitled Students.

4. Let 03.05.16 - Clerk to Ms J Preston, Empty Homes Officer seeking a progress report re empty Bouldon houses.

 5. 13.05.16 - Report/Consultation setting out link to latest information about services at risk of being decommissioned by Shropshire Council. )NB This appears to include Lisa Bedford's role.)

6. 13.05.16 communication from SALC re Armed Forces Day celebrations - 25th June 2016

7. Let. Clerk to Mr P Wrigley, Delbury Hall, re damaged hedge by wedding venue entrance to Delbury Hall.

Item 4

A response from Ms Preston, the Empty Housing Officer, had been received this afternoon (18.5.16) and took the matter no further forward, as it appears her role is under threat due to budget cuts. Cllr. Motley advised that whilst there are some changes proposed to her role, the empty homes strategy will continue but in a different format. It was agreed that the matter will be left with Cllr. Motley to progress for the time being.

**073/16 - Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

073/16/1 - Ownership/maintenance of the parcels of land forming Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park

The Clerk had received an email this afternoon (18.5.16) from DPC's solicitor, Diane Marten.

She wanted to know:

1. Whether the Parish Council is still intending to pay for the maintenance of the land it is retaining without any contribution from the other users.

 [This is the part of the car park registered to DPC at the Land Registry under title SL110651]

2. Whether the Parish Council will pay for the maintenance of the land transferred as DPC have included this in the precept up to now. However will DPC continue to do so?

 [The land transferred relates to the land the village hall stands on, and its' part of the car park, registered at the Land Registry under titles SL181685 and SL92695 of which the DPC was Custodian Trustee, but has agreed to the transfer if its interest to the Official Custodian of Charities]

The two questions posed were considered by the members and the Clerk was instructed to reply in the following terms:

1. DPC intends to pay for the upkeep of the land it is retained - SL110651.

2. DPC does not intend to take on any responsibility for the maintenance of the land being transferred to the Official Custodian of Trustees. The responsibility for the maintenance of that land rests between the Diddlebury Village Hall Committee, the Corvedale School and those who have a right of way over the land to access their houses.

073/16/2 - consideration of letter from the Chairman of the PPSG

The Chairman of the PPSG, Mr Davies, has raised a number of issues:

* car parking in the Village Hall car park:

The Chairman advised it is hoped these issues will be resolved once the refurbishment of the village hall has been completed.

* The poor mobile telephone and Broadband coverage in the Corvedale:

The Chairman felt these were ongoing issues.

* Finding an acceptable means of publishing local service provision to improve access and promote employment opportunities.

 Mrs Sara Thompson (DPC's website administrator) advised if people had paid to advertise services in the Corvedale magazine, she would be happy to include them in the community part of the new website, but she did not want to take advertising revenue away from the magazine.

* Car scheme for parishioners with difficulty in accessing transport - discussions with Good Neighbours in Craven Arms and articles to be published in the Corvedale News.

The Chairman stated this matter should be deferred and included in the next DPC Agenda.

* Mr. Davies had also dealt at length in his letter about the publication in SAMDEV -para. 3.1.5 - detailed the development policies for the Craven Arms Place Plan area and the PPSG noted it differed from what had been agreed in our Place Plan along with various other omissions/errors.

The Chairman advised he had contacted Mr Davies and explained that unknown to DPC, Shropshire Council had unilaterally "rationalised" our Place Plan and we cannot get it amended until the next Place Plan Review takes place. Cllr. Motley was asked to advise us when the next review is due.

073/16/3 - Meeting venues from June 2016 onwards

As from June 2016 the Diddlebury Village Hall will not be available for meetings and it could not at this stage be predicted when it will next be available. It was agreed that all forthcoming meetings will be held at Westhope Village Hall. The Clerk will notify Mr Hall accordingly.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm

Date and venue of next meeting:

 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd June 2016 at Westhope Village Hall.

**MINUTES SIGNED BY**

**DATED**