

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

Clerk/RFO: Mrs Jean de Rusett , The Grange, Leinthall Earls, Leominster,
Herefordshire HR6 9TS

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MINUTES

of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Wednesday 27th May 2015, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

044/15 - Present

Cllr. D Hedgley – Chairman
Cllr. M Fowler – Vice-Chairman.
Cllr. K Worthington
Cllr. S Thomas
Cllr. M Thomas
Cllr. S. Povall
Cllr R. Povall

Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. T O'Boyle and Cllr. P. Linton

In attendance

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

045/15 – Notice Convening the meeting

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

046/15 – Annual Report of the Parish Council and other groups/committees for the year 2014/2015.

046/15/1 -- Chairman of the Parish Council's Report. (copy Report filed with these Minutes).
The Chairman of Diddlebury Parish Council read his Annual Report to the meeting.

046/15/2 – Unitary Cllr. C Motley

Cllr. Motley summarised the past year as being one of gloom and budget cuts - £40M was cut from Shropshire Council's budget last year and this has affected many departments and services. Planning has been hard hit due to loss of officers, libraries are facing closure or reduced services and the same applies to museums. SAMDev has still not been implemented which is causing planning problems and there is now a threat to the reduce the number of Planning Committees from three to one. The LJC is still functioning but has no grants available.

Phase I of the BDUK Fibre Optic Broadband upgrade continues to be rolled out, but it has become apparent that fairly large swathes of rural Shropshire will not benefit as they are in hard to reach areas. Unless considerable money is invested in a Phase II to enable different technologies to be developed to reach hard-to-reach areas, those areas will not see any improvement. On the 3rd June at 11.30am at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, there will be a presentation/seminar by all local mobile phone operators and BDUK to review the concerns about lack of mobile and Broadband signal.

Cllr. Motley touched on the looming problem the devolution debate will cause to rural local authorities. The Chancellor has stated that rural authorities cannot expect the same level of funding as urban ones. She will be supporting a RSN meeting with government members in June to challenge this ideology. They will be advising the government that if it keeps reducing local government funding, the most essential and basic services, such as care for the elderly, will be hardest hit.

046/15/3 – Diddlebury Village Hall Committee Report.

In Cllr O'Boyle's absence the Chairman read out his report, which is filed with these Minutes.

046/14/4 – Local Joint Committee.

Cllr. Fowler, the LJC representative, thanked Cllr. Motley for her help and support on LJC matters through the year. There is now increased membership of the LJC as local organisations other than Parish Councils have been co-opted. The only funding currently available is for youth commissioning.

046/15/5 – Parish Plan Steering Group.

Mr Ian Davies reported to the meeting on the activities of the PPSG. His report is filed with these Minutes.

046/15/6 – Website manager's Report - www.2shrop.net/Diddlebury.

Mrs Thompson reported on the website, which has now been up and running for two years. Mrs Thompson's report is filed with these Minutes.

Cllr. Motley spoke about the threat by Shropshire Council to withdraw support for 2Shroph.net, the community website on which DPC's website is based, with Mrs Thompson had mentioned. She has been told it is a very outdated and expensive website to maintain, and that replacement options are being considered: she will keep DPC advised. She thinks DPC should wait to see what happens before funding its own dedicated website.

046/15/7 – Diddlebury Charities.

This is a small charity which makes small donations to the needy within the parish. A statement of accounts was read to the meeting by the Chairman and is filed with these Minutes.

The Chairman thanked all of those who had prepared and presented reports.

047/15 – Open Forum

No members of the public raised any matters. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

MINUTES SIGNED BY **D Hedgley**

DATED **24 June 2015**