

**DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Cllr D 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 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.15pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

**043/24 – Present**

Cllr. D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllr. R Povall, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. T O'Boyle, Cllr. C Martyn, Cllr. A Rattu

**In attendance** - the Clerk, Shropshire Councillor C Motley and one member of the public

**Apologies received and accepted from:** Cllr R Morgan and Cllr. T Pardoe

**044/24 – 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.

**045/24 – Public involvement session**

No matters were raised.

**046/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 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 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

**Vote on Proposal:** two abstentions, carried by a majority.

**047/24: Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.**

034/24/1: The Chairman has had further discussions with SWS concerning the erratic Broadband speeds. He is having a meeting tomorrow with Revd. Beasley concerning the war memorial information board.

036/24/1: Cllr. Rattu has heard from Munslow PC that they support DPC's B4368 speed reduction proposals. Likewise, he and Cllr. O'Boyle support Munslow PC's proposals. He will

now send DPC's response to Nick Newton at Highways. Cllr. O'Boyle advised that the speed limit on the B4368 between Shipton and Morville has been reduced from 60pmh to 40mph.

036/24/2: The Chairman asked that each councillor submits a response to SC's survey re the proposal to close the Craven Arms re-cycling centre. He will also send one on behalf of DPC. Cllr. R Povall reported the NFU are going mad, as any resulting fly tipping will disproportionately affect farmers and landowners. Shropshire Cllr. Motley denied that the Craven Arms centre is definitely being closed, as the issue still remains to be decided by SC's Cabinet.

### **048/24 - Reports**

048/24/1 - Chairman's report. The Chairman reported he has had further meetings with contractors to obtain quotes for the work on the proposed playground in Diddlebury and the council will have an interim consideration on the quotations tonight. The fencing works have been completed. He has been contacted by some residents about the 24/01088/FUL planning application for a garage at Fox Cover House in Bache Mill, wanting to know if new applications can be submitted whilst existing conditions remain outstanding. He discussed the matter with Mr T Williams at the Planning Dept. and was assured the procedures are being correctly followed.

#### 048/24/2 – Cllr. Motley's Report.

Cllr. Motley advised SC are still seeking ways of reducing the £62 million deficit in SC's budget. The Care Quality Commission are carrying out a prolonged assessment of adult social care in June.

Meetings are taking place on the combined Marches Management Agreement between SC, Monmouth and Powys councils. However, it remains to be seen whether the government will want to establish larger local councils, headed by mayor.

Cllr. Povall asked if it is correct that of every £5 SC receives, £4 is spent on adult social care. Cllr. Motley confirmed it is correct. Shropshire has a very large population of people who are over 65 – and many more are over 80. Their health and social care needs account for a huge proportion of SC's income.

048/24/3 – Flood Action Group Report. Cllr. Martyn reported there have been two meetings of the Flood Forum. At the local meeting Andy Keyland of Highways attended and advised that he is negotiating with a local farmer about making a ditch across his land in order to deal with the collapsed wall in Bouldon. Shropshire Wildlife Trust are engaging in taking forward the Slow the Flow project in the parish. At present there is a lack of agreement between local FAG groups as to the best approach to flooding issues. He has noticed a blocked drain in Mill Lane, which he will attend to.

### **049/24 – Planning Applications**

24/01088/FUL – application for the erection of a detached garage at Fox Cover House, Bache Mill, Diddlebury. The applicant, Mr Jack Wrigley, was in attendance.

The Chairman noted there were no public or statutory comments or objections on the planning portal. Cllr, Martyn raised issues concerning the urbanised look of the property which detracts from the rural aspect of the area. He also noted the fact that the house will only have one car parking space, and he felt the oil tank was too close to the house. Cllr. O'Boyle had concerns that the extra building will increase water run-off and thus flooding. Mr Wrigley advised J. W. Woodside Development have produced a plan to mitigate any flooding problems with the use of water attenuation crates, features and the future maintenance of which were discussed.

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

Cllr. Rattu **seconded** the proposal.

**Vote:** 3 in favour, 3 abstentions, proposal carried.

**24/01173/TCA** – application for the felling of two Bird Cherry trees, one Laurel and one Ash at The Old Vicarage, Diddlebury, which is within the Diddlebury Conservation Area.

The Chairman reported the application had been dealt with under the provisions of Standing Order 27 and had been approved by the parish council.

### **050/24 – To consider highways and environmental matters**

The Chairman advised that in a nationwide survey of potholes and poor road maintenance, Shropshire Council was in the Top Ten worst Authorities, being number nine.

The Clerk was asked to contact Highways to report on: a) the state of the road between Peaton and Peaton Strand, (b) the potholes between Peaton Strand and Bouldon and (c) that the road from Bouldon to Broncroft is now virtually impassable and this is affecting local residents and commercial enterprises.

Cllr. Watson had been contacted by a resident who wanted protective railings to be installed along the footpath adjoining Diddlebury church. Since the resident had already contacted SC and the PCC it was not felt DPC could usefully progress the matter.

Cllr. Watson advised a Moors resident had contacted her complaining that the Do Not Park on the Verges signs recently installed by DPC were causing people to park in the road instead, blocking access to properties.

### **051/24 – Consideration of correspondence and communications received in March 2024**

Councillors considered the following correspondence and communications:

#### **Highways matters**

1. B4365 Culmington to Stanton Lacy road closed 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 until 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 9.30am to 4.00pm each day
2. B4368, Diddlebury to Munslow stretch closed 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 9.30am to 4.00pm daily

#### **General correspondence**

3. Notification of a public consultation re the Shropshire Council Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement 2025 – 2028. Consultation runs from 18<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Contact details: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/gambling-act-policy-consultation-2024>
4. Letter Clerk to Louisa Powell Almshouse Trust enclosing a donation of £200: letter from Mr E Williams acknowledging donation and thanking DPC.
5. Invitation to join the Best Kept Village Competition 2024. Details available via 01743 295900 or via [bkvc@shropshire.foundation](mailto:bkvc@shropshire.foundation)
6. Complaint from Mrs D Picken, DPC's response from the Chairman, response from Mrs Picken advising she will arrange a meeting with the Chairman.
7. Details of a fully funded electric vehicle charge point from Wattif EV UK. Cllr. S Povall to discuss with the Diddlebury Village Hall committee.

8. Letter to Mr Andrew Cooke of Connexus asking him to attend our meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at 7.15pm to discuss the empty houses at 3 and 4 Mill Lane, Diddlebury. Response from Ms F Whittingham advising Connexus are considering whether to refurbish the houses or demolish them and build four: they will contact DPC when they reach a decision. Thanking her for the response and raising a few issues about houses in The Moors.
9. Email from Inspector David Baron, introducing Inspector Damien Kelly as the head of seven South Shropshire Safer Neighbourhood Team, West Mercia Police. He is based at Bridgnorth. His contact details are: 07870 219174. The officer assigned to the Diddlebury area is Sergeant 640 Jenni Price (no contact details provided).
10. Invitation from GoCompare to link to their flood protection advice website.
11. Invitation from the Royal British Legion to purchase items for the 80<sup>th</sup> D Day anniversary.
12. Invitation from SC to share feedback on their proposal to cease funding the Schools Library Service. <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/school-library-service/>

#### Responses

Item 8: The issue of the Mill Lane houses was discussed. Cllr. Motley thinks housing associations should be discouraged from selling off their housing stock. It was agreed DPC should write to Connexus asking what Connexus's actual policy is on selling off as opposed to updating properties. Whilst DPC supports the idea of the houses in Mill Lane being redeveloped into four units, we expect a degree of urgency with the project given the overwhelming need for social housing, viz there were 48 applicants for a recently available house in The Moors. DPC wishes to see residents in the Mill Lane redevelopment within a short time scale.

Item 10: This invitation was declined on the basis CoCompare is a commercial organisation.

Item 12: The Chairman advised this is not a facility Corvedale School uses. Cllr. O'Boyle felt, given that children generally cannot access the mobile library or town libraries, this is a service which should not be withdraw. DPC will therefore respond to the survey urging that the service be retained.

#### **052/24 To consider quotations obtained for the development of the public playground on grounds at Corvedale C of E School**

The Chairman circulated the four quotations obtained for the 121 metres of playbond rubber surfacing works. It was generally agreed that the most competitive quotation was that of Pentagon. A further revision to the works is needed and so the final quotation to be awarded a contract will be dealt with at the May meeting. No contract can be awarded until the latest tranche of Neighbourhood Find/CIL money is received by DPC. It was also agreed that an item of equipment, a twin incline balance beam, costing £825 plus VAT will be added to the order from Pentagon: the Corvedale School Association have indicated they will make a donation towards it.

It was agreed the provision of a picnic table/bench should also be provided for the playground, for parents' use. A firm called FutreForm has them on special offer at present, £154.80 for a 6 seater rectangular bench, and £318.00 for an 8 seater bench, plus £55 delivery. The Chairman said the bench in Bouldon also needed replacing and it would be cost effective to get them together. The Chairman **proposed** DPC purchase one eight seater bench for the playground and a six seater bench for Bouldon.

Cllr. R Povall **seconded** the proposal

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the proposal for the benches to be ordered.

Cllr. O'Boyle hopes there will be some form of ceremony when the playground is completed and ready to open.

**053/24 – To consider the possible provision of an electric car charging unit in Diddlebury**

Cllr. Motley advised that Shropshire Council has a fund available towards the provision of EV charging points. Cllr. S Povall had been asked to seek the views of the Diddlebury Village Hall committee to host an EV point, but nothing has been heard to date from the DVH committee.

**054/24 – Finance Matters to be considered for April 2024**

054/24/1: Consideration of insurance renewal premium.

DPC's insurers are seeking a renewal fee of £678.65 for the 2024/2025 year. Alternatively, if DPC agrees to tie-in with the firm for the next three years, the renewal premium will be £659.40 and hopefully will not be subject the large increases for the next three years.

Cllr. Rattu **proposed** that DPC accepts the three year tie-in agreement.

The Chairman **seconded** the proposal

**Vote:** members agreed unanimously to the proposal.

054/24/2: Finance Report for April 2024

**Precept Balance b/fwd from March 2024 as corrected** **£3,917.08**  
**(Payment of Precept of £7,500 for 2024 – 2025 awaited)**

**LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

1. HSBC bank charges.	£	6.60	
2. Clerk's net salary for April 2024	£	254.84	
3. PAYE on Clerk's April 2024 salary	£	16.00	
4. DM Payroll Services Ltd - 2024/2025 payroll admin.	£	120.00	
5. Information Commissioner (Data Protection renewal fee)	£	40.00	
6. Information Solutions Ltd (website hosting)	£	246.24	
7. Clear Insurance Management Ltd – 2024-2025 insurance	£	659.40.	
8. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in April 2024</u>			
• April 2024 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision at £20 p.m	£	20.00	
• Reimbursement to Cllr. Martyn for wood purchased to erect signs in The Moors	£	5.08	
• 1 pkt A4 copy paper	£	4.75	
• 1 book 2 <sup>nd</sup> class stamps	£	6.80	
• Badgers Inks Ltd – ink cartridges	£	22.97	
• Travel expenses at 45p per mile 24.04.24 to Diddlebury Village Hall for parish council meeting - 32 miles	£	14.40	
Total of April 2024 expenses	£	74.00	
		£	74.00
		<u>£1,417.08</u>	<u>£1,417.08</u>
<b>Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to May 2024</b>			<b><u>£2,500.00</u></b>

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that cheques totalling £1,417.08 listed above be authorised for payment. Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. O'Boyle

**Vote:** Unanimous vote in support of proposal

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

CIL/Neighbourhood Funds balance b/fwd from March 2024 (Payment of further tranche of Neighbourhood Fund of £8,549.81 awaited)	£13,564.62
Environmental & asset maintenance fund bal. b/fwd from March 2024	£ 510.82
Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from March 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 March 2024	£ 457.73
<b><u>Third Party Funds</u></b>	
Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group funds. Bal. b'fwd from March	£ 700.00
Flood Action Group funds, bal. b/fwd from March 2024	£ 228.46
Total of funds	<u>£19,711.63</u>

### **Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed**

<b>Precept Funds</b>	<b>£ 2,500.00</b>
<b>Ring fenced and third party funds</b>	<b><u>£19,711.63</u></b>
	<b><u>£22,211.63</u></b>

054/24/3: DPC's Cash Book was reconciled by Cllr. O'Boyle with HSBC Bank Statement No 380

### **055/24 – To consider/approve the following 2023 – 2024 Audit matters**

#### **055/24/1 – approval of the Schedule of all Receipts & Payments for the year 2023 – 2024**

Having considered the Schedule produced by the Clerk/RFO, the Chairman **proposed** that it be approved by councillors.

Cllr. Watson **seconded** the proposal

**Vote:** councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

#### **055/24/1 – approval of the end of year (2023 – 2024) cash book/bank statement reconciliation**

Having considered the reconciliation produced by the Clerk/RFO, the Chairman **proposed** that it be approved by councillors.

Cllr. Watson **seconded** the proposal

**Vote:** councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

### **056/24 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only).**

The Chairman reminded councillors that the Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at Diddlebury Village Hall. Written reports – to save reading them out at the meeting – please from the following to be sent to the Clerk a week before the meeting:

Chairman

Cllr. C Motley

Cllr. Martyn - Flood Action Group annual report

Cllr, Martyn – website report

Cllr. O'Boyle – Louise Powell Almshouse Trust

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

**Date and Venue of the next two meetings: The Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, commencing 7.15pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

**Minutes signed by: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Dated: \_\_\_\_\_**

DRAFT