**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

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**MINUTES**

**Of the Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 27th April 2016, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

**042/16: Present and apologies for absence**

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

**Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. M Fowler, Unitary Cllr. C Motley and Cllr. S Povall

**In attendance**:

 The Clerk Mrs J de Rusett, and 8 members of the public.

**043/16: 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.

Cllr. Selina Thomas, Cllr. A Watson and Cllr. T O'Boyle all declared interests in Agenda Item 7 (adoption of Resolutions concerning Diddlebury Village Hall) due to their associations with the Diddlebury Village Hall Committee and Cllr. D Hedgley declared an interest in planning application 16/012054/FUL on the basis his daughter runs a competing business.

**044/16: Public involvement session:**

No matters were raised at this juncture. Some members of the public were present in respect of the planning applications and will raise their views or give assistance under planning.

**045/16: Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 23rd March 2016.**

045/16/1 - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd March 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. O'Boyle asked for an amendment to be made to 031/16/4: the AGM mentioned was in fact for the DVHC and thus should form part of the previous paragraph 031/16/3: the Chairman duly made the amendment. Cllr. Robert Povall proposed that the Minutes be approved as a correct record, Cllr. K. Worthington seconded the proposal: the members unanimously voted to approve the Minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

045/16/2 - The Minutes of the E.G.M Parish Council Meeting held on 8th April 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. K Worthington proposed that the Minutes be approved as a correct record of the meeting, Cllr. R Povall seconded the proposal, and the members unanimously voted to approve the Minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

**046/16/1: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 23rd March 2016 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda**

131/15: The Chairman advised he had not yet had an opportunity to write to Ms Morgan about the screening at her new home. He would do so shortly.

033/16 - The Chairman confirmed that an advertisement had been placed in the Corvedale News for aa Environmental Maintenance Officer. Assurances had been give at the recent Chair's Meeting that the Highways & Environmental Grant will continue until 2018 at least.

**046/16/2: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Emergency General Meeting of 8th April 2016 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda**

041/16 - proposed developments at Lower Corfton

The Chairman gave an up-date on the two applications submitted in respect of Shepherds Barn and the poultry units at Lower Corfton. He and Cllr. Motley had held discussions with the planning officer Mr Ashley: he is a consultant from Manchester and has no local rural knowledge. Mr Ashley's view was the poultry sheds were not part of the Corfton settlement, whereas the Shepherds Barn site was a perfect infill. A further difficulty is Shropshire Council, without consultation with DPC, had "rationalized" Diddlebury's Place Plan and what is in SAMDEv is not what was agreed in development terms in the Place Plan: DPC will not get an opportunity to have this corrected until next year.

 The current situation is both planning applications have been withdrawn.

Mr Kirk of Lower Corfton thanked the parish council members for their efforts in connection with this matter.

**047/16 - Reports**

047/16/1 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on his parish council activities for the past month. He had spent a great deal of time on the Lower Corfton planning applications, given the Planning Officer had completely reversed what the parish council had agreed to.

Likewise a great deal of time had been spent in liaison with the Clerk, Mike Woodhouse for DVH and the legal teams over Agenda Item 7 to produce the agreed Resolutions.

He had attended the DVH AGM on the 25th April in case questions arose over DPC's approach to the issue of the land transfer.

He had attended a meeting of the Chairs of local Parish Councils called by Cllr. Motley. The good news is Chris Jackson is on the mend and may eventually return to work. His deputy, Andy Keyland was at the meeting and advised there are difficulties with the contractor engaged by SC to clear drains; the Ringway contract ends in 2018: their contract is going to be broken up into separate tasks and tenders invited in due course. "A" class roads are supposed to be inspected monthly by Ringway, and lanes annually: he believes the parish councils will have to become the "guardians" of the lanes in terms of reporting works needed.

In time parish councils may have to take on more of the maintenance of parish lanes.

Cllr. Motley had reported that a fact finding group has been set up to see if town and parish councils can, through their annual precept, contribute financially towards providing services such as libraries. They will be seeking a response in due course from parish councils.

One Corvedale parish council was seeking a possible amalgamation with a neighbouring parish: Cllr. Motley had looked into the logistics and found it was a long and complicated process. She feels it is best for parish councils to collaborate on and team manage the provision of services as a way of saving money.

The Police had attended the Chair's meeting: there has been a spate of village and community halls being broken into: the Police had provided advice on better security for both village halls and village events.

047/16/2 - Diddlebury Village Hall Report

Cllr. O'Boyle reported on the DVHC's AGM: it had been reasonably well attended and the three officers had been re-appointed. It is anticipated the renovation works will start in June, with a nine months' completion schedule. A grand re-opening will be held: it was suggested there should be an event to mark the closing of the hall for renovation: if anyone has any ideas what form this could take, please send ideas to the committee members.

047/16/3 - Flood Action Group

Cllr. O'Boyle advised that the Diddlebury annual stream clearance will be held on Tuesday 3rd May at 6.30pm. Participants are invited to meet by the bridge, and are asked if possible to please provide their own clearance tools and equipment.

On the 10th May there will be a final planning meeting for the Multi-Agency Group meeting, which will be held on the 17th May.

047/16/4 - Broadband

Cllr. R Povall reported on Broadband issues. Fibre optic Broadband is now available in parts of Diddlebury: Cllr. Watson advised that her Broadband speed had increased from 2 mgs to 38 mgs. However, there are no plans at all to make fast Broadband available to any rural areas, and in some places such as at Pedlar's Rest the speed has actually decreased whilst in Seifton there is no telephone coverage at all at present. It is clear that Open Reach have no plans to bring any improved services to rural areas at all, either now or in the foreseeable future.

**048/16 - The Parish Council is asked to consider and adopt Resolutions relating to its Custodian Trusteeship of the village hall and allied matters**

Having declared an interest, Cllr's Selina Thomas, Amie Watson and T O'Boyle took no part in this matter.

The Chairman explained that the Resolutions numbered 1 and 3 debated and adopted at the EGM on the 8th April 2016 were not acceptable: first, the legal right of DPC to grant a lease to DVHC was challenged, and secondly the Big Lottery would not accept a charge just over the footprint of the hall, but required all the land encompassed in titles SL181685 and SL92695 to be subject to the legal charge. Accordingly DPC's efforts to retain some form of control over the village hall's future in the long term interests of the parish, in case of unforeseen problems in the future, had been taken as far as it could and DPC must now agree to its' role as custodian trustee being passed to the Official Custodian of Charities. Further debate on the issue could jeopardise the lottery grant and could involve pointless expensive legal arguments. Accordingly, two alternative Resolutions had been drafted by DPC's solicitors in conjunction with those acting for the DHVC/Big Lottery, namely:

" That Diddlebury Parish Council agree to the vesting in the Official Custodian of Charities all of the land registered at HM Land Registry under titles SL 181685 and SL92695 and the Parish Council shall provide all such assistance and documentation in that regard as may be required to facilitate such vesting including, if necessary, a transfer of the said titles to the trustees of the Diddlebury Village Hall charity and will complete any legal agreements with the charity requiring them to vest the titles in the Official Custodian of Charities."

and

 "That Diddlebury Parish Council agree to grant Diddlebury Village Hall charity (in common with others with similar rights) without consideration such rights as are reasonably required for vehicular and pedestrian access and parking for persons visiting the village hall over the land registered under title SL 110651"

Cllr. Robert Povall **proposed** that Diddlebury Parish Council adopt the two Resolutions:

The proposal was **seconded by** Cllr. D Hedgley

**Vote: Unanimously carried by those present and entitled to vote.**

**049/16 - Planning Applications**

049/16/1 - 15/05099/REM - application by Mr S. Morris for approval of reserved matters (siting, design, access, appearance, landscaping) pursuant to 15/00346/OUT for the erection of one affordable dwelling with detached double garage and vehicular access on land near Pinstones Farm, Corfton.

Mr Morris was in attendance to assist the members. He was questioned about the issue of flooding as there was no flooding survey with the planning documents. Mr Morris stated there is no flooding problem: the previous objector's house is sited above the proposed new house and is on the opposite side of the road; there had been no flooding issues in the vicinity in the last 19 years. Cllr. O'Boyle questioned whether the new house would be in keeping with the appearance of other houses in the vicinity, and asked whether the whole house could not be faced in stone. Mr Morris explained all stone was too expensive, but the house and garage would be part stone, part reclaimed brick and part timber clad, which matches Pinstones Farm. Cllr. R Povall supported this view. After further discussion:

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that the council supports the application.

Cllr. Worthington **seconded** the proposal.

**Vote:** Six in favour, 1 abstention - carried by a majority vote

049/16/2 - 16/01054/FUL- application Mr R. J Wilcox under Section 73A of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to convert a.wood shed into a building for a dog grooming business at Karray Cottage, Lower Corfton.

Having declared an interest, Cllr. Hedgley took no part in this application.

Mr Wilcox attended the meeting to assist members: he confirmed this was a retrospective application, as when he carried out the conversion work to create a dog grooming parlour, he had no idea planning permission was needed. He confirmed the business would be limited to three dogs per day. It was confirmed no objections had been raised by any residents in Lower Corfton. After considering the application:

Cllr. S Thomas  **proposed** the parish council supports the application.

Proposal was **seconded** by Cllr. Robert Povall

**Vote:** 5 votes in favour, 1 abstention - carried by a majority.

049/16/3 - 16/01558/FUL and 16/01559/LBC - applications by Mrs H Horne for planning permission and listed building consent for the erection of a stable building and tennis court; alterations to existing dwelling and garage including the addition of three dormer windows to second floor of western elevation; internal alterations to improve layout and external changes to doors and windows at Corfton Manor, Corfton, SY7 9LD

The members had considered the application form, plans and photographs supplied by the applicant prior to the meeting's commencement. The Chairman confirmed there had been no objections to the proposed works, either from neighbours or from interested bodies such as English Heritage. It was noted the ecological survey had found no bats or newts. It was generally agreed the stables will be an improvement to the existing buildings. The only concern was Corfton Manor is in a dark night sky part of the Corvedale: members were concerned there might be intrusive lighting if the stables or tennis court were lit a night.

The Chairman **proposed** it be agreed to support the application, subject to raising a request that any security and outside lighting be kept to a minimum and used infrequently.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Worthington

**Vote:**  Unanimous.

**050/16 - Correspondence and Communications**

The following items of correspondence were considered by the members:

1. March 2016: Details about Post-16 Education Transport Assistance for entitled Shropshire Students - consultation on arrangements for September 2016.

 Proposal:

 For students whose families are on defined benefits - cost will be £142.50 per academic year.

 For students who families receive no defined benefits - cost will be £875 per academic year.

 To comment visit: Schooltransport@shroshire.gov.uk by Friday 29th April 2016

2. Great Shropshire Outdoors - details about how to get involved with Parish Paths Partnerships and Wardens.

3. Spring brochure from Came & Co. DPC's insurance brokers

4. 29.3.16 email from Lisa Bedford re grants available for youth activities.

5. emails between Chairman and Cllr. Motley re Corfton proposed developments.

6. 13.04.16 - Notification from Planning Dept. re 16/00914/FUL and 16/00915/FUL - two developments at Lower Corfton, indicating that both applications have been withdrawn.

7. 08.04.16 - notification that Precept of £5,149 will be paid on 29th April 2016

8. 15.04.16 - notification from police via Lisa Bedford of a spate of burglaries to community buildings in South Shropshire.

9. 25.4.16 - notification that Highways & Environmental Maintenance Grant of £3000 has been paid on 25.4.16

10. Notification of two "Be a Better Councillor" training courses to be held on 13th June 2016, 3.30pm at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury and on 6th July 2016, 3.30pm in Dawley Town Hall, Dawley, Telford.

11. 14.4.16 - notification of a cardboard collection service being introduced. It will commence in South Shropshire in December 2016. Blue bags will be provided to householders for this purpose.

The Chairman will respond to the survey at Item 1 above.

He also took the opportunity to thank Cllr. Motley for all her time and advice on the Lower Corfton planning applications matter.

**051/16 - Finance**

051/16/1 - Finance Report for meeting on 27th April 2016

Balance of **Precept Funds** brought forward from March 2016 **£5,020.02**

**Less:** Cheques authorised at March meeting not included in the

March Finance Report

Cheque no. 200122 £45.00 (Westhope Village Hall hire fees)

Cheque no. 200123 £50.00 (Clover Club donation)

 £95.00 £ 95.00

**Less: cheques authorised by members for payment on 27.04.16 £4,925.02**

1. Clerk’s net salary for April 2016 £143.60

2. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk’s salary for April 2016 £ 35.80

3. SALC - 2016/2017 subscription £266.76

3. Clerk’s expenses for April 2016 (itemized below) £ 56.54

Total deductions from Precept Funds for April 2016 £502.70 £ 502.70

**Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to May 2016 £4,422.32**

**Clerk's expenses for April 2016**

1. April 2016 contribution towards

 telephone and Internet expenses £ 5.00

2. Postage stamps £ 3.84

3 1 x HP364 XP black ink cartridge, 1 ream copy paper

 and 3 pkts of file dividers £19.50

4. Travelling expenses claimed at 30p per mile

* 11.4.16 to Diddlebury for website training - 44 miles
* 22.4.16 to Diddlebury to put up Agendas - 6 miles
* 27.4.16 - to Diddlebury for PC meting - 44 miles
* Total mileage 94 @ 30p £28.20

 Total expenses claimed £56.54

**Total funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council after this meeting**

**1.** Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to April 2016 **£4,422.32**

**2.** Highways & Environment Grant funds

 b/fwd from February 2016 £1,527.07

 Add: 2016/2017 Grant received 24.4.16 £3,000.00

 **£4,527.07 £4,527.07**

**3.**  Other ring-fenced sums held in Diddlebury PC’s Account

* **Corvedale Youth Club** **£ 650.39**
* **Diddlebury Stream Management Group**  **£ 128.75**
* **Balance of Donations for** **War Memorial**  **£ 105.13**

**4. Transparency Code Funding Grant** - received 23.02.16 £2,004.20

 Less: WebOrchard Inv. No. 4728 dated 12.04.16 £1,164.00

 £ 840.20 **£ 840.20**

 **Total of DPC funds c/fwd to May 2016 £10,673.86**

Cllr. T O'Boyleproposed that the Finance Report be accepted and the cheques authorised for payment. Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall and **unanimously agreed** by the members**.**

051/16/2 - Cash Book/ HSBC Bank Statement No. 282 dated 14th April 2016 - reconciliation prepared by Clerk and verified by Cllr. R Povall.

051/16/3 - Cllr. R. Povall noted that the Clerk had spent time far in excess of her paid hours in dealing with the Lower Corfton planning applications, the documentation and paperwork concerning the Big Lottery legal charge over Diddlebury Village Hall, and in helping to set up and train on the new website. He **proposed** that she be paid an additional sum of £250 to compensate for this extra time. The proposal was **seconded**  by the Chairman and **unanimously agreed** by the members. The Clerk thanked them.

**052/16 - Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

.052/16/1 - Annual General Meeting /Annual Parish Meeting. It was confirmed this will be held one week earlier than usual, on 18th May 2016 at Diddlebury Village Hall. It was further confirmed that no members propose standing down at the AGM.

052/16/2 - Mrs Sara Thompson confirmed that the new website was now operating, although she was still making some minor adjustments to it. She has put a re-direct notice on the existing 2ShropNet website,(which will cease to operate from 1st June) directing users instead to **www.diddleburyparish.co.uk** and a notice had been put in the Corvedale News.

The Chairman felt it would be a good idea to mail-shot the parish when Mrs Thompson is 100% satisfied with the new website. In the meantime, on behalf of the parish council, he thanked Mrs Thompson for all her work on setting up and operating the new website, for which she had refused to accept any part of the training grant. The members endorsed this vote of thanks.

052/16/3 - Cllr. O'Boyle raised the fact that a car had damaged part of an ancient hedge by the wedding venue entrance to Delbury Hall. It has been replaced by some unsightly and hopefully temporary fencing. It was agreed the Clerk will write to Mr Wrigley asking that the hedge be re-instated on aesthetic and environmental grounds.

On the issue of hedging, Cllr. R Povall confirmed that so far over two miles of hedging/screening has been planted at Corfton Farm and there is more to be do done.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Date and venue of next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting

 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th May 2016 at Diddlebury Village Hall.

**MINUTES SIGNED BY**

**DATED**