

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, 1 Pipe Aston Barns, Pipe Aston, Ludlow SY8 2HG
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MINUTES

**Of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council
held on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall.**

079/22 – Present

Cllr. D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllr. R Povall, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. R Morgan

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. S. Povall, Cllr. A Rattu, Cllr. T O'Boyle and Cllr. T Pardoe

In attendance - the Clerk, Unitary Cllr. Motley and four members of the public.

080/22 – 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 of interest were made.

081/22 – Public involvement session.

No matters were raised.

082/22– Approval of the three sets of Minutes of the 25th May 2022

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 25th May 2022 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. R Povall **Proposed** that the Minutes of the AGM meeting on 25th May 2022 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Morgan

Vote on Proposal: Councillors unanimously voted in favour of the Proposal. The Chairman signed the AGM Minutes.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 25th May 2022 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. Watson **Proposed** that the Minutes of the APM meeting on 25th May 2022 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Morgan

Vote on Proposal: Councillors unanimously voted in favour of the Proposal. The Chairman signed the APM Minutes.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 25th May 2022 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. P Povall **Proposed** that the Minutes of the meeting on 25th May 2022 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Morgan

Vote on Proposal: Councillors unanimously voted in favour of the Proposal. The Chairman signed the APM Minutes.

083/22: Matters arising from the Minutes of the 25th May 2022 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

072/22/3: The Clerk had emailed SC planning department to ensure a SUDS report had been prepared and approved for the housing development in Bache Mill to ensure water run-off is catered for adequately. No response received as yet.

072/22/3: The Clerk had been asked to contact SC planning department to seek assurance that a SUDS report has been prepared re the water run off affecting the old poultry sheds development at Lower Corfton. Again, no response as yet.

WebOrchard website: Cllr. Motley advised she is being told that the planning information cannot be uploaded onto WebOrchard's website any longer due to security risks. This seems odd as other parish council's get the information using other website hosts. It was agreed the website should be an agenda item as DPC may need to find a new website host.

Chaos on B4368: Cllr. Motley had noted the latest chaos on the B4368 due to roadworks, in particular the failure to signpost diversions adequately. She had complained about it: the difficulty arises as there are very few diversion options available.

084/22 – Reports

084/22/1 – Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported he had first erected the Jubilee celebrations road signs and then removed them after the event. He congratulated all involved in organising the very successful Jubilee celebrations. He had organised a Certificate of Recognition for all the work Geoff Neden had done on the FAG, DPC and the GoogleGroup and had delivered it to his home with a letter of good wishes. He had assisted in the election organisation. He had spent many hours researching aspects of planning law and regulations for the 22/02425/FUL planning application.

084/22/2 – Cllr. Motley's report

Cllr. Motley has written to Eddie West and Tracey Darke at SC in her continuing efforts to get DPC's CIL payment finalised and paid. She is hoping the resurfacing can be arranged during the October school holidays. She attended a useful Local Government Association session when SC's structure and services were peer reviewed and given a positive report: she emphasised her concerns at the loss of the Community Engagement Team which had been disbanded. Concerns about disaster planning were considered and an emergency planning team took delegates through their comprehensive action plan. She asked for the plan to be published or for sessions be organised for town and parish councils. Parish Councils need to have clear lines of communication and need to know what their powers are in the event of an emergency.

084/22/3 – Westhope Village Hall

Cllr. Watson advised that work on the renewal of Westhope Village Hall's roof had commenced and on HSE advice some events had been cancelled whilst the asbestos was being removed.

084/22/4 – Community Governance Review:

Cllr. R Povall reported he had had discussions with the Chairmen of Munslow Parish Council and Culmington Parish Council. Issues exist in the Culmington/Seifton area, discussions concerning which are in abeyance at present.

085/22 – Consideration of planning application

22/02425/FUL – application for the erection of a single storey dwelling with fully integrated solar roof and detached garage/car port on land at The Tithe Barn, Diddlebury.

The applicant and two objectors were in attendance at the meeting and were given opportunities to speak. Written objections sent to the parish council were also noted and carefully considered. The Chairman and councillors present had familiarised themselves with all the documents placed on the planning portal by the applicants and also the detailed grounds of objection raised by neighbours. They also noted the pre-planning application advice from the planners to the applicants and planning policy advice received by councillors in training session handouts. The Chairman had thoroughly researched the “open countryside” designation as it applies to Diddlebury and the manner in which it has been applied by DPC and SC to other Diddlebury-centric planning applications, which had fallen foul of the “open countryside” designation. The research revealed that the “open countryside” designation was somewhat nuanced and there are exceptions to it, some of which applied to this application, notably the proposed building is not being built on agricultural land but on designated residential land. The various exceptions were debated at length, as were issues of access to the property, loss of privacy for neighbouring properties and the impact its modern design would have on surrounding historic buildings including the church. In so far as the issue of privacy was concerned, councillors felt the existing conifer hedge must be retained at its present height, and a new proposed hedge should be of an evergreen variety to ensure privacy in the winter. It was agreed to utilize a location plan submitted by the applicants to demonstrate DPC’s views to SC on the issue of hedging. A major concern, namely that supporting this application will open the flood-gates to every householder with a large garden to seek development opportunities, was considered, but all advice received from Cllr, Motley and SC indicate that every planning application is considered on its own merits, thus no precedent would be set.

Cllr. Robert Povall **Proposed** that the parish council supports this application, but asks that the following matters be addressed in any planning permission Shropshire Council may be minded to grant:

1. There appears to be an issue of ownership of land giving access to this proposed development. DPC trusts this will be addressed and resolved.
- 2: Privacy: Some deciduous hedging is being proposed to afford privacy to neighbouring properties. The parish council will, using the plan, request that the boundary marked A – B remains at all times a high conifer hedge, and that the boundary marked A – C be planted with non-deciduous hedging as loss of leaves in winter is not acceptable.

Cllr. Morgan **seconded** the proposal to support this application.

Vote: Three councillors voted in support of the proposal, one abstained. Proposal passed by a majority vote.

086/22 - Consideration of highways and environmental matters

The request from a Corfton resident about speeding vehicles and motor bikes on the B4368 – some have been recorded as doing 90mph - and the measures he suggested to ameliorate the safety issues it caused were discussed. One suggestion was for double white lines to be applied, to discourage dangerous overtaking. As the B4368 is currently without white lines due to the repair works, it was agreed the Clerk will approach Highways and see if double

white lines can be applied. The Police should also be contacted to see if more speed traps can be set up. It was also agreed that DPC will consider purchasing and installing speed activated devices.

A request from a Bouldon resident for warning signs asking drivers to slow down around horses was considered. The Clerk will order four signs and contact Highways about displaying them in the Peaton, Bouldon and Heath areas.

087/22 – To consider the following communications and correspondence received in June.

The following documents were considered; no responses were deemed to be necessary.

1. Road closure notifications:
10th June – 28th June – closure of Longmeadow End junction to Long Lane Junction in Craven Arms, due to emerging public and traffic safety issues relating to increased and unsuitable usage during temporary works on the B4368.
8th May – 12th July 2022: Closure of B4368 – Diddlebury to Aston Munslow for surface dressing. Contact 0345 6789006 quoting reference UJ216SD-SH18 for further information and updates as works are weather dependent.
2. Emails between Clerk/SC's Elections officers and potential candidates re DPC's vacancy for a councillor following the resignation of Mr Geoff Neden
3. Planning decisions:
22/00279/FUL: Proposed residential Dutch barn conversion at Hales Barns, Diddlebury into 3 residential dwellings. SC granted planning permission on 7th June 2022.
22/00595/FUL – proposed agricultural building at Honeydene, Diddlebury for the storage of manure. SC granted planning permission on 10th June 2022.
4. Letter from Chairman to Mr Geoff Neden thanking him for his service on the parish council and in the Diddlebury community generally and noting it is good that other people have taken up the baton and will ensure the continuance of the Flood Action Group and the Goggle Group, which Geoff was so involved with. He will be sorely missed in this community.
5. Letter, Clerk to PKF Littejohn, auditors enclosing the DPC Certificate of Exemption for the 2021/2022 Audit.
6. Notification concerning Council tax rebate for energy costs – deadline for applications is 22.6.22
7. Notification of SALC training course for councillors – “What to Expect in Meetings” Cost £30. Notify Clerk if you wish to attend. Concentrates on Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and the Code of Conduct.
8. Document from SALC with details of a proposed cost of living support package, with a list of support agencies.
9. Letter from DPC to Sarah Woodall of Connexus Housing Group, expressing concern about the number of social houses which are empty, and response from Ms Woodall of 27th May seeking to justify their reasons for the large number of vacant houses.

10. Highways notification: 01.06.22 – FixMyStreet advise they have repaired the pothole by Lane House, Mill Lane., Diddlebury.
11. Emails between Mrs Barbara Archer, Chairman of Munslow Parish Council and Clerk as to whether DPC plans to take action over the issue of which parish Aston Top is situated in. Clerk referred Mrs Archer to Cllr. R Povall.

088/22 – Finance Matters and Report for June 2022

1. <u>Precept balance b/fwd from May 2022</u>		£7,478.53
Less: Cheques/debits authorised to be drawn on Precept Funds in June 2022		
1. HSBC – bank charges charged in June 2022	£ 6.60	
2. Clerk’s net salary for June 2022	£250.00	
3. PAYE on Clerk’s May 2022 salary	£ 15.00	
4. <u>Administrative/capital expenses incurred by the Clerk in June 2022 on behalf of DPC</u>		
• June 2022 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision @ £20 per month	£20.00	
• 1 pkt A4 copy paper	£ 4.00	
• Travelling expenses claimed at 45p To Ticklerton Village Hall for meeting on 22.6.22 - 36 miles @ 45p per mile	£16.20	
Total of Clerk’s June administrative expenses	£40.20	£ 40.20
Total of June 2022 admin. Expenses	£ 311.80	£ 311.80
Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to June 2022		<u>£7,166.73</u>

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that the cheques listed totalling £311.80 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously to support the proposal.

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

• Community Infrastructure Levy /Neighbourhood Fund		
Balance b/fwd from May 2022		£24,461.44
• Environmental works & asset management fund		
Balance b/fwd from May 2022		£ 1,799.27
• Sum precepted for payment of May 2021 election costs		£ 1,350.00
• Legal expenses ring fenced fund		£ 750.00
• Flood Action Group funds - balance b/fwd from May 2022		£ 255.35
• Ear-marked reserves for DVH car park resurfacing		£4,723.39

3. Balance held by DPC following authorisation of the payments listed above

1. Precept	£ 7,166.73
2. Community Infrastructure Levy/Neighbourhood Fund	£24,461.44
3. Environmental works & asset maintenance fund	£ 1,799.27
4. Reserves for May 2021 election expenses	£ 1,350.00
5. Legal expenses ring fenced fund	£ 750.00

6. FAG third party funds	£ 255.35
7. Reserve Fund - Ear marked for DVH car park repairs	£ 4,723.39
Total:	<u>£40,506.18</u>

4 Bank statement and cash book reconciliation

Verification by Councillors of the Clerk's reconciliation between HSBC bank statement 358 and DPC's Cash Book was conducted by Cllr. Watson and approved.

089/22 – To review the progress of the election of a councillor and to consider whether or not to request election cards be sent to all households.

The Clerk advised she was aware that three potential candidates had requested nomination packs and an election is scheduled to be held on Thursday 21st July 2022. To be agreed tonight is whether or not DPC wanted polling cards to be sent out to all houses in the parish, which will cost DPC approximately £300. Cllr. R Povall felt it was necessary that cards be sent out as many households may be unaware that an election is being held. It was agreed the Clerk will notify the Elections Office accordingly.

090/22 – Any Other Business (for the dissemination of information only)

No matters were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 27th July 2022 commencing at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

Dated: 27th July 2022