

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

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

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MINUTES

Of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 22nd April 2015, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

033/15: Present and apologies for absence

Cllr. D Hedgley (Chairman), Cllr. S Povall, Cllr R Povall, Cllr. M Thomas, Cllr. K Worthington, Cllr T O'Boyle, Cllr. S Thomas and Cllr. M Fowler

Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. P Linton.

In attendance:

Three members of the public, Unitary Councillor C Motley and the Clerk Mrs J de Rusett.

034/15: 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.

No Declarations were made.

035/15: Public involvement session:

No issues were raised by members of the public.

036/15: Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 25th March 2015

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th March 2015 were considered: Cllr. R. Povall proposed that they be approved as a correct record, Cllr. O'Boyle seconded the proposal: the majority of members voted to approve the Minutes, Cllrs. S Thomas and M Fowler abstaining as they had not attended the meeting of 25th March 2015. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

037/15: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 25th March 2015 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda

028/15/4 - Presentation showcasing the proposed Millennium Bid refurbishment works to Diddlebury Village Hall

It was agreed that the Village Hall Committee would not be asked to put on a presentation at the next Parish Council meeting as they have already scheduled two public meetings, namely 27th April 2015 and 2nd May 2015.

030/15/4.6 - Workplace Pension Scheme.

The Clerk up-dated the Council: she understands that she has to take no action to register Diddlebury Parish Council until the Workplace Pensions Scheme Regulator contacts her: she has not as yet been contacted.

032/15 - Letter from Diddlebury Parish Council in support of an Urgent Care Centre at Ludlow Hospital.

The Chairman confirmed that a letter had been drafted and sent to NHS Future Fit on the above topic. A joint letter to be sent with Culmington and Stanton Lacy is on tonight's agenda.

038/15 – Planning Applications

The Chairman advised that no planning applications had been received. However, an "e" mail had been received commenting that yet further building works were taking place at Milford House, Diddlebury, offering the view that this site is already overdeveloped. A review was conducted into the recent planning applications and it was concluded the present building works relate to application 14/02391/FUL wherein the applicants sought an extension to an existing garden room together with replacement roof, and also to extend the roof over an existing decking area. The Parish Council understood that the new roof would be kept at the same pitch level as the existing one: however, viewed from the road the new roof appears to be much higher than the original one. It was agreed the Parish Council will review the planning application and the building works which are in progress to see if they conform with the planning permission granted.

039/15 - Reports

039/15/1 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman outlined the parish council activities he had carried out during the past month, which included:-

He confirmed that the broken perspex has now been replaced in the notice board on the bus shelter at the top of Mill Lane: Mr. S Perks had kindly done the work free of charge: it was agreed a letter of thanks should be sent to him.

He had taken up with Lisa Bedford the continual clash of dates between the LJC and Diddlebury Parish Council meetings.

He reported on various burglaries and scams gleaned from Police reports.

He reported that some relaxation in the red tape relating to entertainment licences for village halls is being considered.

He has had a meeting with Mr Farley concerning the alignment of Footpath No. 26.

039/15/2 - Unitary Councillor's Report

Cllr. Motley has looked into the threat that Shropshire Council is going to withdraw financial support from the ShropNet community website which, amongst others, Diddlebury Parish Council uses to publish its Minutes etc. She has been advised by Cllr. David Turner of Much Wenlock that the website is out-dated and expensive to maintain: an alternative is being mooted but there is no definite news at present.

Cllr. Motley referred a notification (Item 6 in the Correspondence List) circulated by SALC, attaching a letter from Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council, indicating proposals are afoot to reduce the number of Planning Committees significantly and for the vast majority of planning applications to be dealt with under delegated powers, by individual planning officer. This proposal and its ramifications were debated at length: concern was expressed that councillors were only made aware of this significant change in planning procedure by SALC, and that no consultation had been sought on the views of Parish Councils. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would jointly draft a letter to Mr Steve Davenport at Shropshire Council expressing DPC's concerns.

Cllr. Motley confirmed she had been in touch with Lisa Bedford concerning the LJC/DPC meeting date clashes and the recent clash of the FutureFit presentations. The difficulty regarding meetings is there is no night of the week which suits all parish councils. The Chairman asked Cllr. Motley if she could persuade Ms Bedford to rotate the dates of the meetings so that they don't always fall on a Wednesday.

039/15/3 - Diddlebury Village Hall Committee Report

Cllr. O'Boyle confirmed the earlier news, that there will be two meetings at which members of the public can view the village hall refurbishment proposal. He also confirmed that the Parish Council will receive the planning application, hopefully in time for its May meeting, so if any councillors have been unable to see the proposals, they can view them at that meeting. The Chairman confirmed that if the application wasn't received in time for the May meeting, may be an extraordinary meeting could be held later to deal with the application

040/15 - Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were dealt with at the meeting, plus a letter from Mr John Farley of 30th March which had been sent direct to the Chairman.

1. Undated letter from Mrs M. Hall, leader of the Clover Club, Westhope, thanking the parish council for its donation to their funds.
2. Spring newsletter from Came & Co. - DPC's insurance brokers
3. 26.3.15 - exchange of "e" mails between Cllr. Linton & Ben Walker of "Connecting Shropshire" re delivery of upgraded fibre broadband.*
4. 15.04.15 - Details of the Big Green Shropshire Gathering 2015 (9.30am - 4pm on 25th April 2015 at 193 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury) provided by the Green Shropshire Xchange. *
5. April - exchange of "e" mails between Chairman and Lisa Bedford of LJC re clash of meeting dates.
6. 20.04.15 - "e" mail from SALC, attaching a letter from Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council to Shropshire Councillors.
This concerns the manner in which Shropshire Council is currently dealing with some planning applications and radical changes proposed for the future.
A Task & Finish Group of Shropshire Council is currently looking at the way planning decisions are made: it appears it is proposed only a very small number of planning applications will be referred to the Planning Committee (six - at meetings held only every three weeks) the vast majority being dealt with by planning officers

using delegated powers. Parish Councils have not been consulted or involved in this Task and Finish process, so are urged to write or "e" mail Cllr. Steve Davenport who is heading the Task & Finish Group with their views. His "e" mail address is steve.davenport@shropshire.gov.uk

* indicates items has been circulated to members by "e" mail.

Item 6 was dealt with during Cllr. Motley's Report. No action was needed on any other items listed. Mr Farley's letter related to the Alignment of Diddlebury Footpath No. 26 and a wooden sleeper bridge on the footpath which is dangerous and needs repair/replacement. Mr Farley had made a temporary repair to the bridge and took the matter of a replacement bridge up with Shropshire Council's Rights of Way Maintenance Team, only to be told that the bridge was not on the definitive alignment and so was not within their remit to replace it. Mr Farley has responded in terms to the Team. He seeks the support of Diddlebury Parish Council for the eastern alignment of the bridge to be the definitive one, after conducting a site visit with the Chairman. The issue was discussed at some length and historical reasons as to why the alignment has altered were offered. It was agreed the Parish Council would support the eastern alignment.

041/15 - Finance Report and cheques to be authorised for payment

041/15/1 - Finance Report for April 2015

Balance of Precept Funds b/fwd from 25th March 2015		£3,366.05
Less: Additional cheques authorised at meeting but not included in March 2015 Finance Report		
• Westhope Village Hall - hall hire fees	£45.00	
• Clover Club - donation	£60.00	
• Diddlebury Village Hall - donation	£60.00	
• 1st Corvedale Rainbow Brownies - donation	£70.00	
• Diddlebury Flood Action Group - donation	£60.00	
	<u>£295.00</u>	£ 295.00
		£3,071.05
Less: cheques to be authorised for payment on 22.04.15		
• Clerk's net salary for April 2015	£113.27	
• HMRC – PAYE on Clerk's salary for April 2015	£ 28.40	
• SALC - 2015/2016 affiliation fees	£262.26	
• Diddlebury Village Hall - hire fees 2015/2016	£128.00	
• Clerk's expenses for March 2015 (see below)	£ 21.67	
	£550.36	£ 550.36
Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to May 2015		<u>£2,520.69</u>
Notification of receipt of 2015/2016 Precept (£4,499) awaited.		

Highways & Environment Grant funds b/fwd from 25th March 2015	<u>£917.09</u>
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Funds ring-fenced for Projects b/fwd from 25th March 2015	<u>£147.18</u>
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Other ring-fenced sums held in Diddlebury PC's Account	
• Corvedale Youth Club	£730.39
• Diddlebury Stream Management Group	<u>£150.00</u>

Total held: **£880.39**

Balance of Donations for War Memorial Appeal fund

Total held: **£15.50**

Clerk's expenses for April 2015

- April 2015 Contribution towards Broadband & tel. expenses £ 5.00
 - Postage: 1 x recorded delivery letter to Cllr. Worthington £ 1.73
1 book 6 x 2nd class stamps £ 3.24
 - Travelling expenses – claimed at 30p per mile
22.04.15 - from Leinthall Earls to DVH for meeting
– 39 miles @ 30p £11.70
Total of expenses claimed for April 2015 **£21.67**
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141/15/2:

The Cash Book/Bank balance reconciliation for Bank Statement 268 was presented for checking/authorisation and was duly authorised by Cllr. R Povall..

141/15/3

The distribution of the Corvedale Youth Group Funds of £730.39 (which have been held on their behalf by Diddlebury Parish Council since October 2013) was debated as it had been suggested at the March meeting that a grant might be made to the 1st Corvedale Rainbow Brownies group from these funds. As these are Youth Group funds it is not for the Parish Council to decide on their distribution: however, Councillors Linton and Worthington had agreed, on behalf of the Youth Group Fund, that a sum of £80 could be paid to the 1st Corvedale Rainbow Brownies: they wish the remaining sum to be held by Diddlebury Parish Council pending the refurbishment of the village hall, when the sum may be needed for youth activities at the hall.

141/15/4

The Clerk advised she has to add the War Memorial to the Parish Council's insurance, which is due for renewal shortly. The insurance valuation of the War Memorial was debated and it was agreed it should be insured for the sum of £6,000.

042/15 - Consideration of a request from Culmington and Stanton Lacy Parish Council s to support them in seeking the establishment of an Urgent Care Centre in Ludlow

The Clerk had circulated a draft letter from Culmington Parish Council to all members ahead of the meeting; it was considered and minor amendments were suggested to paragraph 1, emphasising these are rural parishes with poor communications.

Mr. Mason informed the meeting that in Derbyshire "virtual medicine" is being practiced to discourage people from going to A&E departments. For example, heart monitors are being used to send tests down the line to a remote hospital. This will only work in areas with good Broadband/Internet connections, so would be a dangerous development in the Corvedale.

043/15 - Any Other Business

043/15/1

The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting. He reminded all members who produce reports that written reports will be needed for the meeting.

043/15/2

Cllr. O'Boyle has been approached by a parishioner who has complained about a build-up of mud on the road by the bus shelter at Corfton. Cllr. R. Povall said that he would look at the problem.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date and venue of next meeting:

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting - 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th May 2015 at Diddlebury Village Hall.

MINUTES SIGNED BY

DATED