

**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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

**016/24 – Present**

Cllr. D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. T O’Boyle, Cllr. C Martyn, Cllr. T Pardoe, Cllr. R Morgan, Cllr. A Rattu

**In attendance** - the Clerk, Shropshire Councillor C Motley

**Apologies received and accepted from:** Cllr R Povall

**017/24 – 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.

**018/24 – Public involvement session.**

No members of the public attended.

**019/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 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 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting’s business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. O’Boyle

**Vote on Proposal:** Seven members voted in favour of the Proposal, one abstained as they had not been at the meeting. Carried by a majority vote.

**020/24: Matters arising from the Parish Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.**

009/24 – potential changes to boundary in Seifton: The Chairman advised Cllr. R Povall has visited those properties in Seifton which would be affected by Culmington PC’s suggested changes and they had no contrary views. Matter further discussed in Correspondence – letter 17. To be further discussed at the March meeting.

## **021/24 - Reports**

021/24/1 - Chairman's report. The Chairman reported he had taken further actions over the proposed new playground: he is obtaining two further quotations for the ground surface works and had authorised the fencing works to be carried out.

He wrote to Vicky Turner on her retirement as Place Plans Officer at SC, thanking her for her past assistance to DPC. He has had further discussions with the owner of Jack's Cottage, Bache Mill, who is aggrieved as he believes DPC's Minutes are biased against him as he has not presented his case. The Chairman and Cllr. Motley are assisting him in his search for a suitable parking space but he has been advised DPC cannot get involved in his legal disputes in this matter.

The Chairman submitted a report to Corvedale News about DPC's Precept requirement for 2024/2025. He has liaised with Cllr. Rattu about Broadband issues and the Highways report prepared by Mr Nick Newton.

### 021/24/2 – Cllr. Motley's Report

Cllr. Motley advised she has been in touch with Patrick and Jack Wrigley but they are unable to say if they can help with parking for Jack's Cottage until the building works on the development are completed, which will be some time yet.

Cllr. Motley elaborated on the letter DPC had received from the Leader of SC (Item 9 in Correspondence List) about SC's 2025 budget. SC have to find around £64 million of savings in order to avoid a S.114 Notice (bankruptcy). SC has certain statutory duties obliging it to provide for items such as adult and child social care. The statutory duties cannot be cut or curtailed, and thus budget cuts are likely to fall on areas such as libraries, leisure facilities, household re-cycling centres, transport for school children including the taxi services currently provided for some children. The SC Cabinet proposes to open their proposed budget cuts up for public consultation from the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, when residents are urged to have their say on the proposed cuts. Councillors voiced their concerns about some proposed cuts. There is only one household re-cycling centre between Ludlow and Shrewsbury, namely Craven Arms, and even that involves many householders in long journeys to dispose of their rubbish. To close Craven Arms will lead to massive amounts of fly tipping. Given the current strains in the NHS, keeping the population mentally and physically healthy is essential: closing leisure centres and libraries will be a retrograde step. Cllr. Rattu asked whether rates could be increased beyond the 4.99% maximum legal limit, to meet the deficit. Cllr. Motley advised such a rise would require a referendum and SC have no plans to do that at present; Birmingham has increased their rates by 25%.

021/24/3 – Flood Action Group. Cllr. Martyn reported there are problems with the log-in system of the flood alarm systems, which are currently being looked into by the Flood Forum. There has been a lot of flooding problems on the B4368 and side lanes in the parish due to blocked drains: he estimates 50% of drains are blocked. Cllr. Motley advised SC are doing their best to clear drains but they are being re-blocked almost as soon as clearance occurs due to the non-stop rain. The Chairman asked councillors to draw up lists of vulnerable sites where flooding is a major issue, so DPC can consider whether it is viable to employ a private contractor to clear certain drains.

021/24/4 – DVH report: Cllr. S Povall reported on forthcoming events at DVH including a quiz night. The Chairman advised that after many years of dedicated service, Mrs Sally Woodhouse has been obliged to step down from the DVH Committee, due to ill-health. The Chairman gave praise for the amount of work Mike and Sally Woodhouse have put into the renovation, promotion and running of Diddlebury Village Hall over many years and on behalf of the parish, he thanked them both for their service.

#### 021/24/5 – Louise Powell Alms House Trust

Cllr. O'Boyle was appointed a Trustee of this charity at a recent meeting and reported on the first Trust Meeting he has attended. There are approximately 30 alms houses in Ludlow, which are all operated by a committee headed by Mr. Eric Williams. Cllr. O'Boyle outlined the administration of the charity, the works on the properties and the criteria for eligibility to be accepted for housing. For the Louise Powell Alms Houses applicants must meet an age and an income criteria and should have a farming background based in Diddlebury parish.

**022/24 - Planning matters:** The Chairman read out an email from the Enforcement Team at SC, setting out their criteria for accepting and pursuing enforcement cases, and emphasising the fact that enforcement matters must be kept confidential.

Cllr. O'Boyle raised the method by which the telephone and Broadband connection has been installed for The Malt House in Diddlebury, namely by being passed through a grey plastic length of piping attached visibly to the platform of the footbridge by Delbury Cottage. He felt it was wholly inappropriate in a conservation area. The matter had been raised with Mr Jack Wrigley (letter 7 in the Correspondence List) and Mr Wrigley had supplied a Licence he had been granted for the work and outlined how he had tried to get the cable put overhead. After discussion it was agreed Cllr. O'Boyle and the Chairman would make an approach to Mr Wrigley to see if the connection could be visually improved.

#### **023/24 – To consider highways and environmental matters, including measure to reduce speeding on the B4368**

023/24/1 – B4368: Cllrs. Rattu and O'Boyle had considered this matter further following the meeting at Munslow recently, and had produced a report setting a series of measures which they felt could help reduce the speed of traffic on the B4368 through the Corvedale. The report was based on suggestions which would not be expensive to implement, given SC's budget for highways matters in South Shropshire is only £10,000. The ideas suggested in the report were discussed at length. It was agreed the report will be shared with Munslow PC, refined and thereafter submitted to Nick Newton and Derek Buchanan of Highways. The Chairman thanked Cllrs. Rattu and O'Boyle for their excellent report.

023/23/2 – Telford Auto Club. Cllr. Martyn raised the recent rally which had been held in the early hours of a Sunday morning. Some Diddlebury and Bache Mill residents had been awoken by the noise of racing cars, most of the residents having been given no prior warning about the rally. He had taken the matter up with the organiser of the rally, pointing out the lack of communication and the fact that the contestants should have been using dipped lights and travelling at no more than 20mph through built up areas. It was agreed the parish council would write to the organiser deprecating the disturbance caused and asking that in future the parish council should be notified about forthcoming rallies.

#### **024/24 – Consideration of correspondence and communications received in February 2024**

Councillors considered the following correspondence and communications:

##### Highways matters

1. Letter Shropshire Highways advising of road closure between Seifton and Westhope from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February to Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 during 8am and 6pm
2. Road closure notification 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 between Westhope & Middlehope – Severn Trent Water for new pump kiosk.

3. Minutes of meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Beambridge Village Hall to discuss Mr Nick Newton's Highways Report on speeding on B4368
4. Road closure notification 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 on B4365 in Culmington
5. Clerk's notification to Fix My Street re sandbags on B4368 between Mill Lane and Aston Munslow.

#### General correspondence

6. Letter, Clerk to Severn Trent Water in reply to their response to DPC's concerns about speeding and parking issues at The Moors, attaching a photograph supplied by Cllr. Watson
7. Letter Clerk to Mr Jack Wrigley concerning the unsightly length of piping attached to the footbridge over the stream at Mill Lane, with response from Mr Wrigley and a copy of a Section 50 Licence approving the works.
8. Notification of a workshop for town and parish councils "A sustainable future for your community"
9. Email from Lezley Picton, Leader of Shropshire Council, warning of service cuts due to a £62 million shortfall in SC's 2024 – 2025 budget. Services being reviewed with possible cuts in some services and others to stop altogether, including libraries, leisure provision, household recycling centres, transport needs of children and of young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
10. Agenda for South Shropshire Area Committee zoom meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, 7pm.
11. Further details of the second round of Crowdfund Shropshire – workshop being launched at 12pm 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
12. Details of support service returning to help keep people well this winter. 1700 types of service were provided last year. Contact Hands Together, Ludlow for details.
13. Email from Vicky Turner advising she is no longer the Place Plan Officer at SC – her role has being taken over by Daniel Corden - [dan.corden@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.corden@shropshire.gov.uk)
14. Information concerning the use of pesticides in public places. Registration with DEFRA is required. See <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/register.htm>
15. Newsletter from Healthwatch Shropshire concerning the Government's plan to recover NHS dentistry.
16. Notification of new Community Fund for Green Spaces and Active Travel. Details can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publication/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

#### Community Governance Review

17. Letter Clerk to SC's Place Plan Officer enclosing letter from Culmington Parish Council and enquiring whether DPC have the authority to change the designation of part Seifton from community cluster to open countryside. Response received indicating this cannot happen whilst the draft Shropshire Local Plan is still under consideration

Responses: Letter 17: It was agreed this matter will be discussed further when Cllr. R Povall is in attendance and able to give his input into the matter.

**025/24 – Consideration of progress by DPC for proposed public playground on grounds at Corvedale C of E School and proposals for funding to be approved by DPC.**

The Chairman reported that the fencing works are to be carried out during the Easter school holidays. He is seeking two more quotations for the all-weather surfacing, which could be considered at the March meeting. The further tranche of Neighbourhood Fund due in April will help with funding this project. He has spoken to the Friends of Corvedale School inviting financial assistance towards the project, he will also approach the DVH Committee and Cllr. Watson has submitted a grant application for £7500.00.

**026/24 – Finance Matters for February 2024**

**026/24/1 – Finance Report**

<b>Precept Balance b/fwd from January 2024</b>	<b>£4,030.81</b>
<b>ADD: VAT refund for 01.04.22 to 23.11.23</b>	<b><u>£ 860.05</u></b>
	<b>£4,890.86</b>

**LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

1. HSBC bank charges. Bank statement 378	£	5.00	
2. Clerk's net salary for February 2024		£254.64	
3. PAYE on Clerk's February 2024 salary	£	16.20	
4. Westhope Village Hall hire charges 2023/part 2024		£100.00	
5. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in February 2024</u>			
• February 2024 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision at £20 p.m.		£20.00	
• IT support – Andy Holmes. Check computer, and instal AVG Internet Security anti-virus protection		£35.00	
• Postage & Certificate of posting for VAT 126 reclaim	£	2.70	
• Ink Spot Ludlow Ltd. 4 x “No parking” signs and 1 ream of A4 copying paper		£34.80	
• Travel expenses at 45p per mile 21.02.24 to Diddlebury Village Hall for parish council meeting - 32 miles		£14.40	
Total of February 2024 expenses		<u>£106 90</u>	<u>£106.90</u>
			<u>£482.74</u>
<b>Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to March 2024</b>			<b><u>£4,408.12</u></b>
<b><u>Ring fenced, reserves and third-party funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council</u></b>			
<b>CIL/Neighbourhood Funds balance b/fwd from January 2024</b>			<b>£13,396.62</b>
(A further £8,549.81 in due to be received in April 2024)			
<b>Environmental works &amp; asset maintenance fund bal. b/fwd from Jan 2024</b>	£	700.42	
<b>Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from Jan. 2024</b>	£	750.00	

<b>Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park maintenance reserve funds, bal. b/fwd</b>		<b>£ 3,500.00</b>
<b>Reserves fund for SC elections, bal. b/fwd from Jan 2024</b>		<b>£ 457.73</b>
<u>Third Party Funds</u>		
<b>Corvedale Walking &amp; Footpath Group funds. £600 transfer of funds 14.01.24 plus grant of £100 from Shropshire Council received 08.02.24</b>		<b>£ 700.00</b>
<b>Flood Action Group funds, bal. b/fwd from Jan 2024</b>	£246.35	
Less. Claim for expenses from C. Martyn 21.2.24	£ 17.89	
Balance c/fwd to March 2024	£228.46	<b>£ 228.46</b>
	<b>Total of funds</b>	<b><u>£19,733.23</u></b>

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that cheques totalling £500.63 be authorised for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. O'Boyle

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously to support the proposal.

**Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed**

<b>Precept Funds</b>	<b>£ 4,408.12</b>
<b>Ring fenced and third party funds</b>	<b><u>£19,733.23</u></b>
	<b><u>£24,141.35</u></b>

**026/24/2** - DPC's Cash Book was reconciled by Cllr. O'Boyle with HSBC Bank Statement No 378

**026/24/3** -Having been notified that DPC will receive a further £8,549.81 from the Community Infrastructure Levy in April 2024, this means DPC will be holding £21,946.43 for community projects

**027/24 – In preparation for the 2023 – 2024 Audit, the following documents were reviewed.**

DPC's Standing Orders

DPC Financial Regulations

DPC's Register of Assets

DPC's Strategic Risk Assessment

The documents were reviewed and Cllr. S Povall **proposed** that none of the above listed documents needed any variation or amendment this year.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watson

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

**028/24 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only).**

Local organisations and charities are reminded that Diddlebury Parish Council considers awarding small donations at its meeting in on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024, to those organisations which have requested a donation. Please contact the Clerk or any councillor with any requests for a donation.

Cllr. Rattu felt DPC should be looking at installing an electric car charging point in Diddlebury.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50pm

**Date and Venue of the next meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024,  
7.15pm at Westhope Village Hall**

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley Dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024