**DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley**

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, The Grange, Leinthall Earls, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9TS Tel: 01568 770640 "e" mail address: diddleburypc@gmail.com

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**MINUTES**

**Of the Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Tuesday 23rd May 2018 in Diddlebury Village Hall**

**064/18: Present and apologies for absence**

 Cllr. D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllr. Robert Povall, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. T O'Boyle, Cllr. K Worthington, Cllr. S Thomas, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. M Thomas and Cllr. M. Woodhouse

**In attendance**:

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

**065/18: Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.**

Members are 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.

Cllr. O’Boyle declared an interest in Planning application 18/01279/TCA, an application submitted by him to carry out works to trees on his property. Other than to answer questions raised by councillors, Cllr. O’Boyle took no part in the discussion or voting on his application.

**066/18: Public involvement session:**

No matters were raised.

**067/18: Approval the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 8th May 2018**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th May 2018 had been circulated prior to the meeting. That they were an accurate reflection of the business of that meeting and should be signed as a correct record was **Proposed by:** Cllr. K. Worthington

**Seconded by:** Cllr. S Povall

**Vote:** Proposal unanimously carried. The Chairman thereafter signed the Minutes.

**068/18: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 8th May 2018 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda**

008/18/3: There has still been no response from Highways about a mirror at the end of Bache Mill where it adjoins the B4368.

028/18/1: No response yet from the Church Commissioner’s about the Silent Soldier campaign. However, the Chairman now has the necessary paperwork from the British Legion

and a notice inviting public donations is in the Corvedale News. If no consent is forthcoming, the Silent Soldier will be affixed to the wall if sufficient funds are raised.

046/18/1: The Chairman confirmed a quotation has been agreed for the repairs to the bridge in Mill Lane which will be funded by the EMO grant funds.

046/18/1 – Potholes: As agreed at the previous meeting, the Clerk has written to the Highways Dept. in the terms agreed on this issue.

046/18/3: It was agreed that Cllr. O’Boyle will draft a letter to the known parties involved in erecting signage on the B4368 at Pedlar’s Rest, which then obstructs drivers’ vision on the highway and so is a highways hazard.

053/18/1: The Chairman up-dated the councillors on the progress of the serious concerns about DPC and two councillors in connection with 18/01254/TCA.

**069/18 - Reports**

 069/18/1 – Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported on his recent parish council activities, which included:

* Considering at length further emails concerning the 18/01254/TCA complaint including liaising with the Clerk and councillors
* Completing the consultation document concerning the future of the Environmental Grant. He had emphasised that the Grant should be confined to small parish councils; the type of works which could be carried out should be more flexible and the proposed 50% match funding was unfair.
* He had been involved in the issue of cows in the fields chasing users of FP20 and thus causing distress.
* He has carried further work on the Silent Soldier campaign.

069/18/2 – Unitary Councillor’s Report

Cllr. Motley reported on the progress of the third new Cabinet at Shropshire Council since unification of the council: she is concerned that only one cabinet minister, Lee Chapman, represents south Shropshire. She reported that after endless negotiations, a balanced budget has finally been achieved for the next financial year. Budgets in all departments have been slashed as the bulk goes to elderly adult and child care. The government is being vigorously pursued to provide increased funding to local authorities to fund social care. She is working with RSN to further this pressure and to seek more funding parity between rural and urban councils.

Cllr. Motley outlined her particular roles within Shropshire Council: she has responsibility for scrutinising various committees and budgets. She is currently involved with the future funding of the Environmental Grants. She is also looking into community transport, flood risk management and the proposed cuts to the Community Enablement Team who, in her view, do a lot of valuable work. In addition, she also continues to hold her regular meetings with the Chairs of the Corvedale parish councils. She is very aware of the concerns about potholes and is actively pursuing the matter with Highways and with Kier. She is also working with the head of planning to look at the provision of rural housing and at the revised Local Plan. In response to a question, Cllr. Motley advised that the issue of ammonia pollution from farming, especially poultry farming, has still not been resolved.

**070/18 – Planning applications**

070/18/1: **17/05900/REM** – re-consultation due to amendments to this application. Proposal to approved Reserved Matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) in pursuance of outline planning permission **16/03374/OUT** for the erection of an agricultural worker’s dwelling on land NE of Middlehope.

This application had previously come to DPC but no decision could made on it then due to a lack of detail. Adequate details of the reserved matters were now available. The Chairman advised there were no objections to the application: he read out the various consultant’s reports, confirmed it will be subject to a S.106 condition and advised the house is to built in brick, stone and render so will be in keeping with other properties in the area. Cllr. O’Boyle would have preferred the house to be all stone clad. After discussion concerning the details:

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that DPC should support this application and approve the reserved matters.

Cllr. S Povall **seconded** the proposal.

**Vote:** Seven members voted in favour of the proposal, one abstained and one voted against: proposal carried by a majority.

070/18/2: **18/02179/TCA** – an application to carry out works to eight various trees at Glebe Farm, Mill Lane, Diddebury SY7 9DH, which is in the Diddlebury Conservation Area.

Other than to respond to specific questions from other councillors, Cllr. O’Boyle took no part in the discussion or vote on this matter.

The Chairman outlined the nature of work to be carried out to each of the eight trees. The works had been suggested by a tree surgeon and were necessary to promote the health of the trees. The works included topping, removing branches, reshaping crowns. After discussion,

Cllr. S Povall **proposed** that DPC support the application.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Woodhouse

**Vote:**  Seven members voted in support of the application, one abstained – proposal carried

by a majority.

**071/18 – Consideration of a proposal by Cllr. T O’Boyle that Diddlebury Parish Council shall ask Shropshire Council to install a 20mph speed limit in The Moors and Mill Lane, Diddlebury to improve the safety of pedestrians.**

Cllr. O’Boyle outlined his reasons and research conducted in bringing this proposal to the parish council. With the help of Cllr. Watson 59 households in The Moors and Mill Lane had been sent a survey about this proposal. Of the 59 households, 43 had returned the forms – a 73% response rate. Of the 43 responses, 37 supported the proposal - 86% - and 6 were against the proposal - 14%. Cllr. O’Boyle urged the adoption of his proposal on the grounds of the health and safety of especially the vulnerable, children, cyclists and horse riders. He also pointed out the implementation of 20mph speed limit was an agreed item in the Parish Plan.

The Chairman read out two letters from local residents supporting the proposal. Resident Mr. Chris Thomas had circulated a detailed analysis to the members setting out why he felt the proposal was inappropriate and he addressed the meeting with his concerns, which were based on evidence from other councils, the Institute of Advanced Motorists and government data. In his view 20mph limits increased pollution and evidentially failed to reduce accidents. He felt a better solution would be to extend the pavement in Mill Lane and to review the suitability of Mill Lane for use by HGV’s.

Resident Mrs Sara Thompson supported the application. Since coming to live in Diddlebury she had noted an increase in the amount of traffic using Mill Lane, especially delivery vans which operate on tight time schedules, and the general disregard of the 30mph sped limit. She felt the traffic flow was an accident waiting to happen. Another resident spoke of having observed tractors and large lorries encroaching on the pavement.

Having heard the residents’ views and the evidence advanced, the proposal was robustly debated by the councillors.

Cllr. O’Boyle’s  **Proposal** was **seconded** by Cllr. Watson

**Vote: Two members voted in support of the Proposal; five voted against the Proposal and two abstained from voting. Proposal defeated.**

**072/18 – Minor Highways and Environmental matters**

From the floor resident Mr Chris Thomas reported he has had a wheel damaged by a local pothole and he is making a claim against Shropshire Highways. He cannot believe it would not be cheaper for the council to fix the potholes than pay out damages. He has counted 39 serious potholes on a 3.3 mile radius of Diddlebury. Cllr. Woodhouse noted that the Highways surface dressing schedule for Shropshire roads has no mention of the B4368 on it.

Two individual councillors have taken the matter up with Highways.

It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk will continue in their efforts to get the potholes issue addressed.

**073/18 – Communications and correspondence to be considered**

The following items of correspondence were considered:

1. Email 14.05.18 from Lisa Bedford re an LJC meeting on 26th June 2018, 6.00pm at Acton Scott Village Hall, to discuss the applications to the Henley Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund.

NB: This fund only covers Westhope & Middlehope: The Clerk sent a copy of the application form to Tom Hall in case Westhope Village Hall want to put in an application.

1. Email from Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance. They are conducting surveys and workshops on the current food poverty situation in Shropshire. A workshop will be held in Craven Arms on 29th June. Further information is available on their website.
2. Email from Geoff Neden 11th May 2018 advising John Woodhouse has quoted £330 for the repairs to the Mill Lane bridge. Authorisation given for the work to commence.
3. Letter, Clerk to Mr P Wrigley, Delbury Hall, re reinstatement of the missing portion of hedge at the wedding venue entrance to Delbury Hall.
4. Letter, Clerk to Mr Gary Parton, Traffic Manager, Highways Department requesting him to liaise with contractors Kier to get repairs carried out to the B4368 as a matter of priority.
5. Email Clerk to Mr David Hardwick, Shropshire Council, asking whether he is able to assist, on a without prejudice basis, with repairs to the bridge on FP26.
6. Email from Cllr. Watson concerning cattle aggressively chasing users of FP20, rendering the footpath unusable and injury sustained by a small child.

Item 7 required detailed consideration: The Chairman had asked Cllr. R Povall to visit the field in question and assess the situation: this he had done on five occasions at different times of the day. On those visits the cows caused no problems. He had sent three telephone messages to the farmer involved but had received no response to date. Cllr. Watson advised it was not a matter of the cows being curious – they had actually chased users of the footpath. It was agreed that Cllr. O’Boyle would write to the landowner involved.

**074/18 - Consideration of Financial matters**

074/18/1 – Finance Report for May 2018

Precept balance carried forward from 8th May 2018 £5,542.81

**Less:** Cheques authorised to be drawn on precept funds on 23.05.18

1. Clerk’s salary for May 2018 £162.82
2. HMRC – PAYE etc on Clerk’s May salary £ 40.60
3. Came & Co. – insurance cover 2018/2019 £330.00
4. Administrative expenses paid by Clerk in May 2018

on behalf of DPC and reclaimed

* Contribution towards May telephone

and Broadband cost: £15 plus Broadband

usage surcharge of £8.10 £23.10

* 12 x 2nd class stamps & 1st class postage

to PKF Littlejohn, auditors £ 7.97

* 1st class postage – statutory notices for

Westhope, Middlehope & Corfton £ 3.03

* 1 x Epson 29XL black ink cartridge £22.99
* Paid £35 by debit card to ICO to register

DPC as required by Data Protection

Legislation £35.00

* Travelling expenses claimed at 45p per mile
* To Diddlebury Village Hall for meeting

 on 23.05.18 - 44 miles @ 45p per mile £19.80

Total of Admin expenses paid by Clerk £111.89 £111.89

 £645.31

Total deductions from Precept funds £ 645.31 **Balance of Precept funds c/fwd £4,897.50**

Cllr. Worthington **Proposed** that the above cheques be authorised by DPC.

The Chairman **seconded** the Proposal

**Vote:** Unanimous vote in favour of the proposal

1. **Ring fenced, Reserves and third party funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council**
* Community Infrastructure Levy – funds rec’d 25.04.18 **£2,440.29**
* Environmental Grant funds b/fwd from 2017/2018 **£2,832.01**
* Transparency Code funds b/fwd from 2017/2018 **£ 636.49**
* War Memorial Funds balance b/fwd from 2017/2018 **£ 65.13**
* Funds held for Diddlebury Flood Action Group balance b/fwd **£ 156.57**
* Ear-marked Reserves for car park resurfacing & 2017 election fee **£5,512.29**

No claims received in respect of the above funds for this meeting.

1. **Balances held by DPC following authorisation of cheques on 23.05.18**

**Precept Funds £4,897.50**

**Community Infrastructure Levy rec’d April 2018 £2,440.29**

**Environmental Grant £2,832.01**

**Transparency Code Funds £ 636.49**

**War Memorial Funds £ 65.13**

**Funds held for Diddlebury Flood Action Group £ 157.57**

**Ear-marked Reserves Fund £5,512.29**

**Total funds carried forward £16,541.28**

 074/18/2 **Bank statement and Cash Book reconciliation**

 Councillor R. Povall verified the Clerk’s reconciliation between HSBC statement number 309 and DPC’s Cash Book.

 **075/18- Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

Cllr. Worthington asked whether any steps were being taken to repair the telephone in the box at the top of Mill Lane. The Chairman responded he had not been aware it was not working and agreed to report it.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm

Date and venue of the next Diddlebury Parish Council meeting

7.30pm on Wednesday 27th June 2018 at Westhope Village Hall.

**MINUTES SIGNED BY David Hedgley**

**DATED 27th June 2018**