

**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 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall.**

**171/23 – Present**

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. A Rattu

**172/23 - Appointment of a Vice-Chairman for 2023/2024 and completion of an Acceptance of Office form**

The Chairman **proposed** that Cllr. Robert Povall be nominated as Vice-Chairman

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pardoe

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

Cllr. R Povall agreed to accept the office and signed the Acceptance of Office Form.

**173/23 - Appointment of a representative for Diddlebury Village Hall Committee**

Cllr. S Povall offered to be appointed as the DVHC representative.

The Chairman **proposed** that Cllr. S Povall be appointment representative of DVH Committee

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watson

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

**174/23 – 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.

**175/23 – Public involvement session,**

No matters were raised.

**176/23– Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting both held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. Martyn **Proposed** that the Minutes of the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Watson

**Vote on Proposal:** The three councillors who had attended the meeting voted in favour of the Proposal.

The Chairman signed the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2023

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

The Chairman **Proposed** that the Minutes of the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Martyn

**Vote on Proposal:** The three Councillors who had attended the meeting voted in favour of the Proposal.

The Chairman signed the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### **177/23/1: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.**

No matters arising were raised.

### **177/23/2: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.**

The residents of No 2 Pedlar's Rest, Seifton have requested a "concealed entrance" highways sign be erected on the B4368. The Clerk was requested to contact the Highways Dept.

### **178/23 - Reports**

**178/23/1 - Chairman's report.** The Chairman reported he had completed the Town & Parish Council Police Survey for 2023.survey. He has spent much time dealing with problems on the Peaton to Bouldon road, which he will elaborate on in Highways.

**178/23/2- Cllr. Motley's Report.** Cllr. Motley said that a lot of time had been taken up dealing with the Local Government Boundaries Commission, whose proposals SC disagrees with and she elaborated on the areas of disagreement. The consultation period closes on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Until the outcome is known, the town and parish council possible boundary changes cannot be progressed.

Philip Dunne MP is standing down at the next election and she has been involved in finding his replacement.

SC has to find £51 million worth of savings in this financial year so all budgets are being examined. Amalgamation approaches have been made to SC by the West Midlands Authority - covering Birmingham and the Black Country - to form a combined West Midlands Combined Authority. SC is also exploring possible amalgamations with rural neighbours including Powys and Montgomeryshire.

She reminded councillors to consider Broadband provision when drafting their infrastructure plans. SWS are keen to get involved.

Ash die-back. She advised landowners are responsible for trees lining highways. The Chairman regretted that SC have not put out more information for the public about why trees are being felled and what the replacement policy is. Cllr. R Povall advised that it is easy to get felling licences but current scientific advice seems to be that trees should not be replaced for five years to avoid cross-contamination. Cllr. O'Boyle felt there should be a website or email address available for people to learn about why trees are being felled and when they will be replaced. Cllr. R Povall felt the NFU and SC should liaise on publicity. Cllr. Motley agreed to investigate the issue.

**178/23/3 – Westhope Village Hall** Cllr. Watson advised that the village hall will be closed for a least a week in early August, whilst the kitchen is being refurbished and plumbing works carried out.

### **179/23 – Planning matters**

Councillors considered application **23/02130/FUL** for the erection of an extension to an agricultural building at Sunnyside Farm, Corfton, SY7 9DF. It was noted that no public objections had been raised, the access already exists. Councillors voted by a majority to support the application.

Councillors noted, but were not required to vote on application **23/02081/CPE** for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing agricultural building at Clowes Farm, Great Sutton, Stanton Lacy. The applicants attended the parish council meeting and confirmed they were investigating whether they needed planning permission for a stable block erected on the other side of the road from the agricultural building.

### **180/23 – Highways and Environmental issues**

180/23/1: The Chairman advised that the Tally Ho pub in Bouldon is due to re-open on the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Unfortunately, Highways plan to close the road between Peaton and Bouldon from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> August, 18 days, creating an open trench across the road and the erection of a retaining wall, making access to Bouldon extremely difficult for residents, harvesting arrangements and potential customers for the Tally Ho. With assistance from Cllr. Motley, the Chairman arranged a meeting with Mr Keyland of Highways and the following compromise was agreed: the road will be closed to all traffic during the day, but metal sheets will be laid across the trench when work finishes for the day and at weekends, the road closed signs will be removed and a local farmer has kindly agreed the Highways machinery can be kept in his adjoining field whilst the road is open. This will enable the newly opened Tally Ho to trade in the evenings and at weekends. The Chairman will supervise these arrangements and ensure they are implemented.

180/23/2: The Highways Traffic Modelling Study on the B4368 from Morville to Diddlebury, initiated by Munslow Parish Council and commissioned by Mr Nick Newton, an SC Highways Engineer, from WSP (a firm which does a lot of work for Highways) has not been disclosed to Munslow PC. Mr Newton advised Munslow PC that he was not satisfied with the report and was seeking funding to obtain a second report. Mr Newton has now been instructed to make the original report available to Munslow Parish Council by the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023, for their next meeting. As Diddlebury Parish is directly affected by this report, the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Newton asking him to make the report available to Diddlebury Parish Council at the same time as Munslow.

180/23/3: Traffic/children playing issues at The Moors. The Clerk had obtained three signs asking drivers to slow down to protect children playing in The Moors and Moors View. Cllr. Martyn kindly agreed to erect them. Cllr. O’Boyle felt the signs might be ignored and wondered whether the Moors could be designated as a children’s safe play area. Cllr. R Povall felt this highly unlikely as its part of the highway and is used to get to the Severn Trent pumping station as well as by delivery lorries and residents. Cllr. O’Boyle felt the children deserved protection. It was agreed that the issue be reviewed as an agenda item at the September meeting, to see if the signs were having any impact. If residents of the Moors felt this is an issue they wish to be heard on, they could attend the September meeting and make their views known.

### **181/23 – Correspondence and communications received in June 2023**

Councillors considered the following correspondence and communications:

#### Highways matters

1. Email from Clerk to Munslow Parish Council advising that the Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer who commissioned the Highways Study for the B4368, which he is not going to publish, is Mr Nick Newton and his email address is Nick.Newton@shropshire.gov.uk
2. Email from Cllr. Martyn with suggested speed control measures (rubble strips on entry to 30mph zones, or striped line).
3. Response to Clerk’s email to Highways Dept. re flooding across the highways due to blocked/collapsed drain issues underneath the B4368 by the Sun Inn (Corvedale Inn). They advise “We have looked into this issue and can advise that the work required will be completed in our programme of upcoming maintenance”.

#### Place Plan responses

4. Mr Lewis supports a play area in Diddlebury village.
5. Mr Bennett suggests a cycle track/footpath on B4368 linking Diddlebury to Corfton, from Mill Lane to the Corvedale Inn area.

#### General correspondence

6. Email from Cllr. Watson advising of a fly-tipping incident by the Corve bridge. The residents who reported it to her had kindly cleared the rubbish away.
7. Email from Cllr. Motley sent via SALC, giving an up-date on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s consultation on the Review of Shropshire’s Divisional Boundaries. The consultation period closes on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Details are available to view on: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/shropshire](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/shropshire)

#### Planning

8. 23/01497/VAR - Proposed residential development land to the west of Bache Mill, Diddlebury: Proposal: Variation of Condition No. 6 (ecological buffer zone) of planning permission No. 20/03100/FUL, to allow omission of fencing and seeding buffer zone with grass and wildflower mix.  
Planning Permission granted 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

9. 23/01606/FUL - external alterations to entrance loggia to farmhouse and conversion of outbuildings to form No. 3 holiday letting units (re-submission) at Glebe Farm, Mill Lane, Diddlebury SY7 9DH  
Planning permission granted 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### **182/23 - Consideration of revisions for the Place Plan Review**

The Chairman had contacted Vicky Turner at SC as the form devised by SC for this review was lacking in clarity. He hopes the form will be revised in time for him to complete it for DPC. An article had been placed in the Corvedale News and on the Google Group seeking suggestions for infrastructure projects from parishioners. So far there had been two responses:

One suggested a cycle track/footpath from Mill Lane to the Corvedale Inn in Corfton. The second suggested a children's play area in Diddlebury village.

Where a playground could be sited was discussed. The parish council owns no land, so it would require either a land-owning benefactor or a CPO. Cllr. S Povall felt land might be donated in return for permission to build affordable houses.

### **183/23 - Consideration of the PPSG (Parish Plan Steering Group) and related matters**

The Chairman advised that Mr Ian Davies has now stepped down as Chairman of the PPSG and a successor is being sought. Cllr. O'Boyle suggested seeing if anyone in the community wanted to take the role on. The PPSG was set up to monitor/advise on development in the parish. Many of the PPSG's suggestions have now been enacted and it is perhaps time to review its work and revise the Parish Plan. The difficulty is last time there was a lot of help available from SC in analysing the information gained from the questionnaire circulated throughout the parish and producing coherent data. Cllr. Motley suggested contacting Vicky Turner to see what, if any, help is available from SC now: the Chairman agreed he would contact Vicky. It was agreed the PPSG be a September agenda item as DPC will need to drive the matter forward. Cllr. S Povall requested a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Ian Davies for all his hard work on the PPSG.

### **184/23 – Financial matters**

1. **Precept balance b/fwd from May 2023** **£7,353.34**

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

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. HSBC – bank charges - statement 370                               | £ 8.60  |
| 2. Clerk's net salary for June 2023                                  | £254.64 |
| 3. PAYE on Clerk's June 2023 salary                                  | £ 16.20 |
| 4. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by the Clerk in June 2023</u> |         |
| • June 2023 contribution towards                                     |         |
| Telephone & Broadband provision @ £20 p.m                            | £20.00  |
| • 1 pkt white copier paper   | £ 4.75  |
| • Postage to PKF Littlejohn LLP auditors                             | £ 1.60  |
| • Ink Spot: 3 road signs for The Moors                               | £21.60  |
| • Clerk's travel expenses claimed at 45p per mile                    |         |
| • To Westhope Village Hall for meeting on                            |         |

28.06.23 - 32 miles

Total mileage 32 miles @ 45p per mile	<u>£14.40</u>		
Total of June administrative expenses	<u>£62.35</u>	<u>£ 62.35</u>	
		£341.79	<u>£ 341.79</u>
<b>Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to July 2023</b>			<b><u>£7,011.55</u></b>

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

**CIL /Neighbourhood Fund** bal. b/fwd from May

£13,564.62

<b>Less:</b> . Westcotec Ltd - servicing of mobile SID	<u>£ 168.00.</u>		
	<u>£13,396.62</u>		<b>£13,396.62</b>

**Environmental works & asset management fund** Balance b/fwd **£ 700.42**

**Legal expenses ring fenced fund** Balance b/fwd **£ 750.00**

**Flood Action Group funds** Balance b/fwd **£ 246.35**

**Diddlebury Village Hall car park maintenance fund** **£ 3,500.00**

**Reserves for S.C. elections** **Balance b/fwd** **£ 457.73**

Cllr. O'Boyle **proposed** that cheques totalling £509.79 as listed be authorised for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watson

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

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

1. Precept balance	£ 7,011.55
2. Community Infrastructure Levy/Neighbourhood Fund	£13,396.62
3 Environmental works & asset maintenance fund	£ 700.42
4. Legal expenses ring fenced fund	£ 750.00
5. FAG third party funds	£ 246.35
6. DVH car park reserves maintenance fund	£ 3,500.00
7. Elections reserve fund	<u>£ 457.73</u>
Total:	<b><u>£26,062.67</u></b>

**4. The verification by Councillors of the Clerk's reconciliation between HSBC bank statement 370 and DPC's Cash Book was conducted by Cllr. O'Boyle.**

## **185/23 - Review of Audit 2022 - 2023**

As yet nothing has been heard from the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

## **186/23 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only).**

186/23/1 - On a recent visit to Norfolk the Chairman had seen a plaque next to a war memorial which gave a potted history of every man named on the memorial. He would like to look into the cost of such a plaque and whether it would require a faculty to place such a plaque by the Diddlebury war memorial. He will report back with his findings.

186/23/2: Cllr. R Povall noted that the postal deliveries in this parish appear to occur on only three days a week. He enquired of the Craven Arms sorting office why this was and was

told they have 12 staff vacancies. Cllr. O'Boyle had noted that the post box collection time had changed from 11am to 9am.

Cllr. O'Boyle gave his apologies for the July meeting.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.00pm

**Date and Venue of the next meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023,  
7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

**Dated:** 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023