

**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](mailto:diddleburypc@outlook.com)  
Website address: [www.diddleburyparish.co.uk](http://www.diddleburyparish.co.uk)

**MINUTES**

**Of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall.**

**202/23 – Present**

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. C. Martyn

**203/23 – 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.

**204/23 – Public involvement session.**

No matters were raised by the members of the public in attendance.

**205/23– Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 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 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting’s business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. S Povall

**Vote on Proposal:** Five members voted in favour of the Proposal, three abstained. Carried by a majority vote.

**206/23: Matters arising from the Parish Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.**

The Chairman ran through a series of issues, most matters were already on the Agenda and will be dealt with there. No other councillors raised any matters.

## 207/23 - Reports

207/23/1 - Chairman's report. The Chairman reported with sadness on the untimely death at the age of 64 of Chris Jackson. Chris was the most diligent and helpful Highways Officer the parish council ever had the pleasure of dealing with. Our sympathies are with his family. The Chairman had discussed SC's response to DPC's proposed Place Plan Review items with Vicky Turner and will deal with this at Item 11 (212/23) on the agenda. He has had conversations with the Clerk of Culmington PC about the proposed boundaries review and she wants a meeting to talk about the matter: he could not agree to a date for this as Cllr. Motley had advised the matter is on hold until the outcome of the Local Government boundary review is known as it may contain adjustments to parish boundaries. SC are organising a series of seminars on emergency planning and he will attend some of the meetings and thereafter he feels it would be valuable if DPC, Munslow PC and Culmington PC meet to discuss possible joint emergency initiatives. There has been an act of vandalism at one of the new houses being built in Bache Mill: offensive graffiti had been marked on a patio area: it seemed to relate to the planting of trees, which in fact can't be planted before November. He has been in touch with the Heritage Team at SC with concerns about a "chocolate box" cottage in Bouldon which is up for sale and the estate agents are suggesting it could be demolished. The Heritage Team advise as it is a heritage asset, planning permission would be required for any works or demolition.

207/23/2 – Cllr. Motley's Report Cllr. Motley reported that the Local Government Constituency Boundaries Review is due to be published next Tuesday. If it doesn't follow the recommendations of SC, the knock-on effect could be huge, possibly involving re-drawing of ward and parish boundaries, changes to Polling Districts and Polling Stations and much more. Until the Review has been published she advised no further action be taken on the parish boundaries review

SC has launched a £150,000 community projects fund, which can be linked to crowd funding: it is for capital projects so could be used for e.g. playgrounds.

In Ludlow, Oswestry and Shrewsbury Community Hubs are being set up to offer services and advice to families struggling with various problems. It is hoped the Ludlow one will be at the Youth Centre. Publicity about it will shortly be going live.

SC are also setting up a Community Equipment Loan Scheme from which wheelchairs, crutches etc can be loaned and then returned when no longer needed.

On Ash died back, Cllr. Motley advised that landowners are responsible for felling the trees if they overhang a highway. Defra have not yet come up with any information about long the soil must be left fallow before replanting can take place.

The Place Plan/Parish Plans review is well under way and Vicky Turner was pleased with the response. The Chairman advised nothing had been heard from her about the Broadband issue.

Cllr. Motley advised that in 2025/6 BT are planning to stop providing land lines for telephones, it is removing all copper wiring and going over wholly to fibre provision. It is not clear yet how areas which have no current Broadband or mobile phone signal will be served.

An additional looming problem for householders is all oil and gas boilers are to be removed and replaced by other heating methods by probably 2030. Cllr. Watson advised a ground source heating pump has just been removed from her home as it was inefficient and very expensive to run and was replaced by an oil fired boiler.

207/23/3 - Flood Action Group Report. In his absence, Cllr. Martyn had sent in the following report

A meeting was held with National Flood Forum team plus SC's Flood Manger- John Beliss, and SC Emergency Response Team - Angela Hollyway

Discussed

- The fallen wall at Bouldon – no action
- The drainage at Warwick Cottage, Corfton, cleared through and fenced off
- The possibility of individual support in developing individual flood action plans

A stream clearance on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Flyers were distributed to properties at bottom end of Mill Lane. Thank you to for volunteering Colin Pitcher, cleared Himalaya Balsam and other growth restricting the stream below the Diddlebury weir.

Himalaya Balsam at Bache mill development. Alison Cope of Mill Lane contacted me about the growth of the weed at the development. I contacted J.Wrigley, who promise to clear the weed in the next few months. I replied to Alison Cope

### **Diddlebury Parish Website**

- The new email address ([diddleburypc@outlook.com](mailto:diddleburypc@outlook.com)) has been published.
- The contact page form has been repaired to working condition
- Still finding references to unknow places for example - [photos@parishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:photos@parishcouncil.co.uk)

### **Corvedale Music Festival**

- I would ask the parish to congratulate the organisers of the festival – in particular Paul & Ruth Henley, for the wonderful music week 17 events with renowned musicians. The venues used were Corvedale's churches and village halls (with the average attendance 50 people)

207/23/3 - Westhope Village Hall. Mrs Kath Worthington has been tasked by the Westhope Village Hall Committee to report to DPC on Westhope matters. She delivered a report on the refurbishment works which have recently been carried out on the hall, including a new kitchen, new lavatories and a storeroom has been refurbished. In 2024 the hall will have been in use for 100 years and the committee would like to mark its centenary by a further project, namely repairing and repainting the exterior of the hall. It is estimated it will cost approximately £3,600 and they wish to apply to DPC for a grant towards this work. The Chairman advised that as a grant involves public money, DPC will need to receive three written estimates from contractors for the works plus a business plan and a grant application detailing the amount being applied for. The application could then be considered by the councillors when it is an agenda item at a future meeting.

### **208/23 - Planning applications**

23/03928/TCA – application to fell one sycamore tree at The Malt House, Delbury Hall, Diddlebury.

The Chairman noted the tree is said to be in a dangerous condition, in which case, in his view, it needs to be felled, and in discussion, councillors agreed.

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that DPC should support the application to fell the tree.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr Morgan

**Vote:** With seven votes in support and one abstention, the proposal was carried.

23/03819/FUL - application for a single storey extension and insertion of a new roof light over the stairs, and to form a new porch over the front door and to replace the external timber boarding on the existing south gable with a render finish, at The Old Hen and Ferret Cottage, Sutton SY8 2AJ.

The Chairman noted there were no public objections. The Footpaths Team advised FP37R needed to be kept clear, and the Historic Environment team felt building this property had reached the limit on extensions. A Pre-application request had been submitted and SC generally found the proposed works acceptable, but encouraged stone work was encouraged. Following discussion Cllr. S Povall **proposed** that DPC should support the application. Cllr. Rattu **seconded** the proposal.

**Vote:** Seven in favour, one abstention – proposal carried.

**23/03991/FUL and 23/03492/LBC** – application for the erection of a two-storey extension, together with Listed Building Consent, at a Grade II listed building, The Green Farm, Middlehope, SY7 9TT

The Chairman advised there were no public objections to the application, which is designed to add a 5<sup>th</sup> bedroom and ensuite facilities. The nature of the works proposed, and the consultee comments were considered. Councillors felt the application should seek further advice from the Conservation Officer before a decision could be taken.

The Chairman **proposed** that DPC does not support the application and recommends the applicants have further consultations with the Conservation Officer to address his concerns. Cllr. S Povall **seconded** the proposal.

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

**23/03497/PAAFC** – an application for prior approval under Class R of the General Permitted Development Order 2013 for the change of use of an agricultural building into a holiday let property, at Preens Barn, Middlehope SY7 9JT

The Chairman noted there were no public or statutory body objections.

The applicant advised councillors that the steel buildings will be dismantled and re-used elsewhere. The remaining barn is 150 years old and is part of the landscape, but is derelict and has not been used for agricultural purposes for a long while. It is hoped to bring it back to life as a holiday let thereby creating some employment. There are no neighbours, so no disturbance will be caused. The application was discussed by councillors.

Cllr. Pardoe **proposed** that DPC should support the application.

Cllr. Morgan **seconded** the proposal.

**Vote:** Six councillors voted in favour, one against and one abstained. Proposal carried.

**209/23 – To consider highways and environmental matters, including a review of the of the effectiveness of the Slow Down signs in the Moors/Moors View.**

209/23/1: Speeding vehicles: Cllr. Watson advised she had toured houses in the Moors/Moors View where children lived. Most parents thought the signs DPC had erected were effective for local traffic, but not for delivery van drivers and Severn Trent Water generated traffic. Various options for calming the traffic were discussed at length. Cllr. Pardoe felt signs are generally ignored and only things on the road surface, such as rumble strips would work. Another possibility is a battery operated Speed Indicator Device which also depicts children should be investigated. It was agreed that Cllr, Watson should canvass the residents to find out what measures they wanted/suggested.

209/23/2 – parking by non-residents in the Moors/Moors View. Parking of cars on the grass verges and close to the entrance to the Moors joins the B4368. The Chairman advised AirB&B are no longer listing Jacks Cottage in Bache Mill, but it is now being marketed by Booking.com and none of their reviews mention parking difficulties. SC have said there is nothing they can do. A complaint has also been received about a resident running a business from home: her customers take up parking space needed by residents: again SC say they can take no action. It was felt the available option is for DPC to obtain and erect signs indicating “Residents Parking Only”, and “Do Not Park on the Verges”. It was also suggested that DPC

write to Severn Trent to ask whether any of their site could be made available for residents parking.

209/23/3 – Bouldon. The Chairman advised the road closures organised for repairing the pipe under the road in Bouldon had not happened, as the water main was ascertained to be made of asbestos, so the matter is no further forward.

### **210/23 – Correspondence and communications received in August & September 2023**

Councillors considered the following correspondence and communications:

#### Highways matters

1. Notification from Fix My Street that a small bridge which has been damaged and had metal protruding through vegetation has been fixed.
2. Complaint from resident of The Moors about parking congestion on the estate being exacerbated by renters of Jack's Cottage in Bache Mill where there is no parking, and by a resident running a nail bar business from home. Advice sought by DPC from the planning department and Highways Department.

#### General correspondence

3. Letter from HSBC bank seeking confirmation of information about DPC's Bank account.
4. Acknowledgement from The Pensions Regulator of DPC's re-declaration of compliance.
5. Notification to Sara Thompson for website and Corvedale News of DPC's change of email address.
6. Notification to SALC and Shropshire Council of DPC's change of email address
7. Invitation to councillors to attend a conference on 13.10.23 at Montford Village Hall on Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project. To book contact:  
[conference@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk](mailto:conference@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk)
8. Information about Shropshire D-Day 80 commemoration - 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Contact [www.d-day80beacons.co.uk](http://www.d-day80beacons.co.uk) for information.
9. Email Clerk to Lynn Ford, updating Shropshire Community Directory's Annual Review
10. Complaint from resident about the state of the hedge along Mill Lane, Diddlebury and asking who is responsible for it.
11. Letter, Clerk to Mrs Betty Manley to ascertain how Westhope Village Hall matters can be brought to DPC's attention now there is no representative on DPC, and how DPC can gain access to the hall for meetings. Mrs Manley responds that she will open the hall at 7pm on meeting nights and that Mrs Kath Worthington will bring WVH matters to DPC's meetings.

12. Emails between the Chairman and Vicky Turner re DPC's Place Plan, Highways Updates.
13. Notification from Shropshire Council re Emergency Planning sessions to be held on 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> November and on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, at various locations.
14. Information from The Carers Support Information Officer with details of assistance available to unpaid carers. Contact [Shropshire.Carers@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Shropshire.Carers@shropshire.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01734 341996 for information.
15. Letter Clerk to the Sorting Office in Craven Arms advising of the deterioration of the postal service in Diddlebury Parish and asking what steps are being taken to improve it.
16. Query to SALC seeking information about investing CIL/Neighbourhood funds.  
Planning
17. Emails between Chairman and Historic Environment Technical Officer at SC re a heritage query on a Bouldon village property.
18. Planning Decision re 23/02497/FUL - erection of two semi-detached three-bedroomed dwellings instead of previously approved single five-bedroomed dwelling, plus associated works, at Aston Bank House, Bache Mill.  
Full planning permission granted, subject to conditions, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.

Responses:

Item 2 was dealt with at 209/23.

Item 10 was considered. The cutting of landowners' hedges is not part of the parish council's remit. However, the matter has been discussed with the relevant contractor and is in hand.

**211/23 – Finance Report for August & September 2023**

**Precept Balance b/fwd from July 2023 £6,664.11**

**LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. HSBC bank charges for August/September  | £ 13.20 |
| 2. Clerk's net salary for September 2023<br>NB August payslip still awaited from Payroll Administrator | £254.64 |
| 3, PAYE on Clerk's September salary  | £ 16.20 |
| 4. PKF Littlejohn LLP – external auditor's fee for 2022/2023 audit                                     | £378.00 |
| 5. Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in August/September 2023              |         |
| • Aug/Sept. contribution to telephone and Broadband provision at £20 per month                         | £ 40.00 |
| • IT support provided by Andy Holmes   | £120.00 |
| • Travel expenses at 45p per mile<br>27.9.23 to Westhope Village Hall for                              |         |

Parish council meeting - 34 miles	<u>£ 15.30</u>		
Total of August/September expenses	£175.30	<u>£175.30</u>	
		£837.34	£ 837.34
<b>Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to October 2023</b>			<b><u>£5826.77</u></b>

Cllr, O'Boyle **proposed** that cheques totalling £837.34 listed above be authorised for payment

Proposed **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**

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

### **Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed**

<b>Precept Funds</b>	<b>£ 5,826.77</b>
<b>Ring-fenced, third party and reserve funds</b>	<b><u>£19,051.12</u></b>
	<b><u>£24,877.89</u></b>

Cllr. O'Boyle verified the Clerk's reconciliation between HSBC bank statements 372 and 373 with DPC's Cash Book

### **212/23 - Consideration of Place Plan Review**

The following projects had been submitted to form DPC's part of the Craven Arms Area Plan:-

- Improvement to Broadband and mobile phone signal in outlying areas (Westhope/Middlehope in particular).
- A playground for Diddlebury
- Provision of public transport
- Measures to slow the speed of traffic using the B4368 in the Corvedale.

Vicky Turner, SC's Place Plan Officer, has responded as follows:-

- No response yet from Broadband team
- Speeding on B4368 in the Corvedale. Highways Department have rejected all DPC's proposals as there have been no accidents in the area. If DPC wants LED street lighting by the Corvedale Inn (formerly Sun Inn) it will have to pay for it through the precept.
- There is insufficient road width for a pavement to be provided in those parts of Mill Lane which are without a pavement.

- Playground. Cannot be funded from the Craven Arms local CIL fund as it is not linked to a development. Suggests DPC raises its precept to fund one.

If DPC wants a playground it will have to pay for it, including either raising the money to buy some land or to appeal to a philanthropic land owner, or a charity. If DPC had some land, the cost of setting up a playground isn't beyond its resources, although DPC's insurance premium may increase significantly. Cllr. Rattu asked why the grassy area in the school play area couldn't be adapted and used as a public playground. The Chairman agreed to open up discussions with the Headmaster to see if using this area as a playground, open seven days a week, is a viable option. He will report back to the next meeting.

**213/23 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only).**

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.20pm

**Date and Venue of the next meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023