

# **DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley**

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, The Grange, Leinthall Earls, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6  
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## **MINUTES**

**Of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 25th November 2015, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

### **126/15: Present and apologies for absence**

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

### **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. M. Fowler

### **In attendance:**

Mr P Drakes, the Clerk Mrs J de Rusett, Unitary Cllr. C Motley and Mrs J Disley, Clerk to Culmington Parish Council.

### **127/15: Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.**

Members are requested to declare any Disclosable 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.

Cllrs. S and R Povall declared an interest in the planning matter 15/04562/PSPPA: however the application has been sent to the parish council for information purposes only and no decision has to be taken on it.

### **128/15: Public involvement session:**

The Chairman introduced Mrs Disley to the members and thanked her for attending, to observe and see how Diddlebury conducts its meeting. The Clerk is in remission from cancer and Mrs Disley has kindly agreed to step in should that become necessary.

### **129/15: Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 28th October 2015.**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th October 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Two amendments were made: one to 121/15/2 and one to 125/15/4. Cllr. R. Povall proposed that the duly amended Minutes be approved as a correct record, Cllr. M. Thomas seconded the proposal: the members by a majority voted to approve the Minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

## **130/15: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 28th October 2015 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda**

### 122/15/3 - funding for VAS sign on the B4368 by the bridge in Diddlebury

The Chairman advised the meeting that Mr Glyn Shaw, Highways Engineer, is looking to fund the VAS from CIL receipts: it is hoped therefore the cost will not fall on the parish council.

### 124/15/2

Cllr. Worthington objected to the transfer of the ring-fenced sum of £147.18 into the general Precept funds on the basis it was money given for a specific purpose and thus should remain separate and asked that her objection be noted in the Minutes.

Cllr. R Povall stated the transfer had been authorised by an unanimous vote of the members on 28.10.15 and therefore the matter was not open to debate. The Clerk explained that the £147.18 was the unused remains of money from three different sources, (£500 from Precept funds in 2012/2013, £1400 grant from the LJC and £905 from the PPSG). The money had been assembled for specific projects: those projects had been completed and it is thus correct and proper for the balance left over to be transferred into general funds.

### 124/15/2

The Chairman confirmed that only one poppy wreath had been purchased, and was laid at Diddlebury's War Memorial as it includes the names of those from Westhope who had lost their lives in the wars.

## **131/15 - Planning Matters**

15/04562/PSPPA Application by Mr S Povall, Corfton Farm, Corfton, SY7 9DD for prior approval under Schedule J of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the installation of solar PV equipment on four poultry sheds.

It was established that this application had been sent to the parish council for information purposes only and did not need to have a vote taken on it.

Cllr. O'Boyle supported the panels on the basis of sustainability but asked if there was any way the solar panels could be screened, as they were being placed on the side of the poultry sheds which face the Corvedale valley and would be visible from as far away as Clee Hill.

Cllr. S Povall explained the screening erected was for the sheds only and would not screen the panels: it was hoped however that the panels would be no more intrusive than the sheds' roofs.

## **132/15 - Reports**

### 132/15/1 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a round up on the parish council matters he had attended to during the past month. He had represented the council at the Remembrance Day service and laid a wreath. He had attended the recent LJC meeting on behalf of Cllr. Fowler. Lisa Bedford advised that no Place Plan reviews will take place this year.

The Chairman gave Reports from RSN on faster Broadband for rural areas and the continuing fury over lack of financial support for rural schools.

### 132/15/2 - Unitary Councillor's Report

Cllr. Motley commenced with a summary of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's latest budget. He had showered money liberally on some sectors, but nothing other than budget cuts will come Shropshire's way. The figures are not yet available, but cuts are expected in adult care and education. He emphasised building more affordable homes but mostly through shared ownership schemes: she fears he is trying to dismantle the rented accommodation sector. He has however, unexpectedly, put extra funding into the Arts Council, so the funding for Shropshire arts initiatives is not as dire as expected.

She spoke at length about Shropshire Council's initiative "The Big Conversation", asking the members to respond to it and for it to be disseminated and responded to as widely as possible in the rural parishes, otherwise market town views will predominate. The issue essentially is huge budget cuts are anticipated: adult care, education and waste collection will consume the vast majority of Shropshire Council's funds, leaving 150 other services with only minimal funding. The Big Conversation is designed to seek views from Shropshire residents as to which of those services it most values and should be funded.

Mrs Sara Thompson had asked for an issue to be raised with Cllr. Motley. In other counties the green bin collections are suspended over the Christmas period, substituting instead additional black bin collections. She asked whether this could be considered in Shropshire. She had also heard a rumour that Veolia were going to re-introduce cardboard collections, and asked Cllr. Motley to confirm this. Cllr. Motley responded that Cabinet are having a meeting with Veolia next week and she will raise both issues and report back to the parish council.

Cllr. Motley apologised for the fact that the Minutes of the meeting of all Chairmen at Culmington had not been circulated: she will raise the issue with Lisa Bedford. She spoke about the LEADER scheme which has £2 million of funds to support small local businesses and rural tourism. All grants require match funding. Cllr. S Povall asked how applications are made. The answer is to contact Mr Peter Banford at the Shirehall as he is the LEADER Project Manager. The Chairman enquired whether DPC could apply for funding towards the village hall car park. This is unclear.

### 132/15/3 - LJC Report

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting. The new university in Shrewsbury was promoted heavily. It will be under the auspices of Chester University and is likely to have 400 students in three years time.

There had been discussion about the LEADER scheme and a Marches Redundant Buildings scheme which can offer grants of up to 45% of the cost of restoring buildings.

The Police had not attended but provided a handout showing a reduction in rural crime. This is not our experience. Cllr. S Povall reported that a Defender Land Rover had been stolen from his farm the night before. The Chairman had asked Lisa Bedford to seek the attendance at the next LJC meeting of a Police representative who could be questioned about crime.

### 132/15/4 - Diddlebury Village Hall

Cllr. T O'Boyle confirmed that a final decision is still awaited from the Big Lottery Fund.

## **133/15 - Review of Highways Issues**

### **133/15/1 - additional passing places on the Westhope road**

Cllr. R Povall reported he and Mr Tom Hall had made enquiries and established who had initiated this subject. They had left three messages and had no response and had invited him to tonight's meeting. Mrs Disley confirmed nothing further had be heard of the matter at Culmington Parish Council. It was agreed no further action be taken.

### **133/15/2 - Unsurfaced portion of the Mill Lane footpath.**

The Chairman has heard nothing further from Mr Chris Jackson on the subject and will contact him again.

### **133/15/3 - Review of the Highways Grant for 2016/2017 and preparation of a schedule of works.**

The Chairman reported he has spoken to the HMO, Mr Tony Capleton: his gardening business had unexpectedly been very busy this summer and he asked if he could concentrate his work for the parish council in the winter months. This request was debated: it was agreed much work arises in the winter with leaves, mud and debris blocking drains and gullies. The nature of work for the HMO was debated and it was felt maintenance and cleaning of the bus shelters should be included. Cllr. O'Boyle suggested that a list of jobs should be drawn up. Cllr. S Thomas had a list of jobs she felt the HMO could do. Mr Geoff Neden had also sent in a list of jobs which needed doing. It was generally agreed the HMO needed to be managed and directed and DPC should receive a monthly report on his DPC activities. It was agreed the Chairman will draw up a schedule of works for consideration at the next meeting. It was felt that Middlehope received no HMO cover and it was agreed a notice should be put on the Middlehope Notice Board about the scheme. The 2016/2017 grant does not need to be applied for until March, so the amount of grant to be claimed can be considered then.

No other highways issues were raised.

## **134/15 - Correspondence**

The members considered the following items of correspondence:

1. Ryton XI Towns Parish Council - invitation to Shropshire parish councils to attend a meeting they have organised with SALC. Host is Ben Hamilton-Bailie who will explain how his ideas on "shared space" which could help us to make our village roads safer. Meeting will be at the Shirehall 5.30pm on Thursday 3rd March 2016. Confirmation of attendance to SALC by 18.12.15 - fee to SALC members - £22.
2. Details of Shropshire Council's "Big Conversation" (details have been circulated by "e" mail)
3. 6.11.15 - 15/04251/TPO - Shepherds Barn, Corfton, SY7 9LD - planning application for tree works to protected oak trees.  
Permission granted 6.11.15
4. Briefing Note on the Inspector's Report re SAMDEV.

5. "e" mail re Health & Well-Being Strategy Consultation. If you want to read further visit: <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/health-and-wellbeing-strategy>

Item 2: Discussion took place about what Diddlebury Parish use and what should be supported. Individual members will respond to the survey and it will be advertised on our website and in the Corvedale News.

Item 3: It is anticipated SAMDev will be signed off and operational by 19th December 2015

### **135/15 - Annual Place Plan Review**

The Chairman confirmed there will be no review this year.

### **136/15 - Finance**

#### **136/15/1 - Finance Report for November 2015**

Balance of <b>Precept Funds</b> brought forward from October 2015		£5,780.89
<b>Add:</b> Balance of funds for Projects: see Minute ref. 124/15/2		<u>£ 147.18</u>
		£5,928.07
<b>Less: cheques authorised for payment on 25.11.15</b>		
• Clerk's net salary for November 2015	£113.27	
• HMRC – PAYE on Clerk's salary for November 2015	£ 28.40	
• Clerk's expenses for November 2015 (itemized below)	<u>£ 27.03</u>	
Total deductions from Precept Funds for November 2015	<u>£168.70</u>	£ 168.70
<b>Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to January 2016</b>		<b><u>£5,759.37</u></b>

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#### **Total funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council**

<b>1.</b> Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to January 2016		<b>£5,759.37</b>
<b>2.</b> Highways & Environment Grant funds		
b/fwd from October 2015	£1,637.07	
<b>Less:</b> 2 November invoices from Mr T Capleton	<u>£ 80.00</u>	
	<u>£1,557.07</u>	<b>£1,557.07</b>
<b>3.</b> Other ring-fenced sums held in Diddlebury PC's Account		
• Corvedale Youth Club		<b>£ 650.39</b>
• Diddlebury Stream Management Group	£150.00	
<b>Less:</b> Cheque to G C Neden 25.11.15	<u>£ 21.25</u>	
	<u>£128.75</u>	<b>£ 128.75</b>
• Balance of Donations for War Memorial Appeal fund	£155.50	
<b>Less:</b> Remembrance Day Wreath	<u>£ 20.00</u>	



attract any applicants. Alternatively any applicants may demand higher hours and a higher SCP rate, the additional cost of which will need to be paid out of capital reserves if no provision has been made in the 2016/2017 Precept Budget.

The issue of how to fund the Clerk's salary for 2016/2017 was debated at length. Cllr. O'Boyle felt the hours should be raised to five hours a week at the rate of £9.20.

At present the 2016/2017 Precept Budget for the Clerk's salary is £1,700. (£8.18 x 4 hrs p.w.) If it is raised to 5 hours per week at £9.20 the budget figure should be £2,392

It was also debated whether the number of parish council meetings should be reduced from 11 to perhaps 10, to reduce the Clerk's workload and overheads. An initial vote showed that most were in favour of this. It was agreed that members will consider the matter over December and make a decision at the January 2016 meeting.

### **138/15 - Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

The Clerk circulated a provisional list of meetings for 2016/2017. However, if the Big Lottery Fund award is successful, Diddlebury Village Hall may not be available for many 2016 meetings. It was debated whether all meetings should therefore be held at Westhope, or whether an alternative venue should be sought in Diddlebury. It was agreed to defer a decision to the January meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Date and venue of next meeting:

7.30pm on Wednesday 20th January 2016 at Diddlebury Village Hall.

**MINUTES SIGNED BY**

**DATED**