

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH

Tel: 01547 519282 "e" mail address: diddleburypc@outlook.com

Website address: www.diddleburyparish.co.uk

MINUTES

**Of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council
held on Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

214/23 – Present

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

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

Apologies: Cllr R Morgan and Cllr. T Pardoe

215/23 – 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 were made.

216/23 – Public involvement session.

Mr J Farley and Mrs Jenny Vine attended the meeting to request that DPC provide the Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group with third-party ring-fenced banking facilities for the CWFG. The CWFG has an amount of money left over from a previous grant and it receives an annual grant from Shropshire Council which it wishes DPC to hold, and to give the CWFG cheques when requested for footpath maintenance etc. The CWFG is having difficulties with its current bankers, hence this request. The request was considered and discussed.

Cllr. O’Boyle **proposed** that DPC should accommodate the CWFG’s request.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. S Povall

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously to grant the third-party banking facilities requested by the CWFG

217/23– Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 27th September 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 27th September 2023 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. S Povall **Proposed** that the Minutes of the meeting on 27th September 2023 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting’s business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. O’Boyle

Vote on Proposal: Six members voted in favour of the Proposal, one abstained. Carried by a majority vote.

218/23: Matters arising from the Parish Meeting 27th September 2023 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

209/23 - Parking, speeding and related issues at The Moors and Moors View.

A survey of what the residents actually wanted has not yet been carried out. It was queried whether the parish council has the right to erect “Parking for Residents Only” signs on a publicly owned highway.

The Clerk produced a plan and asked where DPC suggests Severn Trent Water be asked to make additional parking for residents available: Cllr. O’Boyle marked the map. The Clerk will also request that their drivers be asked to slow down.

210/23: Item 13 – the Chairman advised he has signed up for two of Shropshire Council’s Emergency Planning sessions.

Item 15: Cllr. Motley enquired whether any response had been received from the Manager of the Post Office Sorting Office in Craven Arms, to DPC’s request for information as to why the postal service in the Corvedale is so erratic. No response has been received. Cllr. R Povall had telephoned the Sorting Office and was told houses get three deliveries a week, businesses one. The Chairman had been advised parcels are prioritized over letters. Cllr. Motley suggested DPC writes to her at SC asking for action to be taken about the Sorting Office’s failure to respond and failure to improve the service.

219/23 - Reports

219/23/1 - Chairman’s report. The Chairman reported he had attended Chris Jackson’s funeral to represent DPC.

He has put together a display which he hopes will be sited by the war memorial in Diddlebury churchyard. Rev. Beesley is seeking advice from the diocese and the PCC; the War Graves Commission also have to be approached. He brought a copy to this meeting for members to consider.

He has had discussions with Cllr. O’Boyle about the situation at The Moors, and about a paddock by the Malt House which is being turned into a garden. Jack Wrigley advises he is putting in a planning application for change of use.

He has had two meetings with Highways representatives about the problems in Bouldon, which he will deal with under Highways.

He confirmed he is having a meeting with the Headmaster and school governors tomorrow at which he will raise the possibility of a playground being created for general use at the school. He detailed his efforts to help residents in Bouldon and the manager at the Tally Ho Inn during the recent floods.

219/23/2 – Cllr. Motley’s Report Cllr. Motley reported on the extensive flooding suffered by the Corvedale parishes following the recent heavy rains. She particularly congratulated Cllr. Rattu who had spent many hours in the rain trying to clear drains on the B4368 by his property and for his efforts to direct the traffic. All the drains were blocked by mud, silt and even potatoes washed down from the adjacent fields: his efforts had prevented the flooding of properties in the Moors. Cllr. Rattu had organised Road Closed signs and his efforts in directing traffic had kept drivers safe. Cllr. Martyn had also assisted and set up Flood warning signs which belonged to the FAG. Cllr. Motley felt they both deserved a round of applause. The Chairman and all the councillors endorsed the vote of thanks. Cllr. Watson advised her mother’s house had been saved from flooding due to their efforts.

Cllr. Motley advised that now the Constituency Boundaries Review has been completed we can press on with the Town and Parish Boundary review. Parishes which seek changes must make a written proposal to Shropshire Council.

On the social care front, despite massive efforts to solve the issue there are continuing problems with finding suitable residential places or care packages for people with complex needs on being discharged from hospital. There are also still long waits for ambulance responses. She urged everyone to get their covid vaccinations in order to keep well.

219/23/3 - Flood Action Group Report.

Cllr. Martyn's report concerned the significant flooding incidents within the parish. There was ingress of flood water into several properties across the parish, notably the Tally Ho Inn in Bouldon (which has never flooded before), the Malt House in Diddlebury, and a total of 6 houses in Bache Mill, Peaton, Peaton Strand, and Bouldon. A farm in Bouldon had water inside the farm house, farm machinery was damaged and access to cattle was inhibited. On the roads there was problems at the Corve bridge and Mill Lane bridge where the roads were blocked by flood water, preventing parents from collecting their children from the primary school. Most significantly the B4368 was flooded due to the four drains being blocked. This was attended to by members of the public who tried to unblock the drains. In order to safely carry this out, the road was temporarily closed after contact with the Police and Fire Brigade. There is to be a National Flood Forum meeting in January: he is working on a report about the recent flooding in Diddlebury to be discussed at the meeting. He is also going to put together details of what resources are available within the parish for self-help, e.g. a stock of sandbags and details of what other measures people can take to avoid homes being flooded. He is unable to say how well the leaky dams worked to stem the flow of water as there is no way to capture data from them.

Following Cllr. Martyn's report, the aftermath of the flooding was discussed at length. It was agreed a priority is to get all the drains in the parish unblocked. As Highways will be overwhelmed with drain clearance work, it was **proposed** by the Chairman that DPC investigates the possibility of hiring machinery to go round the parish to unblock drains urgently. He proposed a figure of £2,000 should be made available from DPC funds. The proposal was **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall and was carried by a **unanimous vote**.

207/23/3 - Westhope Village Hall. Mrs Kath Worthington reported that the recent McMillan Coffee morning has raised £356 on line and £517 at the event. 48 people had attended and enjoyed the Harvest Supper and entertainment. Skittles, whilst drives and bingo are held regularly to boost fund raising. The WVH committee liaises with other village hall committees in the area so as to avoid events clashing.

207/23/4: Diddlebury Village Hall. Cllr. S Povall reported that luckily the village hall had not suffered any flooding. The Harvest Supper had been well attended and a Curry Night is being held on the 17th November.

220/23 - Planning applications

23/04417/OUT outline application for the erection of three affordable dwellings, formation of vehicular access, installation of sewage treatment plant system and all associated works on land adjoining the car park at Westhope College, Westhope.

The Chairman advised this just an outline application so no design details are available at this stage. There had been no public objections placed on the planning portal. No evidence had been served demonstrating a need for affordable housing in Westhope. It was noted there are no infrastructure facilities such as a shop, school or public transport available.

After detailed discussion, the Chairman **proposed** that DPC should support the application.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. S Povall

Vote: Members voted unanimously to support the proposal.

An application – 23/04452/FUL - for the erection of an agricultural machinery building and a separate field shelter and formation of a field access (part retrospective) at Clowes, Great Sutton, had been received too late to be included on this Agenda. It was agreed that the application was unlikely to be contentious: the Chairman would check the planning portal and if no objections were lodged, the matter would be dealt with by way of the Standing Order 27 procedure and reported on at the next meeting.

221/23 – To consider highways and environmental matters

221/23/. The Chairman updated the council on the on-going problems with the collapsing bank and water main problems at Bouldon. Two meetings had been held with Andrew Keyland of Highways and two proposals to remedy the problems were put forward by him. The one Mr Keyland favoured was: “We look to agree a design with our contractors and flood water team to take the bend off the opposite bank, which should give enough room to place Rock Armour along the bank on the road side and reinstate the drive access to the Povall’s property. This option would mean we would not need to install a footing or move the water mains, causing less disruption, be a quicker fix and have reduced environmental impact”. Mr Keyland proposed to schedule work to be carried out in the spring unless an emergency arose in the meantime. An emergency had then arisen: for the first time ever the Tally Ho had been flooded: the Chairman had carried sandbags across a field to the Tally Ho as the car park was impassable and the Povall’s farm had suffered flooding. The Chairman and Cllr. Motley had met on the Sunday after the flooding to assess the situation. DPC members are exasperated because had this work been carried out two years ago when first reported, it could have been fixed quickly and relatively inexpensively. It will now cost a lot of money and in the meantime, damage has been inflicted on properties in Bouldon due to the failure of the Highways Department to deal with the matter in a timely fashion.

221/23/2. A complaint had been received from a resident of Bache Mill about damage to two tyres on her vehicle caused by a pothole by the new housing development which had been hidden by water. Cllr. Martyn advised the pothole had been there for at least two years and should not cause damage if one drives slowly. It has been reported to Fix My Street.

222/23 – Correspondence and communications received in October 2023

Councillors considered the following correspondence and communications:

Highways matters

1. Complaint about potholes in Bache Mill damaging tyres.
2. Update from StreetScene about seasonable activities (hedge cutting etc).

Planning matters- notifications from Shropshire Council concerning planning applications

3. 23/03491/FUL – application for the erection of a two storey extension at The Green Farm, Middlehope.. Planning refused on 02.10.22
4. 23/03819/FUL – application for erection of a single storey extension and additional works at The Old Hen & Ferret Cottage, Great Sutton. Planning permission granted 11.10.23
5. 23/03928/TCA – application to fell one Sycamore Tree at The Malt House, Delbury Hall. Permission granted 12.10.23

General correspondence

6. Notice of Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station Review 2023

7. Letter Clerk to CIL Department at Shropshire Council enclosing DPC's Neighbourhood Fund Annual Monitoring Fund statement for 2023.
8. Letter to the Chairman from Mrs Kathleen Worthington
9. Notification of Shropshire Council's £150,000 fund to support community projects, combined with CrowdFund Shropshire's programme.
10. Final recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Shropshire
11. Request to DPC from Mr J Farley to establish a ring fenced third party account for the Corvedale Walking Footpath Group
12. Notification that the Woodland Trust is giving away 13 million free trees to schools and communities across the UK.
13. Notification of forthcoming Climate Workshops – fee £110. Contact <https://saveourshropshire.org/parish-council-workshop/#Daytime>.

223/23 – Consideration of draft Proposal to be submitted to Shropshire Council concerning amendments to the parish boundaries

Cllr. R Povall reported on a meeting he had attended with Culmington Parish Council about this review. The only issue between the parish councils is that of Seifton. Part of Seifton is in Culmington, which in planning terms is Open Countryside (planning other than exception sites or affordable housing is prohibited) and part is in Diddlebury, which is a Community Cluster so some development is permitted. Five applications have now been made for a plot which is in the Culmington part of Seifton. The Chairman advised that DPC has written to the Planning Department about this issue in the past. Cllr. Povall advised Culmington want a proposal to go to the Shropshire Council listing exactly which Seifton houses are in the Culmington part of Seifton and those which are in Diddlebury. Essentially this involves houses which are on the Ludlow side of the B4368 being designated as being in Culmington and those in Seifton Bache as being in Diddlebury.

224/23 – Finance Report for October 2023

224/23/1 – Finance Report

Precept Balance b/fwd from September 2023 **£5,826.77**

LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on 25th October 2023

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|---|---------|
| 1. HSBC bank charges. Bank statement awaited. | |
| 2. Clerk's net salary for August 2023 (pay-slip was not available from Payroll Administrator for the September meeting) | £254.64 |
| 3. Clerk's net salary for October 2023 | £254.64 |
| 4. PAYE on Clerk's August salary and October salary | £ 32.40 |
| 5. Chairman's expenses: Ink cartridge (£14.32) and Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Day (£20) | £ 34.32 |
| 6. Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in October 2023 | |
| • October contribution to telephone and Broadband provision at £20 per month | £ 20.00 |
| • IT support provided by Andy Holmes to re-connect the Internet and access the Pay Roll administration site | £20.00 |
| • 8 x 2 nd class stamps | £ 6.00 |
| • 1 pkt A4 copy paper | £ 4.75 |

- Travel expenses at 45p per mile
27.9.23 to Diddlebury Village Hall for
Parish council meeting - 32 miles £14.40
Total of October expenses £65.15 £ 65.15 £ 641.15

Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to November 2023 **£5,185.62**

Cllr. O'Boyle **proposed** that cheques totalling £641.15 as listed above be authorised for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watson

Vote: councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

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

CIL/Neighbourhood Funds balance b/fwd from September 2023	£13,396.62
Environmental works & asset maintenance fund bal. b/fwd from Sept 2023	£ 700.42
Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from Sept. 2023	£ 750.00
Flood Action Group funds, bal. b/fwd from Sept. 2023	£ 246.35
Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park maintenance funds, bal. b/fwd	£ 3,500.00
Reserves fund for SC elections, bal. b/fwd from Sept 2023	<u>£ 457.73</u>
Total of funds	<u>£19,051.12</u>

Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed

Precept Funds	£ 5,185.62
Ring-fenced, third party and reserve funds	<u>£19,051.12</u>
	<u>£24,236.74</u>

As no bank statement had been received from HSBC the usual Cash Book/Bank Reconciliation could not be carried out.

224/23/2 – Preliminary consideration of the Precept Budget for 2023/2024

The Clerk will be drawing up a draft Precept Budget for consideration at the November meeting. She enquired whether councillors had any new items to be added to the draft budget. It was suggested £3,000 for Westhope Village Hall renovations, a sum to be agreed for the proposed playground in Diddlebury, plus £1,000 extra on the administrative budget, to build up a reserve fund.

225/23 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only).

The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to the Planning Enforcement Department to see what action they are taking concerning the refusal of planning permission of 23/01039/FUL – Lower House Farm, Middlehope.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Date and Venue of the next meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 22nd November 2023, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

Dated: 22nd November 2023