

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH

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MINUTES

**Of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council
held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.15pm at Westhope Village Hall.**

029/24 – Present

Cllr. D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. C Martyn, Cllr. T Pardoe, Cllr. R Morgan, Cllr. A Rattu

In attendance - the Clerk, Shropshire Councillor C Motley and eight members of the public

Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr R Povall, Cllr. O'Boyle

030/24 – Declarations of Interest.

Members were requested to declare any Disclosable Personal or 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
No declarations were made.

031/24 – Public involvement session

031/24/1: Ms White, a resident of Westhope, enquired why, when the Hillside Coppice development in Westhope had generated CIL funds of £92,000, the parish council had refused a recent request for funding for Westhope village hall. The Chairman explained that of the Community Infrastructure Levy paid to Shropshire Council by developers of open market houses, only 15% is actually paid to parish councils, that 15% being termed the Neighbourhood Fund. All parish councils, including Diddlebury, are exasperated that SC give no breakdown when paying Neighbourhood Funding in April – it just arrives in one lump sum with no information as to which development or house it relates to. Requests for a breakdown of the figure have not so far produced helpful results which is problematic as the parish council has no way of ensuring it receives the correct amount of funding. The Neighbourhood Fund received by the parish council is for the whole of the parish, not for any specific area. He believes the parish council has not been ungenerous to Westhope in that it has made in total £7,100 available to help with the purchase of the village hall and its renovation costs. A parish wide invitation had been made to residents last year asking what community infrastructure projects the residents wanted to see and requests were made for a community children's playground which would be available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is this community project which current Neighbourhood Funds are being directed to.

031/24/2: Another Westhope resident asked what the parish council is doing about the appalling state of the roads around Westhope, especially the potholes, and why Highways keep stating roads are closed, necessitating huge detours, and then no work is done but the closed road signs remain

in place. Highways are now threatening to close the road from 16th February to 17th April. The Chairman stated he and parish council have huge sympathy for the Westhope community. These pot hole and road closed signs are a problem Shropshire-wide. He advised the parish council frequently contacts with Highways complaining that when workmen finish repairs they do not take away the closed signs and were told that removal of signs is the responsibility of a different department, which displays no sense of urgency. He advised that the parish council now places details of highways related problems on Fix My Street, and that is producing good results. He recommended residents use this facility which is: <https://improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk>

031/24/3: Mrs Betty Manley complained that although Westhope Village Hall Committee had withdrawn a request for funding of £3,000 for work on the village hall nonetheless the parish council had discussed and Minuted the matter at its January meeting (Minute ref: 010/24) which had caused her embarrassment. Cllr. Watson offered to assist Mrs Manley in seeking alternative grant funding.

031/24/4: Mr Seabrook of Culmington Parish Council had attended to discuss the Community Governance Review, in particular as to whether DPC was going to transfer certain Seifton properties which had been identified over to Culmington Parish. The Chairman explained Cllr. Robert Povall was dealing with the matter and in his absence it could not be usefully discussed, especially as DPC had not yet reached a decision on the matter. Cllr. Motley advised that it was not within the remit of the Community Governance Review to deal with hubs and clusters, these were matters for the Local Plan which is still unresolved. Thus, until the Community Governance Review and the Local Plan are finalized, no useful steps can be taken in this matter.

The Chairman asked the members of the public whether they had any other matters to raise with the parish council, and they indicated they did not.

032/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting of 21st February 2024

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 21st February 2024 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. Martyn **Proposed** that the Minutes of the meeting on 21st February 2024 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. S Povall

Vote on Proposal: Carried unanimously.

033/24: Matters arising from the Parish Meeting 21st February 2024 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

Most matters are on the Agenda. As to 022/24 – the Chairman advised he had not as yet had an opportunity to discuss the telecoms cabling attached to the footbridge over the Diddlebrook with Mr Jack Wrigley.

034/24 - Reports

034/24/1 - Chairman's report. The Chairman reported he had been in communication with Mrs Fowler and Mr Jack Wrigley over issues in Bache Mill. He has discussed with SWS the current and future state of Broadband provision in the parish. He has held further site meetings at the proposed new playground at Corvedale C of E school to obtain quotations for the surfacing work. He has continued discussions with the Revd. Beasley over the proposed information board by the

War Memorial: the Diocese are now suggesting it should be more creative and perhaps produced by professionals.

034/24/2 – Cllr. Motley’s Report. Cllr. Motley reported on the continuing efforts of the SC Cabinet to achieve a balanced budget. They are now proposing redundancies, which could lead to the decimation of useful Teams which have built up expertise over time. Adult and child social care continue to absorb 76% of SC’s entire annual budget and this is now worsened by parents seeking Early Help Certificates through the courts, which place further financial burdens on SC involving, as it often does, the provision of taxi services for these children.

Cllr. Rattu advised that he understands there has been a 4.9% raise in council tax bills. He asked why, when payment is due in eleven days’ time, SC have not yet sent out the bills to council tax payers. Cllr. Motley felt maybe there were issues with the postal service. Cllr. Martyn understood that the Sorting Office in Craven Arms is now fully manned.

034/24/3 – Flood Action Group Report. Cllr. Martyn reported there is a meeting coming up with the Shrewsbury Flood Forum so he will report on that in April. On his travels around the parish checking drains, he discovered a blocked drain by the entrance to Pinstones Farm, which explains the flooding on that area of the B4368. He has now cleared the drain. He is continuing to negotiate with Fix My Street for the FAG to be given status to report on blocked drains in the parish. The Chairman thanked Cllr, Martyn for his efforts, especially in unblocking the drain by Pinstones.

035/24 – Planning Applications:

24/00730/FUL – application for the demolition of existing outbuildings and the erection of a new garage/car port at Bache Cottage, Bache Mill, SY7 9JX

The Chairman reported there were no objections to this application on the Planning Portal. Cllr. Martyn raised queries about the adequacy of the turning circle proposed. After discussion the Chairman **proposed** that the parish council should support the application as it has no objections to it.

Cllr. Morgan **seconded** the proposal.

Vote: councillors voted unanimously to support the application.

036/24 – To consider highways and environmental matters

036/24/1 Cllr. Rattu confirmed he has sent DPC’s responses to the B4368 Speeding Measure proposals to Munslow Parish Council. Once he has a response from Munslow, he will contact Mr N Newton at Highways.

036/24/2 The Chairman thanked Cllr. Martyn for erecting the four No Parking signs in The Moors.

036/24/3 Councillors discussed at length the implications of SC’s proposal to close the Household Recycling Centre at Craven Arms. DPC believes that SC should consider revising the opening hours and staffing arrangements to reduce costs rather than creating enormous difficulties for south Shropshire households and vastly increasing fly-tipping by closing the centre. It was agreed that DPC will write to Mr Ian Nellings, the portfolio holder for Waste and Climate Change at SC, objecting in the strongest terms about the closure suggestion.

037/24 – Consideration of correspondence and communications received in March 2024

Councillors considered the following correspondence and communications:

Highways matters

1. 26th – 28th March 2024: Closure of unnamed road between and B4371 Longville in the Dale
2. 22nd – 23rd June 2024: closure of road B4370 at Marshbrook and A49 at station junction to Minton

General correspondence

3. Letter, Clerk to Mr T Harding, of the Telford Auto Club protesting about the lack of communication and prior warning about, and the noise generated by, their rally on 18th February 2024.
4. Notification from SALC about Zoom meeting to learn of the proposed changes to the Shrewsbury & Telford hospital services.
5. Notification from NHS about “drop in” session to learn about Hospitals Transformation Programme: No local sessions arranged as yet.
6. Email from Severn Trent Water thanking DPC for providing the registration number of their van parked in The Moors at a time when their car park was empty. No further response to date.
7. Information about a Craven Arms Place Plan Area Health and Well Being Survey, to establish the health and well being concerns of residents. Survey is available on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShropLocalHealthandWellbeingSurvey>. The survey closes on 21st April 2024
8. Details of Shropshire Council’s Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency scheme Grants are available for items including loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and clean heat measure such as air source heat pumps. Details available at 01743 256181 or on line at AffordableWarmth@Shropshire.gov.uk
9. Correspondence from Bache Mill resident to Chairman raising issues about the new development of houses.
10. Minutes of the South Shropshire Area Committee meeting of 22nd February 2024.
11. Details of an initiative from Shropshire Council’s Dog Warden group to introduce Public Space Protection Orders allowing wardens to issue fixed penalty fines of £100 to anyone not clearing up after their dog. They also seek laws to prohibit dogs from play areas and sports areas and for dogs to be kept dogs on a lead on the public highway. Details available on SC’s website.
12. Email from a parishioner raising queries about the likelihood of The Sun (now Corvedale Inn) ever re-opening.
13. Details from Shropshire Council about a new swimming, fitness and leisure facilities planned for Shrewsbury.

Responses:

No. 12 – it is not within DPC’s powers to determine when and if the Corvedale Inn re-opens for business.

038/24 – Consideration of progress by DPC for proposed public playground on grounds at Corvedale C of E School and of quotations received to date for the surfacing works.

Councillors discussed the quotations received to date for the most suitable rubber based type of surface for the proposed playground. These quotations range from £10,915 to £20,896 (plus VAT), the price being dependent on the groundworks on which the rubber base is to be laid. One further quotation is awaited. Cllr. Rattu suggested that local people could be encouraged to hire a mini-digger, dig out the foundations and lay gravel for the foundation. This would produce a significant cost saving. The Chairman agreed to look into this suggestion.

039/24 – To consider the possible provision of an electric car charging unit in Diddlebury

DPC felt that an electric car charging point in Diddlebury would be a good thing. Cllr. Motley advised that Shropshire Council had funding available for such units. It was agreed that if Diddlebury Village Hall committee were agreeable to having a charging point sited at the village hall, then Mr Ian Nellings at SC could be approached for funding.

040/24 – Further consideration of the Community Governance Review

This has been dealt with at Item 031/24/4

041/24 – Finance Matters for March 2024

041/24/1 – To consider and approve the making of donations pursuant to S.137 LGA
Only one local request had been received, namely Cllr. Tom O’Boyle had requested a donation of £200 for the Ludlow based Louise Powell Alms Houses charity, whose houses are available to Diddlebury former farming residents.

The Chairman **proposed** a donation of £200 be made to the Louise Powell Almshouse Charity
Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. S Povall

Vote: Unanimous vote in support of the donation

041/24/2 – Diddlebury Parish Council – Finance Report for March 2024

Precept Balance b/fwd from February 2024 **£4,408.12**

LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on 20 th March 2024			
1. HSBC bank charges.	£	7.40	
2. Clerk’s net salary for March 2024		£254.64	
3. PAYE on Clerk’s March 2024 salary	£	16.20	
4. S.137 LGA donation to Louise Powell Almshouses charity		£200.00	
5. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in March 2024</u>			
• March 2024 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision at £20 p.m.		£20.00	
• Travel expenses at 45p per mile			
20.03.24 to Westhope Village Hall for parish council meeting - 32 miles		£14.40	
Total of February 2024 expenses		£34.40	
		£ 34.40	
		<u>£512.64</u>	<u>£ 512.64</u>
Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to April 2024			<u>£3,895.48</u>

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that cheques totalling £512.64 listed above be authorised for payment.
Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. S Povall

Vote: Unanimous vote in support of proposal.

Ring fenced, reserves and third-party funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council

CIL/Neighbourhood Funds balance b/fwd from February 2024 £13,396.62

Environmental works & asset maintenance fund bal. b/fwd from Feb. 2024	£ 700.42
Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from Feb. 2024	£ 750.00
Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park maintenance reserve funds, bal. b/fwd	£ 3,500.00
Reserves fund for SC elections, bal. b/fwd from Feb 2024	£ 457.73
<u>Third Party Funds</u>	
Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group funds. Bal. b/fwd from February	£ 700.00
Flood Action Group funds, bal. b/fwd from February 2024	£ 228.46
Total of funds	<u>£19,733.23</u>
<u>Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed</u>	
Precept Funds	£ 3,895.48
Ring fenced and third-party funds	<u>£19,733.23</u>
	<u>£23,628.71</u>

DPC’s Cash Book was reconciled by Councillor Watson with HSBC Bank Statement No 379

041/24/3 – proposal concerning DPC undertaking the cost of the maintenance and spare parts for the defibrillators sited in Diddlebury Parish,

The Chairman **proposed** that Diddlebury Parish Council should assume responsibility for the maintenance, including spare parts, for the two defibrillators currently sited in the parish at Bouldon and Diddlebury.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

042/24 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only).

042/24/1 The Chairman advised the meeting that a new Headmaster has now been appointed for Corvedale C of E School.

042/24/2 Cllr. Watson raised the issue of two housing association houses in Mill Lane (No’s 3 and 4) which have been empty for a considerable time. It was agreed that Connexus be asked to attend a public meeting to explain why these houses remain empty when there is a severe housing crisis in this country.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

**Date and Venue of the next meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 24th April 2024,
7.15pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

Minutes signed by: _____

Dated: _____