

**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 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.15pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

**091/24 – Present**

Cllr. D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. R Povall, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. R Morgan, Cllr. A Rattu, Cllr. T Pardoe, Cllr. C Martyn

**In attendance** - the Clerk and three members of the public

**Apologies received and accepted from:** Cllr. T O’Boyle and Shropshire Councillor C Motley

**092/24 – 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.

**093/24 – Public involvement session**

The parish council had requested a representative from Connexus to attend this meeting to explain why three of its houses in Mill Lane had been empty for years when there is a severe housing crisis and why they appear to have no sense of urgency about bringing the houses back into use. In the event three representatives attended: Ms F Whittingham, Ms Amanda Knowles and Ms Tina Porter. The Chairman welcomed them and outlined the housing problems as DPC views them. Cllr. Watson also raised issues with the Connexus representatives based on her knowledge of The Moors and the needs of Connexus tenants. Apart from many people needing homes - there had recently been 48 applicants for one house in The Moors - Diddlebury needs more children to keep the school open. The houses will need adequate parking spaces as there is no public transport. The parish council is adamant that it doesn’t want the houses or the plots to be sold off.

The representatives produced a set of architect’s plans in which the three houses are to be demolished, to be replaced by four houses, a mix of 2 bed and 3 bed. Discussion ensued about what type of housing is needed to fit the demographic in this parish and a consensus was agreed that Diddlebury needs one 4 bed roomed house for a large family, and 2 x 2 bed houses for people wishing to downsize from a 3 bed house, which would then make 3 bedroom houses available for families. A time scale was sought from the representatives as these houses have stood empty for long enough. They responded that they are awaiting an ecology report and when that is received, a planning application will be made to demolish the existing houses and replace them with 2 x 4 bedroom and 2 x 2 bedroom houses. It is hoped planning permission will be available by January and then a tendering process will start immediately and the work could be carried out next

summer, subject to funding. As an additional item, the representatives were asked to see if a pavement could be built along the front of the houses.

It was agreed that the plans to be submitted to Shropshire Council will first be sent to DPC for consideration. The Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance.

#### **094/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. S Povall

**Vote on Proposal:** 6 in favour, two abstentions, proposal adopted.

#### **095/24: Matters arising from the Parish Council Meetings of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.**

034/24/1: Cllr. Rattu has had no response as yet from Mr Nick Newton of Highways to DPC's submission about speed reducing methods on the B4368.

#### **096/24 - Reports**

096/24/1 - Chairman's report. The Chairman reported he had spent a lot of time at the new playground site, checking progress whilst the work on the new playground was being done. He had completed and returned the questionnaire from the Police & Crime Commissioner. Cllr. R Povall advised that following a meeting between the Chief Constable and the NFU, primarily about thefts from farms, 14 police officers from Kidderminster have been transferred into Shropshire and up to sixty officers will be involved in an intensive strategy dealing with rural crime.

The Chairman was pleased that it seems no re-cycling centres are to be closed, but may not be open seven days a week, and a booking system will be introduced.

No report from Shropshire Cllr. Motley.

096/24/2: Westhope Village Hall Report. Mrs Worthington reported that whilst the Westhope community was pleased some of its roads had been repaired, they were disappointed the repairs stopped at the college and did not continue up towards Burwood, past Hillside Coppice: events at the hall had been cancelled in expectation of road closures for the further works as householders had been warned of road closures., which then did not occur. The committee have encountered difficulties with their electricity supplier who sends out erroneous bills and a battle has to ensue to get them corrected. The hall floors have been inspected and need treating: the treatment will preserve the floors for at least 20 years. A wide range of events continue to be held and a concert is planned with a male voice choir to raise funds for a defibrillator. The hall has a range of indoor sports equipment and clubs are invited to utilise it for sports centred meetings. The premises are licensed.

#### **097/24 – Planning applications**

Councillors discussed the application 24/01809/FUL, for an open market house adjacent to the Sun Inn in Corfton, which the Planners had passed in the face of DPC's objections and without inviting DPC to be heard at a Planning Committee. It was agreed not to raise objections to this

application but if an application is received involving the lane alongside The Sun Inn or in lower Corfton, DPC will insist on being heard at a Planning Committee.

### **098/24 – Consideration of highways and environmental matters**

098/24/1: The Clerk confirmed she had written to Mr Newton and Mr Keyland, Highways engineers, asking when the road repairs beyond Westhope College and up past Hillside Coppice will be carried out. No response has been received to date.

098/24/2: Cllr. Pardoe advised the meeting that Cllr. R Povall had, at his own expense, cut many of the hedges around Diddlebury. The Chairman and other councillors thanked Cllr. R Povall.

098/24/3: Cllr. Rattu expressed concern that the verges around the parish are very overgrown, causing sight line problems for drivers. It was agreed the Clerk will contact Mr. John Woodhouse for a quotation for cutting back verges and cleaning road signs, other than those on the B4368.

### **099/24 – Consideration of correspondence and communications received in July 2024**

#### **Highways matters**

1. Fix-My-Street: Request from DPC about potholes and disintegrated road surface between Peaton Strand and Peaton asking that they be repaired. Confirmation received that work has been carried out, and checked by Cllr. Rattu.
2. Much delayed response from Fix-My-Street to a request from DPC last winter that sandbags placed in gateways along B4368 in Diddlebury/Munslow be removed as surface water on the B4368 cannot drain into fields. Response states problem has been noted and will be included in a programme of work.
3. Notification of road closures on A49/A4113 at Bromfield on 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024 between 9.30 – 16.00

#### **General correspondence**

4. Notification that Planning application 24/00730/FUL for demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of a new garage/car port at Bache Cottage, Bache Mill, was granted permission on 27.06.24
5. Notification from SALC that they are informed by SC a decision has been taken on household re-cycling centres as follows:

That all 5 household recycling centres remain open, but the operational hours are reduced at all sites by at least one day a week – Wednesday or Thursday - and that a booking system will be implemented at all sites through an on-line system open to all Shropshire residents and to agree procedures and costs with neighbouring authorities for their residents who live close to the Shropshire border to potentially use the sites in the future.

On Chargeable Garden Waste Service, a fee of £56 per annum is to be charged from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

6. Letter DPC to Severn Trent Water Limited protesting about a lorry mounted crane arriving at The Moors at 6.30am and not being admitted to the site until 8.15am during which time its engine remained running and it blocked the road. Asking that such incidents are not repeated as it caused distress to local residents.
7. Email DPC to Mr Newton and Mr Keyland asking if the resurfacing works in Westhope, which currently stop at the college, are to be continued on past Hillside Coppice. Pointing out that £92,000 of CIL was charged for the Hillside Coppice development, but the road from the college to the development is in an appalling state of disrepair.

8. Email DPC to Clerk to Culmington and Munslow parish councils, asking if their residents are having difficulties contacting VONEUS, the company awarded the government funded Broadband contract for this area. Munslow responded that they had never heard of VONEUS.
9. Minutes of the South Shropshire Area Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
10. Notification that Planning application 24/01809/OUT – outline application for the erection of a single dwelling house and garage (to include access) adjacent to The Sun Inn in Corfton, has been granted permission. Plus letter from the Planning Officer confirming their decision.
11. Media article about a “Restore Verges in Three Shropshire Parishes Project”

#### **100/24 – To consider progress on the new public access playground in Diddlebury.**

The Chairman reported that the surface works have been completed and the new twin balance bar installed. The contractors had not stuck entirely to their agreed programme of work and had involved school staff in their unloading operations, but on the positive side, they had covered a wider area with the rubber mulch surface than they are charging us for. Councillors went and viewed the new playground and it was agreed that Cllr. Pardoe will obtain and erect an awning over the picnic bench area at an estimated cost of around £150. It was agreed the resulting playground was very satisfactory and the Chairman was thanked for his efforts in bringing it to fruition.

#### **101/24 – To consider whether to obtain a gov.uk domain name**

SALC and WebOrchard (DPC’s website host) have been encouraging DPC to convert to a gov.uk domain name in place of outlook.com. Cllr. Martyn had been asked to investigate the matter and outlined what is involved, not least a cost of approximately £120 bi-annually. The matter was discussed and no councillor could see any good or valid reason for adopting the gov.uk domain name.

Cllr. Rattu **proposed** that DPC should not change to gov.uk

Cllr. Watson **seconded** the proposal

**Vote:** 7 in favour of the proposal, 1 abstention, proposal carried.

#### **102/24 – Finance Report for July 2024**

<b>Precept Balance b/fwd from June 2024</b>	<b>£8,116.69</b>
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##### **1. LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

1. HSBC bank charges.	£ 7.40		
2. Clerk’s net salary for July 2024	£273.67		
3. PAYE on Clerk’s July 2024 salary	£ 20.80		
4. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in July 2024</u>			
• July 2024 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision at £20 p.m	£20.00		
• 1 pkt A4 copy paper	£ 5.69		
• Travel expenses at 45p per mile 24.07.24 to Diddlebury Village Hall for Parish council meeting – 32 miles	£14.40		
Total of July 2024 expenses	<u>£40.09</u>	£ 40.09	
		<u>£341.96</u>	£ 341.96

<b>Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to July 2024</b>	<b><u>£7,774.73</u></b>
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#### **Ring fenced, reserves and third-party funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council**

<b>CIL/Neighbourhood Funds bal. b/fwd June 2024</b>	£18,457.45	
<b>Less:</b> Payment to Pentagon Sport Ltd for supplying the new rubber mulch surface for the public playground in Diddlebury and supplying a twin balance piece of playground equipment. (£13,115.00 + VAT of £2,623.00 - VAT invoice awaited.)	<u>£15,738.00</u>	
	<u>£ 2,719.45</u>	<b>£2,719.45</b>
<b>Environmental &amp; asset maintenance fund b/fwd from June 2024</b>		<b>£1,010.82</b>
<b>Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from June 2024</b>		<b>£ 750.00</b>
<b>Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park maintenance reserve funds, bal. b/fwd</b>		<b>£3,500.00</b>
<b>Reserves fund for SC elections, bal. b/fwd from June 2024</b>		<b>£ 457.73</b>
<u>Third Party Funds</u>		
<b>Corvedale Walking &amp; Footpath Group funds. Bal. b'fwd from June</b>		<b>£ 700.00</b>
<b>Flood Action Group funds, bal. b/fwd from June 2024</b>		<b><u>£ 228.46</u></b>
<b>Total of funds</b>		<b><u>£9,366.46</u></b>

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

<b>Precept Funds</b>	<b>£ 7,774.73</b>
<b>Ring fenced and third-party funds</b>	<b><u>£ 9,366.46</u></b>
	<b><u>£17,141.19</u></b>

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that cheques totalling £16,079.96 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

**Vote:** Unanimous in support of the proposal.

- DPC's Cash Book was reconciled by Councillor Watson with HSBC Bank Statement No 383 and was deemed to be correct.**

**103/24 – Any Other Business (for the dissemination of information only)**

103/24: The Clerk raised a review of DPC's Register of Assets. She queried whether the equipment provided for the new playground should be added to DPC's Register of Assets. The consensus of opinion was it has been donated to the community and does not form part of DPC's assets. It was agreed to delete the oak notice board in The Sun Inn as this had been passed to the new owners as a fixture of the public house. It will be noted that the picnic bench in Boldon has been replaced due to the disrepair of the original one. The Chairman confirmed that public liability insurance for the new playground and its equipment will be covered by the school's insurance and the school will be responsible for checking the safety of the equipment.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.10.pm.

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7.15pm at Westhope Village Hall**  
**No meeting in August 2024**

**Minutes signed by:** Robert Povall

**Dated:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024