

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr David 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 23rd October 2024 at 7.15pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

115/24 – Present

Cllr. D Hedgley – Chairman, Cllr. Robert Povall, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. C Martyn,
Cllr. T O’Boyle

In attendance - the Clerk, Shropshire Councillor C Motley for part of the meeting and five members of the public.

Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr. A Rattu, Cllr. T Pardoe, Cllr. R Morgan

116/24 – 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.

117/24 – Public involvement session

No matters were raised.

118/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 25th September 2024

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th September 2024 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 parish council meeting on 25th September 2024 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting’s business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Martyn

Vote on Proposal: Four in favour, two abstentions.

119/24: Matters arising from the Parish Council Meetings of 25th September 2024 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

096/24/1: The Clerk advised Shropshire Council have not as yet circulated detail of how to book a slot to visit the Recycling Centre in Craven Arms. Reports suggest the roll-out of the payment

scheme to have household green waste bins emptied had been a shambles as the stickers provided to indicate those household which had paid to join the scheme would not stick to the bins.

109/24/1: Cllr. Motley had agreed at the September meeting to raise with the Planning Department why they were not calling in for a full Planning Committee hearing applications which the parish council had supported. She had not been able to progress the matter.

Cllr. R Morgan had advised the Chairman he will be laying the stones in the new playground during the half-term holiday.

120/24 - Reports

120/24/1 – Chairman’s Report. The Chairman advised that as he had been abroad for most of month, all he had to report on was that the Hereford Diocese are being extremely difficult about giving permission for the siting of the World War I information board planned for Diddlebury Churchyard. He is continuing to fight the matter.

120/24/2 – Shropshire Cllr. Motley’s report. Cllr. Motley reported on the continuing financial difficulties faced by Local Councils: 19 are said to be in the brink of insolvency. She outlined various measures Shropshire Council is taking to deal with budget deficits.

120/24/3: Westhope Village Hall Report. Mrs Worthington reported that the Hall’s Committee continue in their efforts to raise funds for the Hall’s continuing refurbishment. The Harvest Festival supper was a three course meal and was well attended. The next event is a joint effort with Culmington Village Hall and is a concert on 23rd November starring the Newtown Male Voice Choir.

120/24/4 – Diddlebury Village Hall: Cllr. S Povall advised that as DVH’s Committee hold their meetings during the working day he was unable to attend. He agreed to obtain their Minutes and to read them out at DPC meetings. One issue which had arisen is that householders which front on to the car park are fed up with car park traffic using their drives as a turning circle. DVC Hall Committee may need to adjust the white lines on the car park to resolve this matter.

120/24/5 – Flood Action Group Report. Cllr. Martyn reported that as he has been abroad he has no report this month. He is however accumulating information to take to the next FAG meeting., especially relating to the flood issues on 16th October.

120/24/6 – Louise Powell Alms House Charity: Cllr. O’Boyle reported that a meeting of all the administrators of the various almshouse charities in Ludlow had met recently. Repairs and maintenance are going well. Pet ownership came up: whilst they wish to be flexible it was felt pets should only be allowed in special circumstances, such as in houses with gardens

121/24 – Planning applications

24/03616/FUL – application for the erection of a first-floor extension at The Green Farm, Middlehope, SY7 9JT

24/03617/LBC – application for Listed Building Consent for the above application.

Mr & Mrs Donovan, the applicants, attended and explained to councillors the history of the property and what their plans were to modify it and why the proposed works were needed. Their previous application had been refused. They endeavoured diligently to obtain help and guidance from the Planning Department, such as pre-application advice, to no avail. Thus, they have had to make this application without any assistance or guidance from the Planning Department. The Chairman noted there were no

public or statutory objections on the planning portal to these applications. Councillors discussed the applications in detail.

For 24/03616/FUL Cllr. Martyn **proposed** that DPC should strongly support the application as it had no objections to the works proposed.

Cllr. R Povall **seconded** the application.

Vote : Members voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

For 24/03617/LBC Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that the parish council should support the Listed Building Consent application.

The Chairman seconded the **proposal**.

Vote: Members voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

24/03399/FUL – application for the erection of a temporary marquee for longer than 28 days at the Delbury Hall wedding venue, Delbury Hall, Diddlebury

Mr Patrick Wrigley and Mr Jack Wrigley attended to explain the application. The venue is needed for wedding breakfasts following the actual marriage ceremony, which takes place elsewhere at Delbury Hall. Whilst the venue would not be in continuous use, it needed to be available for potential bridal couples to view when researching their wedding venue options. Sometimes they visit two or three years in advance of the event and need to be able to view exactly what is on offer. The application is deemed to be “temporary” as once it is no longer needed, it can be dismantled and the area quickly reinstated as part of the garden. No services other than electricity will be connected to it. It may well lead to increased employment opportunities. As it is round the back of Delbury Hall it is not visible from the road or the village.

Councillors considered the application and established that the tree application (which follows) is not part of this site. The Chairman noted that there were no public or statutory objections on the planning portal.

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that the parish council should support the application and raise no objections to it. The Chairman **seconded** the proposal.

Vote: Five in favour, one abstention – proposal carried.

24/03830/TCA – application to fell and replace one Beech tree within the Diddlebury Conservation Area, namely at Delbury Hall, Diddlebury.

The Chairman noted there were no public or statutory objections on the planning portal. He read out the various reasons an applicant can give to seek the removal of a significant tree in a conservation area, which include diseased, damaged or dangerous. Cllr. Watson asked why a previous recent application was to remove the crown, but now it’s changed to removal of the tree. Mr P Wrigley advised the tree was dangerous as it is now leaning towards a cottage they use as an Airbnb. He confirmed the beech tree will be replaced.

Cllr. S Povall **proposed** that the parish council should support this application.

Cllr. R Povall **seconded** the proposal.

Vote: Five in favour, one abstention.

24/03939/REM- application for approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, scale & layout) re outline application 24/01809/OUT for a single house & garage on land adjacent to the Sun Inn, for which the Planning Officer had granted permission

The following response was **Proposed** by Cllr. T O’Boyle:

“Diddlebury Parish Council objected to this outline planning application in accordance with its Resolution of 23rd January 2019 not to support any further development in Corfton, a Resolution which had previously been supported by the Planning Department. Diddlebury Parish Council has no further comment to make in this matter.”.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal

122/24 – Consideration of highways and environmental matters

Prior to this meeting Cllr. Martyn and the Clerk had visited the site of the flooding which occurred on the B4368 by the bridge, following the rains of 16th October 2024. Highways had been out and scrapped the mud off the highway, but in so doing had blocked all the road drains. There is nothing on the verge to indicate where the drains are. As a remedial measure they had cut a channel in the verge on the left-hand side of the bridge to better channel the water into the stream below, but the channel is not large enough, in Cllr. Martyn's view. The drain on the left-hand side of the road coming down from Pinstones Farm is still broken and disconnected in parts. In the field on the opposite side of the lane a crop had been planted which has insufficient roots to compact and hold the soil together. Water run-off has created a channel from the top of the field to the verge along the highway, so rain and run-off had poured down the hill unhindered and discharged onto the B4368 from this field, bringing large quantities of field mud with it. Due to the road's camber, the water then made its way to the bridge and caused the flooding on the bridge and to adjacent properties. Cllrs R and S Povall advised they are responsible for this field. They had been given advice to plant a grass margin all around the field, but due to the wet weather they had been unable to get onto the field to plant it. Cllr. R Povall thought that maybe if they placed large bales along the field margin adjoining the highway it might help control flood water, but again it's too wet to get onto the field. Cllr. S Povall advised there is little anyone can do when 57mms of rain falls in a short space of time.

The possibility of DPC purchasing a supply of sandbags which residents could collect and use to protect their properties if flooding is threatened was debated at some length. Cllr. R Povall thought he may be able to get a large bin to store them in. The type of sandbags was discussed. It was agreed that this matter be deferred to the next meeting by which time the type of sandbags could be researched, plus the availability of a bin to store them and a venue for the bin.

It was confirmed that a FOI request had been sent to Shropshire Council's Highways Department, as per Minute ref. 111/24/2.

123/24 – Consideration of correspondence and communications received in October 2024

Road Closure notifications

1. 18th December 2024 – unnamed road between Harton and Westhope (tree trimming)
2. 30th October 2024 – unnamed road between Munslow and B4368 at Munslow – BT pole replacement
3. 29th October 2024 – Mill Lane, Diddlebury – Severn Trent works

Planning application decisions

4. 24/03023/FUL – erection of porch and dwarf wall at Lower Huse Farm, Bache Mill. Permission granted.
5. 24/03024/FUL – repair existing timber frame & new lime render panels over brickwork at Lower House Farm, Middlehope. Permission granted.

General correspondence

6. Request from Drainage & Flood Risk Manager (John Bellis) at SC asking for details of any parish flooding incidents after rainfall on 16.10.24. In response forwarding Cllr. Rattu's report and photographs of flooding on the bridge on B4368 by the Moors and Mill Lane.

7. Email from a Moors resident about flooding on the bridge and responding to him.
8. Grass cutting up-date from SC's StreetScene
9. Notification from SC about their request to town and parish councils to engage with support services. SC have abandoned the initiative.
10. Letter DPC to Connexus seeking an up-date following their meeting with DPC in July. Response received 22.10.24 and will be discussed at meeting on 23.10.24.
11. 08.10.24 – Freedom of Information letter sent to SC by DPC seeking details of all flooding incidents on bridge on B4368 in Diddlebury. Reminder sent by DPC on 22.10.24 having received no response to the FOI request.
12. Correspondence with Mr J Woodhouse confirming works to be carried out around the parish – budget agreed.
13. Email DPC to DVH advising no hire fees have been billed to DPC since 21.02.23
14. Email from Kirsty Prescott, Tree & Urban Forest Representative to Shropshire Council seeking volunteers for future tree planting efforts, and to engage in public initiatives such as a Tree Warden scheme. Contact: Kirsty.Prescott@shropshire.gov.uk
15. Email to Mrs B Manley of Westhope advising her of the steps taken by DPC concerning recent unscheduled road closures and outstanding highways works in Westhope involving Hillside Coppice.
16. Email from Diddlebury resident asking of the occupier of No 16 The Moors has planning permission to be running a car repair business from his property. It states parked cars awaiting repair/collection are causing congestion and creating a lack of parking for residents.
17. 17.Email from West Mercia Police introducing a new PC for Craven Arms – PC Henry King-Salter.

Responses/consideration of items above:

Item 10: Letter from Connexus in response to DPC's reminder of 6th October. Cllr. Watson is unclear where they get their data from as it does not, in her view, accord with the current situation. Connexus state that having taken advice, they will not be implementing DPC's suggested plans for renovating/re-building the empty houses in Mill Lane, but rather plan 1 x 3 bedroomed house – larger than standard so the extra reception room could be a bedroom; 2 x 2 bedroomed semi-detached houses. If there is room, once the plans are drawn up, they may be able to fit in an additional 3 bedroomed house. They will let DPC have a set of plans in due course.

Item 16: Two councillors and the Clerk had visited the property in question and seen no commercial type of activity. However, DPC will report the matter to the Planners for investigation.

Item 17: The Chairman will make arrangements to meet the new community police officer.

124/24 – To consider a Proposal by Cllr, R Povall that the Resolution made on 24th January 2024 (at item 014/24) be cancelled and that the commencement time for parish council meetings reverts to 7.30pm

This matter was discussed and it was agreed that making a mandatory finishing time was not feasible, but all efforts will be made to ensure meetings finish by 9.00pm

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that with effect from the 27th November 2024, the commencement time for Diddlebury Parish Council meetings will be 7.30pm.

The Chairman **seconded** the proposal.

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

125/24 – Finance Report for October 2024

Precept Balance b/fwd from September 2024 **£7,452.86**

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

23rd October 2024

1. HSBC bank charges to 13.09.24	£ 5.80		
2. Clerk's net salary for October 2024	£273.47		
3. PAYE on Clerk's October 2024 salary	£ 21.00		
4. Diddlebury Village Hall – invoice for hall hire to Feb. 2024	£140.00		
5. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid</u> <u>by the Clerk in October 2024</u>			
• October 2024 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision at £20 p.m	£20.00		
• Travel expenses at 45p per mile 23.10.24 to Diddlebury Village Hall for PC meeting – 32 miles:	£14.40		
	£34.40	£ 34.40	
Total of October 2024 expenses		£474.67	£ 474.67
Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to November 2024			<u>£6,978.19</u>

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that cheques as listed to the value of £474.67 be approved for payment.
Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. O'Boyle

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

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

CIL/Neighbourhood Funds bal. b/fwd from September 2024	£2,269.45
Environmental & asset maintenance fund b/fwd from Sept. 2024	£1,010.82
Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from Sept. 2024	£ 750.00
Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park maintenance reserve funds, bal. b/fwd	£3,500.00
Reserves fund for SC elections, bal. b/fwd from September 2024	£ 457.73
<u>Third Party Funds</u>	
Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group funds. bal. b'fwd from Sept.	£ 700.00

Flood Action Group funds, bal. b/fwd from Sept.2024	<u>£ 228.46</u>
Total of funds	<u>£8,916.46</u>

Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed

Precept Funds	<u>£6,978.19</u>
Ring fenced and third party funds	<u>£8,916.46</u>
	<u>£15,894.65</u>

2. The Clerk's reconciliation of DPC's Cash Book with HSBC Bank Statement No 386 was verified by Cllr. O'Boyle.
3. The Clerk enquired whether new items should be added to the Precept Budget, to be considered at the November meeting. The only item suggested was sand bags.

126/24 – Any Other Business (for the dissemination of information only)

126/24/1. Mrs Worthington brought an emergency kit to the meeting which was discussed.

126/24/2: It had been noticed a large park home is sited on the land at Pye Lodge in Lower Corfton. It appeared to have its own entrance, was fenced, had its own letter box and a sun room and was designated "Pye Lodge Caravan". It is right by the Corfton lane and is large, intrusive and somewhat unsightly. The planning permission for application 18/02934/FUL stated "erection of a dwelling house and detached garage ... and temporary siting for a caravan for residential occupation during construction works". There is a house and garage behind it, so the caravan looks like a separate residential unit. It was agreed that an Enforcement Request be submitted to the SC Enforcement Department to investigate the matter.

126/24/3: The Chairman advised the Parish Council has been contacted by someone seeking information about a local person, Molly Morgan, who had been sent to Australia. If anyone has any information, please let the Chairman know.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th November 2024,
7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley_____

Dated: 27th November 2024_____