**DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley**

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, The Grange, Leinthall Earls, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9TS Tel: 01568 770640 "e" mail address: [diddleburypc@gmail.com](mailto:diddleburypc@gmail.com)

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**MINUTES**

**Of the Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 26th July, 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall**

**075/17: Present and apologies for absence**

Cllr. D Hedgley, Chairman, Cllr. R Povall – Vice-Chairman, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. T O'Boyle, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. M Woodhouse and Cllr. K Worthington

**Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. S Thomas and Cllr. M Thomas.

**In attendance**:

The Clerk Mrs J de Rusett, Unitary Councillor C Motley and three members of the public.

**076/17: Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.**

Members are 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.

**077/17: Public involvement session:**

No matters were raised at this juncture – two members attended to assist with a planning application.

**078/17: Approval the Minutes of the Meeting all held on 28th June 2017**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 28th June 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting. No amendments were raised.

Cllr. A Watson **proposed** that the Minutes be approved as a correct record,

Cllr. S. Povall **seconded** the proposal:

**Vote:** With one abstention the remaining members **voted unanimously** to approve the Minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

**079/17: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 28th June 2017 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda**

068/17/4: Cllr. O’Boyle advised that Mr G Neden is actively working on obtaining non-statutory consultee status for the FAG.

**080/17 – Reports**

080/17/1 – Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported on his recent parish council activities, which included:

* Attendance at the planning committee’s site visit to the poultry shed development at Lower Corfton
* Further correspondence with the Enforcement Officer re 3 – 4 Bouldon Farm Cottages
* Discussions with Mr Jackson, Corfton Bache, Highways Dept. and Lionel Lewis re necessary road works in Corfton Bache
* Many telephone calls and correspondence re interviews for a new EMO – to be held on 31.07.17
* Many telephone calls and emails and a meeting re parking arrangements at DVH
* Consideration of recent RSN news focussing on crime, rural housing, homelessness and Broadband provision.

080/17/2 – Unitary Councillor’s Report

Cllr. Motley reported on the new administration at Shropshire Council. Future budgets remain an unknown quantity as the business rates retention scheme has been jettisoned but not replaced with anything. Friction continues between LA’s and the NHS on the funding of elderly care.

She is having lots of training for her new role at Community Scrutiny Officer and described the wide remit the post entails. She will be attending the RSN conference on 5th/6th September in Cheltenham. She will be attending the next joint LJC meeting, which will be on October 19th at Acton Scott Village Hall which will be attended by the new Leader of Shropshire Council, Mr Peter Nutting. She has also arranged a meeting for the Chairs of Corvedale and Apedale on 18th September.

080/17/3 – Diddlebury Village Hall Report – Cllr. T O. Boyle

The handover of the hall from the builders is still scheduled for 5th August. The DVH committee recently had a tour and were very impressed with the standard of the work. They are now working on raising revenue and would like to hold a Promises Auction. If anyone can offer a Promise, please contact Sally Woodhouse on 01584 841265. The provisional date for the Harvest Festival Supper is 21st October. It was also agreed at this meeting that the next DPC meeting will be held at Diddlebury on 27th September rather than Westhope.

Discussions continue on the issue of the position of fencing at the back of the hall adjoining the school, to create a safe way for children to access the school without venturing onto the car park. It was agreed the safety of all pedestrians, especially children, was paramount and every effort would be made by DVHC to ensure this. It is expected that further meetings, as soon as possible, of interested parties would iron out any details so that the whole community is successfully served and a mutually agreeable outcome is reached.

080/17/4 – Flood Action Group Report – Cllr. T O’Boyle

Cllr. O’Boyle reported that this is a quiet time of year for the FAG. Works were continuing on tidying up the Diddle Brook.

080/17/5 – Louise Powell Charities

Cllr. Worthington reported she had visited the two Louise Powell almshouses in Ludlow. Neither were in a very good state of repair and one had no vehicular access. They are now part of an umbrella group of almshouses and are managed by a housing association. They were originally for the benefit of farm servants who had to vacate tied cottages upon retirement: they are now occupied by ex-Diddlebury residents. The next management meeting is in November.

**081/17 – Planning matters**

081/17/1 – **17/01969/OUT** – application of Mr G Rowbotham for outline planning permission for a single storey affordable residential dwelling on land adjacent to Aston Top, Bache Mill, SY7 9JX.

Mr & Mrs Rowbotham attended to assist the councillors, explaining they had lived at Aston Top for over 30 years and now needed to downsize into a single storey house but wished to stay within the community. There was a live issue over whether the proposed property was in Munslow Parish or Diddlebury. The applicants advised when built Aston Top was stated to be in Diddlebury, they had a Diddlebury address and were on the electoral roll for Diddlebury and for 30 years had entered into the community life of Diddlebury in the belief that was where they lived. The Planning Officer had been contacted and produced a map showing the proposed house to be in Munslow, but allowed DPC to comment on the application. The issue of which parish the property is in is important as Diddlebury allows clusters whereas Aston Munslow is open countryside.

The application was discussed by the members, and the consultee reports on the planning portal were considered.

Cllr. Worthington **PROPOSED** that DPC should support this application on the principle it is for an affordable and raise no objections to it, but with a caveat that DPC understands there is a dispute over which parish this property is in. DPC wishes to consider the application on the basis that when built Aston Top was stated to be in Diddlebury parish, it has a Diddlebury address, the applicants are on the electoral roll for Diddlebury and for 30 years had entered into the community life of Diddlebury in the belief that was where they lived.

Proposal **SECONDED** by Cllr. Watson

**VOTE:** proposal passed by a unanimous vote in support.

081/17/2 – **17/03071/TEL -** application by Vodaphone Ltd and CTIL for the installation of a 15 metre high monopole telecommunications mast accommodating 3 x antennas and 2 x 600mm dishes and 3 equipment cabinets all located within a 7 metre by 7 metre stock proof fenced compound at the Severn Trent Pumping Station at The Moors, Diddlebury SY7 9JZ

The Chairman advised that S.C’s Southern Planning Committee has called this application in for a full committee hearing of its own volition due to the large number of objections SC had received. There is to be a Planning Committee site visit on Monday 31st July at 10.25am – no members of the public are entitled to speak. The matter is then on the Agenda for the Southern Planning Committee on the 1st August 2017. The Chairman is allowed to attend and is allocated three minutes in which to put forward the parish council’s objections to this mast being sited at The Moors.

The members debated issues surrounding this application, including the credibility of the applicants concerning their statements outlining their attempts to find an alternative viable site. Unitary Cllr. Motley will be challenging that assertion at the Planning Committee, having investigated their claims and found them to be erroneous. Cllr. O’Boyle noted the applicant’s assertion that the mast is for the benefit of Vodafone customers – which is ironic as their customers most certainly do not want this mast at this site. The consensus of opinion was this mast should not be on this site on health and safety grounds and visibility grounds.

The Chairman **PROPOSED** the following Objection should be submitted to the Planners in response to this application :-

“In drafting this response the Parish Council has considered the objections and concerns raised by Diddlebury residents and has considered the Development Management Report drafted by planning officer Mr. Tim Rogers, which will form the basis of the Southern Planning Committee’s decision at its consideration of this application on Tuesday 1st August 2017. We note his recommendation is that permission should be granted as Prior Approval is Not Required due to government legislation (which is set out in his report) and on the financial implications of refusing permission.

In his report Mr Rogers fairly sets out the views of the Parish Council when it considered this matter as a pre-planning application on 17th May 2017 and he sets out at length the concerns of the headmaster and teachers of Corvedale Primary School, which is located 240 metres from the proposed mast. He also sets out the concerns and scientific data put forward by local residents, particularly those of The Moors who will be living – with some 25 children in total – within 80 metres of this proposed mast.

Despite the very evident health and safety concerns of the inhabitants of Diddlebury, Mr Rogers has been constrained in his decision by government policy which he sets out at paragraph 6.3.2 of his Report, vis:

*“Local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for the telecommunications systems* ***or determine health safeguards*** *if the proposal meets International Commission guidelines for public exposure.”*

It is evident that the government requires planning authorities to completely disregard human health factors and the genuine concerns of the electorate, in stark contrast to the protection it will afford to reptiles, amphibians, hedgehogs, newts and bats (see Appendix 1 of the report).

DPC strongly oppose this application based on the grounds of overwhelming public concern despite the approved health acceptance rating and the consequences that this concern could have on the future viability of the local primary school and feeling of wellbeing for the residents of the village, especially those living in the affordable housing in The Moors, due to their proximity to the proposed mast. This is compounded by the fact that no real alternative sites have been explored where the above fears and concerns could be alleviated despite the existence of these sites and in one case the apparent willingness of the landowner to accept a mast.

A second strand of opposition is based on the negative impact that the visibility of the mast will have in an area renowned for its scenic attraction to visitors.

DPC strongly supports the principle of the erection of a mast to improve reception but feel that its placement should fit in with the wishes of the local community. It would urge Shropshire Council to look beyond the principle of permitted development and prior approval not being needed, to support the local community in this.”

**PROPOSAL WAS seconded by:** Cllr. T O’Boyle

**VOTE: Unanimous**

**082/17 – Consideration of Diddlebury footpath issues.**

The Clerk advised she had written to the three landowners concerning Footpath No. 20 and had written to Shropshire Council concerning the unsafe bridge and incorrectly designated

route of Footpath 0525/26/1. No responses have been received as yet.

**083/17 – Highways and Environmental matters**

083/17/1 – EMO: The Chairman advised that three people had applied for the EMO position and two are to be interviewed on 31st July jointly by the Chairs of Munslow, Diddlebury and Culmington parish councils. The new EMO will be tasked with strimming along footpaths to keep the nettles at bay.

083/17/2 – It was noted that the road surface at Pedlar’s Rest has been damaged as a result of extra traffic generated by the recent closure of the A49 at Onibury. It was agreed the Clerk will liaise with the Clerk at Culmington about getting it repaired. It was also noted that the road surface by the telephone box in Mill Lane is damaged. The Chairman will raise it with Highways.

**084/17 – Consideration of correspondence and communications**

The members considered the following items of correspondence, which had been emailed to them prior to the meeting:

1. 14.7.17 – email from SALC re free conference on 30th September 2017 (no time stated) hosted by Professor John Whitelegg at the Theatre Severn to organise a general system wide 20mph speed limit on all residential roads in Shropshire. He seeks delegates from all town and parish councils, but appears to have failed to provide a contact address, telephone or or email.

2. July 2017 – update from “Connecting Shropshire”. An £11.2m contract has been given to Airband to provide high speed Broadband by wireless masts where fibre broadband is not available. Work is due to commence immediately.

3. .Email from SALC advising of a further “Planning from a Local Perspective” training event to follow on from the one held in June. To be held at Lord Hill Hotel, Shrewsbury on 13th September 2017, 10am to 4pm

4. Letter – Clerk to S.C’s Planning Department asking that DPC be notified of any

applications made by planning applicants pursuant to S.73 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (revisions/variations to planning applications which have already been determined)

5. emails between Mr Jackson, Corfton Bache and the Clerk and Chairman concerning various highways, ditch and flooding issues on the road to Corfton Bache.

6. 5.7.17 – notification from Planning Dept, re 16/03628/FUL for the demolition of former poultry units and the erection of 7 detached dwellings at Corfton, SY7 9DL

Planning permission granted.

7. 5.7.17 – letter Chairman to Mr B Gammond, Enforcement Case Officer re 17/05409/ENF.

8. Letters – Clerk to Ms Butter & Mr D Hardwick, Shropshire Council’s Outdoors Partnership, enclosing plan re incorrect route of footpath 0525/26/1 on SC’s designated plan, and photograph demonstrating the need for repairs to the footbridge.

9. Letters – Clerk to three landowners re Footpath No. 20.

10. email via SALC inviting members to take part in a survey on the proposed, mostly upward, revision of parking charges across Shropshire.

11. Letter – Clerk to Mr. John Farley enclosing cheque for £180 for repairs to the Three Castles Way notice board, and thanking him for his report given on 28th June 2017.

No action was deemed necessary in respect of any item.

**085/17 - Consideration of Financial matters**

085/17/1 – Finance Report for July 2017

## Finance Report for meeting on 26th July 2017

**1. Precept Funds** brought forward from June 2017 **£9,529.96**

**ADD. VAT refund £ 412.29 £9,942.25**

**LESS: Sum transferred to Earmarked Reserves as per Resolution**

**of 28.06.17 as per Minute Refs. 073/17/3 & 073/17/4 £5,412.29 £4,529.96**

***LESS:*** cheques to be authorised from Precept Funds on26.07.17

1. Clerk’s net salary for July 2017 £143.60

2. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk’s June salary £ 35.80

3. Donation to Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group as per

Minute Ref. 078/17 £180.00

4. Clerk’s expenses for July 2017 as itemised

* Contribution towards July telephone

& Broadband expenses £10.00

* Postage: 20.07.17 –1st class letters to 3

landowners plus 12 x 2nd class stamps £ 8.67

* 22.07.17 – 1 ream A4 copy paper £ 3.25
* 12.07.17 – processing fee for photographs £ 3.20
* 07.07.17 -1 pack HP364 black, cyan, yellow

& blue ink cartridges £28.00

* Travelling expenses claimed at 45p per mile

10.07.17 – to Diddlebury to display Mast

posters on notice boards and to walk Foot

Paths No 20 & 0525/26/1 and take photos

and prepare maps - 42 miles

26.07.17 - To Parish Council meeting at

Westhope– 44 miles

Total mileage: 86 miles @ 45p £38.70

£91.82 £ 91.82

Total deductions from Precept Funds £451.22 £ 451.22

**Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to September £4,078.74**

1. **Highways & Environmental Grant b/fwd from June 2017 - £2,703.93**

– no Claims made in July 2017

**Balance of Highways** **& Environmental Grant c/fwd to September £2,703.93**

1. **Transparency Code Grant – no claims in July 2017– balance c/fwd**

**to September £1,108.40**

**4. Total funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council after this meeting:**

Precept Funds c/fwd to September £4,078.74

Highways & Environmental Grant c/fwd to September £2,703.93

Transparency Code Grant c/fwd to September £1,108.40

Corvedale Youth Club funds £ 650.39

Diddlebury Flood Action Group £ 209.57

Balance of donations for War Memorial £ 85.13

Ear-marked Reserve Fund for resurfacing DVH car park £5,412.29

**Total of DPC funds c/fwd to September 2017 £14,248.45**

**5.** Clerk’s reconciliation of Cash Book & HSBC Bank statement no. 298 to 14.07.17 was verified by Councillor R Povall.

**Authorisation of cheques drawn on Precept funds**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. R Povall

**Seconded by:** Cllr. D Hedgley

**Vote: Unanimous**

**086/17 - Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

The Clerk advised that a planning application had been received late this afternoon – too late for inclusion at this meeting. It is **17/02743/FUL** –an application by Mr P Moran of Pedlars Rest, Elsich Court, Seifton for the installation of replacement windows and doors. The application has to be responded to by 28th August. As DPC does not meet again until 27th September it was agreed the Chairman will arrange a Group as per Standing Order 30 to consider the matter.

There being no further business, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.45pm

Date and venue of the next Diddlebury Parish Council meeting

7.30pm on Wednesday 27th September 2017 at Diddlebury Village Hall.

**MINUTES SIGNED BY David Hedgley**

**DATED 10th August 2017**