

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

**113/23 – Present**

Cllr. D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllr. Robert Povall, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. T. O’Boyle, Cllr. A Rattu, Cllr. C Martyn, Cllr. R Morgan, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. T Pardoe

**In attendance** - the Clerk, Unitary Cllr. Motley and two members of the public

**114/23– 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 of interest were made.

**115/23 – Public involvement session.**

The Chairman advised the meeting of the sad death of Mr Peter Drakes of Diddlebury. He had attended many parish council meetings and often quietly gave good advice or considered opinions which were valued. The parish council passes on its sympathies to Peter’s family. The Chairman will represent the parish council at the funeral.

**116/23– Approval of the Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

The Minutes of the Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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 meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting’s business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

**Vote on Proposal:** The six Councillors who attended the January meeting voted in favour of the Proposal and three councillors abstained.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

**117/23: Matters arising from the Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.**

008/23: The Clerk confirmed she had sent an email to Mr Andy Wilde of Highways about the poor quality of the resurfacing works on the B4368 through Diddlebury parish and asked what steps he would take to remedy the defects. DPC trusts the work is guaranteed. She has

had no response from Mr Wilde or Mr D Buchanan, whom she contacted about the speeding issues on the Corfton stretch of the B4368.

006/23/2: Cllr. R Povall is dealing with the footpath issues raised at the January meeting.

006/23/3: Cllr. Martyn confirmed the drains and potholes he had raised with Highways have been fixed.

### **118/23 - Reports**

**118/23/1 - Chairman's report.** The Chairman advised that, having just returned from an extended period of leave, he had nothing to report. He thanked Cllr. Robert Povall for dealing with parish council issues and for chairing the January meeting in his absence.

### **118/23/2 - Unitary Cllr. Motley's report**

Cllr. Motley reported that her role at SC is now mainly health centred as she is on three health and welfare boards. She outlined her various roles and the difficulties they raise.

Much work has been achieved by Social Services to alleviate bed blocking, but as always SC and the NHS are under-funded. More and more children are coming into care, many with complex needs and this is putting severe pressure on social and adult care budgets.

The revised Local Plan is still a work in progress although an interim report has been received from the local planning inspectors. Shropshire is being put under pressure to provide housing land for Black Country inhabitants and the Green Belt is under threat, especially around Oswestry. Gypsy and Traveller sites are also a big issue, with pressure now for sites for non-nomadic travellers: consultations with the traveller community are on-going. The Local Plan needs to be approved showing a 5 year land supply or Shropshire will be under threat from developers.

The Chairman asked Cllr. Motley if she still is able, with all the cuts in budgets and with all the other calls on her time, to fight for the rural communities. She assured him that on every board she fights for the rural areas, and the RSN are doing very good work, having achieved an up-lift in rural funding in the levelling-up negotiations.

**118/23/3 – Flood Action Group Report** Cllr. Martyn advised there is to be a multi-agency flood meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Bouldon/Peckedy flood gauge is currently out of order and he is working on getting it fixed.

**118/23/4 – Diddlebury Village Hall report.** Cllr. Rattu advised he is in contact with Munslow Parish Council to investigate a joint Diddlebury/Munslow Coronation event at Millichope Park.

**118/23/5 – Westhope Village Hall** Cllr. Watson advised an event is being organised at Westhope Village Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

### **119/23 – Planning matters**

**23/00457/VAR** - application for the removal of Condition 12 and the variation of Condition 13 to original planning application 1/05/16792/LB, relating to Delbury Hall, Diddlebury and

**23/00538/VAR**- Removal of condition No 12 (use of bar) and variation of Condition No. 13 (operating hours) to planning permission 1/05/16791/F dated 29.04.2005 as stated in Listed Building Consent at Delbury Hall, Diddlebury, SY7 9DH.

Mr Patrick Wrigley and Mr Jack Wrigley attended to assist councillors with these linked applications.

The Chairman advised the original 2005 Licensing condition required the closure of the Coach House at 11.30pm. The sole purposes of this application relating to Condition 12 is to extend the closing time of the Coach House (which is used a wedding venue) from 11.30pm until midnight. The applicant states this brings them into line with competitors and indeed the village hall.

Condition 13 states “No restaurant, bar or other facilities on the premises shall be made available to non-residents”. The applicant states this make no sense for a wedding venue as they could never accommodate all the wedding guests as residents.

Mr R Bowland, acting as the Responsible Authority for the Licensing Objective the Prevention of Public Nuisance was asked to review this application. He was prepared to support it provided:-  
No regulated entertainment shall take place in the external areas after 23.00m and  
Windows and doors, with the exception of immediate access and egress, shall be kept closed after 23.00.

The applicant had agreed to these conditions. The Chairman noted there had been no public objections to the applications.

Councillors considered the application. Cllr. O’Boyle asked if the access to the venue could not be changed to using the drive from the B4368, rather than the present access onto Mill Lane, which took traffic through the village. Mr Wrigley advised the gates are too narrow to accommodate large vehicles and the sight line on to the B4368 was dangerous. Cllr. Morgan who lives adjacent to the venue advised he has never been affected by noise or traffic.

Cllr. Pardoe **Proposed** that the parish council supports both applications, having taken note of the Environmental Protection Officer’s recommendations.

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

**Vote:** Six votes in favour of the proposal, one against and two abstentions. Proposal carried by a majority vote.

### **120/23 – Highways and Environmental issues**

The details of the cost of the necessary maintenance of DPC’s original SID machine for were clarified (£165 plus VAT) and the fact the three year guarantee cannot be extended were discussed.

Cllr. O’Boyle **proposed** that the SID should be returned to Westcotec for maintenance as advised as soon as the new SID is delivered.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

**Vote:** Councillors unanimously supported the proposal.

The Clerk will contact Mr Ian Davies with the arrangements.

### **121/23 – Correspondence and communications received in February 2023**

Councillors considered the following correspondence and communications:

#### **Planning issues**

1. 22/05525/FUL - application for proposed conversion of former agricultural building (milking parlour) to one dwelling house, and installation of package treatment, on land to north of B4368. 26.02.23 - application withdrawn.
2. 22/05201/FUL - application for erection of a two storey rear extension at Holly Bush Farm, Clee St Margaret, SY7 9EB. Planning permission granted 16.02.23

#### **Highways notifications**

3. Road closure on B4368 at Shipton Bridge, Shipton from 9.30am to 4.00pm between 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023 so bridge can be taken down and damaged parapet wall rebuilt.

### General correspondence

4. Notification via Martin Jones of some rural premises being able to benefit from grants of up to £7,000 to gain access to gigabit capable broadband. For details contact <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>.
5. Letter from Brown Clee Medical Practice advising all three doctors are planning to retire within five years and no replacements have been found. Attached is a note of a Patients Participation Group meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023. If you are interested in joining a steering group, contact Tina Ranson at [tina.ranson@outlook.com](mailto:tina.ranson@outlook.com)
6. Email Clerk to Munslow Parish Council asking if the SC Highways Study of B4368 is yet available. Heather Coonick responded on 26.01.23 saying they are advised it has been completed and SC are supposed to be contacting affected parishes to meet them.
7. Email from Shropshire Rural Housing Association Limited's Chief Executive seeking people to join its Board and Committees. Contact John Green on 01743 874848 for details.
8. Email from Rural Services Network seeking assistance in reaching parishioners who do not have internet facilities, to advise them of a Rural Cost of Living Household Survey. They want to target rural residents' views for this survey. Poster provided for DPC to display. Contact Richard Inman on 01822 851370 for details.
9. Notification of Thriving Children and Families Grant which can be accessed by Town and Parish Councils. Closing date for applications is 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Contact Penny Bason on 01743 252767 or at [penny.bason@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:penny.bason@shropshire.gov.uk) for more details.
10. Notification from Rose Aston, Executive Producer of BBC Radio Shropshire's Make a Difference Awards. Nominations sought for suitable recipients. Contact Rose Aston on 07813 813948.
11. Email from Munslow Parish Council asking what DPC is doing for the Coronation weekend and whether it would like to join forces with an event at Millichope. Advised them that Westhope Village Hall is holding an event on 7<sup>th</sup> May and that Diddlebury Hall committee will contact Munslow PC to discuss the matter.
12. 2023 West Mercia Police Community Charter to be completed, advising of DPC's top three community concerns/issues.
13. Letter from Diddlebury Village Hall Committee thanking DPC's Chairman and the parish council for their support in helping to achieve the resurfacing works to the DVH car park.
14. Email from Mrs Alison Cope of Mill Lane querying what Fisher German/Severn Trent Water are "flushing" streams for.

### Responses:

Item 1: Cllr. O'Boyle suggested that before the application for the milking parlour (23/05525/FUL) is re-presented in a modified form, efforts should be made to establish whether or not it is in Bache Mill or Diddlebury, otherwise time will be spent arguing that question all over again. He feels the residents most closely affected should be encouraged to produce any evidence, such as Land Registry maps or other documentary evidence, to help establish whether their properties are in Bache Mill or Diddlebury. He felt it was unfair that

the Planning Inspector and/or Shropshire Council should be the sole arbiters of where properties are sited, but rather it should be a community decision.

Item 4: Cllr. Rattu will check into this Broadband matter, but does feel that the grant is insufficient to reach Middlehope.

Item 5: No members of DPC are patients of Brown Clee Medical Practice and thus cannot usefully be delegates to the participation group. Local patients could be encouraged to join in.

Item 14: Councillors wondered whether this “flushing” involved the new phosphate treatment plant at The Moors. Cllr. R Povall felt it more likely to be checking the purity of the water from the Diddlebury borehole to the sub-station. It was agreed the Clerk will send a FOI letter to Severn Trent reiterating DPC’s concerns about the discharge of phosphate into local streams and seeking a response.

## **122/23 – Finance Report for February 2023**

**1. Precept balance b/fwd from January 2023 **£4,764.30****

**Less:** Cheques/debits authorised to be drawn on Precept Funds in February 2023

1.	HSBC – bank charges	£ 7.40	
2.	Clerk’s net salary for February 2023	£250.00	
3.	PAYE on Clerk’s February 2023 salary	£ 15.00	
4.	Diddlebury Village Hall: hire fees 27.04.22 to 22.02.23	£126.00	
5.	<u>Administrative expenses incurred by the Clerk in February 2023</u>		
	• February 2023 contribution towards Telephone & Broadband provision @ £20 p.m	£20.00	
	• 8 x 2 <sup>nd</sup> class stamps	£ 5.44	
	• Travelling expenses claimed at 45p To Diddlebury Village Hall for meeting on 22.02.23 - 32 miles @ 45p per mile	<u>£14.40</u>	
	<b>Total of Dec. February 2023 admin. expenses</b>	<u>£39.84</u> <u>£ 39.84</u>	<u>£ 438.24</u>

**Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to March 2023 **£4,326.06****

Cllr. O’Boyle **Proposed** that the cheques and direct debit totalling £438.24 be approved for payment.

Cllr. Watson **Seconded** the proposal.

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal

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

- **Community Infrastructure Levy /Neighbourhood Fund**  
Balance b/fwd from January 2023 **£15,257.83**
- **Environmental works & asset management fund**  
Balance b/fwd from January 2023 **£ 228.50**
- **Legal expenses ring fenced fund** balance b/fwd from January 2023 **£ 750.00**
- **Flood Action Group funds** - balance b/fwd from January 2023 **£ 246.35**

**3. Balance held by DPC following authorisation of the payments listed above**

1. Precept balance	£ 4,326.06
2. Community Infrastructure Levy/Neighbourhood Fund	£15,257.83
3. Environmental works & asset maintenance fund	£ 228.50
4. Legal expenses ring fenced fund	£ 750.00
5. FAG third party funds	£ 246.35
Total:	<b><u>£20,808.74</u></b>

**4. Verification by Councillors of the Clerk's reconciliation between HSBC bank statement 365 and DPC's Cash Book.** The verification was performed by Cllr. O'Boyle.

**5. Proposal to transfer £3,500 from the Neighbourhood/CIL fund to the DVH Car Park Reserves fund.**

The Chairman advised the £3,500 sum represented £500 per annum for the next seven years as a reserve fund for repairs and maintenance of the community car parking areas recently resurfaced. He confirmed the school and DVH Committee would also putting the same sum into reserve funds for the same purpose.

The Chairman **proposed** that £3500 be transferred from the Neighbourhood/CIL fund into the DVH Reserves Fund and be ring-fenced for maintenance purposes.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**123/23: Resolution to appoint Mrs Jennie Griffiths as DPC's auditor.**

As Mrs Sue Hackett, DPC's long serving auditor, has moved to Norfolk a new auditor is to be appointed. SALC had recommended Mrs Griffiths as a suitably qualified auditor.

Cllr. R. Povall **Proposed** that Mrs Jennie Griffiths of Leebotwood, Church Stretton, be appointed as DPC's audit for the year 2023/2024

Proposal **seconded** by the Chairman

**Vote:** councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal to appoint Mrs Griffiths as auditor.

**124/23 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only).**

No matters were raised.

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

**Date and Venue of next meeting: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall**

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

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