

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

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

Tel: 01547 519282 "e" mail address: diddleburypc@outlook.com

Website address: www.diddleburyparish.co.uk

MINUTES

**Of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council
held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

226/23 – Present

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

In attendance - the Clerk, Shropshire Cllr. Motley and one member of the public

Apologies: Cllr A Rattu and Cllr S Povall

227/23 – 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.

228/23 – Public involvement session.

A resident of Bache Mill attended the meeting to seek assistance from the parish council. The driveway and thus access to his property is frequently either wholly or partially blocked by people occupying the holiday rental home, Jack’s Cottage, which is 150 yards from his driveway. When asking the visitors to move their cars so he can access his property, he is often met with abuse and/or the statement that they have been told the property has parking rights and they intend to exercise their right to park. Jack’s Cottage is currently marketed by Booking.com, which misrepresents the situation as on its website as it states “Parking: Free public parking is possible on the site (reservation is not needed”. In fact, Jack’s Cottage has no parking space and its lack of parking is causing problems for local residents, especially as people booking Jack’s Cottage often have more than one car. The parish council is aware that residents of the Moors are also being inconvenienced by people from Jack’s Cottage parking at The Moors. The parish council looked to the Planning Department for advice but they were unable to assist. No one at the meeting knew who owns Jack’s Cottage, so the parish council could not make a direct contact with the owner. Cllr Watson will make enquiries about the ownership. The resident at the meeting was advised by the parish council to place bollards by his access and on the verge in front of his property to deter parking and to obtain signs stipulating “No Parking”.

229/23– Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting of 25th October 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 25th October 2023 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 25th October 2023 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Watson

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

230/23: Matters arising from the Parish Meeting 25th October 2023 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

210/23 - Complaint to Sorting Office in Craven Arms. The Clerk confirmed she had sent a copy of DPC's letter to Cllr. Motley.

219/23/3 – The Chairman advised that DPC had not had to call upon the £2,000 agreed funding to organise drain clearance following the recent floods as Highways had been round the parish to clear the drains.

221/23/1 – The saga with the on-going problems with Highways in Boudon continue. There has been no response from Mr Keyland to DPC's various requests.

223/23 – The Community Governance Review concerning amendments to parish boundaries has ground to a halt and won't proceed before 2025.

231/23 - Reports

231/23/1 - Chairman's report. The Chairman reported he had raised with the Headmaster and the school Governors the suggestion that the playground at Corvedale C of E School be converted into a public playground with access outside school hours and they had been receptive to the idea. He had also raised it, out of courtesy, with the DVH committee. He has arranged for two specialist contractors to come during the first week of December to view the site and provide quotations for the necessary surfacing and fencing works. He has spoken to Martin Jones of the PCC and Reverend Beesley, and the War Graves Commission about the proposed WWI information board to be erected by the War Memorial. He has discussed with Stephen Ross a letter from Chris Thomas of Church Farm about flooding issues: he is of the view it does not concern DPC.

231/23/2 – Shropshire Cllr. Motley's Report. Cllr. Motley confirmed that no progress can be made on parish boundary reviews until 2025, when it will be headed up by Cllr. Gwilym Butler. She recommended DPC investigate the Crowd Funding scheme being organised by SC, as funds may be available for the proposed playground. There is also a tranche of money coming to the Rural Prosperity Fund which might also be useful: Space Hire are scrutinizing the applications. There have been long meetings of Cabinet about finances: it had been hoped extra government funds would be made available to adult and child social care but it seems the budget will remain as last year, even though increasingly complex cases are arising all the time. The Home Office have advised that 200 Afghan refugees are to be housed at Nesscliffe Barracks and 17 families at RAF Cosford, which will place an additional strain on schools and medical services.

She had attended a Local Plan Group which was dealing with transport: the plan only featured urban areas so is having to be re-written to include rural areas.

231/23/3 - Flood Action Group Report.

Cllr. Martyn reported that Ian Baston will represent Middlehope on the FAG. He is still finalizing his report on the recent flooding events. He has communicated with Professor Wilson about the effectiveness of leaky dams. Her view is upstream from Diddlebury they were not sufficient and were overwhelmed by the sheer quantity of water. Culmington FAG and Diddlebury's FAG are proposing a joint meeting to consider the whole valley and to see if a larger number of people will join the groups.

232/23 - Planning matters

The Chairman reported that 23/04452/FUL – an application for the erection of an agricultural machine building and a separate field shelter and formation of field access (part retrospective) - at Clowes Farm, Great Sutton, had been dealt with via the Standing Order 27 procedure by a group of councillors.

They had approved the application but requested that the SUDS' recommendations concerning drainage be noted.

233/23 – To consider highways and environmental matters

233/23/1: The long-awaited report on speeding on the B4368 by Mr Nick Newton has still not appeared. Cllr. Motley agreed to chase him up.

233/23/2: Severn Trent. It was agreed the Clerk will write to Severn Trent asking that their drivers drive slowly through The Moors; that they do not park their tankers on any land other than their own in the Moors/Moors View and whether there is any possibility of providing some parking spaces on their site.

233/23/3: Signage at The Moors re parking. It was agreed the Clerk will order four signs stating "Please do not park on the grass". Cllr. Martyn kindly agreed to erect them when received. It was agreed that a SID machine for The Moors would be prohibitively expensive. Cllr. Morgan advised that Police with speed cameras had been active on the B4368.

234/23 – Correspondence and communications received in November 2023

Councillors considered the following correspondence and communications:

1. Email Clerk to Cllr. C Motley enclosing DPC's letter to the Sorting Office in Craven Arms, dated 23.09.23, concerning the poor mail service in Diddlebury, which they have failed to answer.
2. Emails Clerk to Councillors advising about CrowdFund initiative and Zoom meeting on 21.11.23
3. Letter DPC to Planning Dept. supporting application re 23/04452/FUL – erection of an agricultural machinery building and separate field shelter, formation of field access (part retrospective) at Clowes Farm, Great Sutton. Dealt with by Standing Order 27.
4. Warning from SC re impact caused by Storm Babet. SC request that information from persons affected by severe internal flooding to residential or business properties should be reported to them by email to resilience@shropshire.gov.uk.

Post-flood information on clearing up can be sought from
[:https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk](https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk)

5. Details from Shropshire Council of the proposals for the Shrewsbury North-West Relief Road. Previous budget was £80.1 million but the latest cost is awaited and will be significantly more.
6. Notification from SC that a revised Register of Electors will be published in December.
7. Details of D-Day 80th commemoration event – 6th June 2024 with details of how to buy beacons, peace lamps etc
8. Query from Clerk to SALC seeking documentation about and a timetable for the proposed Community Governance Review,- SALC advise the Community Governance Review has been held as the Constituency Boundaries Review is not yet completed. Thus, no time-table or procedural documentation is available as yet.
9. Request from Mr C E Williams, Clerk to the Trustees of various Ludlow Almshouses, requesting that DPC nominate a councillor to stand as a Trustees to the Louisa Powell Almshouse Charity.
10. Notification from Chairman of a meeting at 10.30am on 6th December 2023 at Corvedale C of E Primary School with representatives of the company ESP Play, to discuss development of a children's playground. Councillors and interested parties welcome to attend.

Responses: Item 9. Cllr. Morgan advised that as all the Almshouse meetings are held during the working day it is very difficult for him to attend: he could not therefore agree to become a Trustee. Cllr. O'Boyle agreed to be nominated to be the DPC Trustee to the Louisa Powell Almshouse Charity. The Chairman thanked Cllr. O'Boyle for offering his services and accepted the offer. The Clerk will contact Mr Williams accordingly.

235/23 – To consider proposed Resolution from the Chairman that DPC should fund a WWI information board to complement the War Memorial in Diddlebury, at a cost of between £300 and £500.

The Chairman outlined the current progress of the information board and **proposed** that DPC should make £300 available to fund the production of the board.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Watson

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously to support the proposal.

236/23 – Further consideration of the proposed playground in Diddlebury.

This matter was dealt with in the Chairman's Report – 232/23/1

237/23 – Finance Report for November 2023 and initial consideration of the Precept Budget for 2024/2025.

237/23/1 – Finance Report

Precept Balance b/fwd from October 2023 **£5,185.62**

LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on

22nd November 2023

1. HSBC bank charges. Bank statement 374	£ 5.00		
2. Clerk's net salary for November 2023	£254.64		
3. PAYE on Clerk's November 2023 salary	£ 16.20		
4. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in November 2023</u>			
• Nov/Dec 2023 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision at £20 p.m.	£ 40.00		
• Badger Inks. Multi pack of ink cartridges	£ 12.98		
• Mayfair Stationers: Guildhall Accounts book	£ 40.96		
• Ink Spot: photocopies	£ 1.00		
• Travel expenses at 45p per mile .22.11.23. to Diddlebury Village Hall for Parish council meeting - 32 miles	£ 14.40		
Total of November expenses	£109.34	<u>£109.34</u>	
		£385.18	<u>£ 385.18</u>
Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to January 2024			<u>£4,800.44</u>

Cllr. O'Boyle **proposed** that cheques totalling £385.18 as listed above be authorised for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watson

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously to support the proposal.

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

CIL/Neighbourhood Funds balance b/fwd from October 2023	£13,396.62
Environmental works & asset maintenance fund bal. b/fwd from Oct 2023	£ 700.42
Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from Oct. 2023	£ 750.00
Flood Action Group funds, bal. b/fwd from Oct. 2023	£ 246.35
Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park maintenance fund reserves, bal. b/fwd	£ 3,500.00
Reserves fund for SC elections, bal. b/fwd from Oct. 2023	£ 457.73
Total of funds	<u>£19,051.12</u>

Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed

Precept Funds	£ 4,800.44
Ring-fenced, third party and reserve funds	<u>£19,051.12</u>
	<u>£23,851.56</u>

237/23/2: Cash book/bank statement reconciliation

DPC's Cash Book was reconciled by Councillor O'Boyle with HSBC Bank Statement No. 374

237/23/3 – Preliminary consideration of DPC's 2024/2025 Precept Budget.

A draft Precept Budget had been prepared by the Clerk. Further information and costings are awaited. The precept budget will be considered and confirmed at the January 2024 meeting.

238/23 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only).

The Chairman advised that the complaint against Cllr. Rattu is not being pursued.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.45 pm

Date and Venue of the next meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 24th January 2024, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

Dated: 24th January 2024