

# DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, The Grange, Leinthall Earls, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6  
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## MINUTES

**Of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 19th August 2015, 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

### **091/15: Present and apologies for absence**

Cllr. D Hedgley (Chairman), Cllr. R Povall, Cllr. T O'Boyle, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. M Thomas, Cllr. K Worthington

### **Apologies**

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

### **In attendance:**

Four members of the public and the Clerk Mrs J de Rusett.

### **092/15: 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.

The Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 6 - planning application 15/02872/FUL - on the basis he is a neighbour and friend of the applicant, Mrs S J Collier.

### **093/15: Public involvement session:**

The Chairman asked if anyone present had any comments to make on the planning application lodged by Mrs Collier: she is unable to attend tonight . Whilst he will not be taking part in the vote or debate about this application, as her neighbour and the person most affected by her proposed works, he was able to say he had no objections. No one raised any comments on the planning application.

### **094/15: Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 22nd July 2015.**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd July 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Worthington proposed that the Minutes be approved as a correct record, Cllr. O'Boyle seconded the proposal: the members by a majority voted to approve the Minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

## **095/15: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 22nd July 2015 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda**

053/15:

The Chairman advised the resurfacing works in Mill Lane were now completed. Mr Drakes reported that the works had again caused chaos to residents and road users and the standard of the work was not good: there is a large pot hole in the road outside his house which was not filled in, instead the contractors all drove around it. He had heard complaints from other residents who were dissatisfied with the standard of the work. He also confirmed the road markings were now completed.

Cllr. O'Boyle noted that zig-zag lines have been painted adjacent to the village hall car park: he queried whether they could be extended down the road further, to prevent people parking on the road, blocking it: this often occurred when weddings and funerals took place.

The Chairman agreed to raise these issues with Chris Jackson of Highways.

058/15/2:

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council is relying on Cllr. Fowler and Unitary Cllr. Motley to advise us when steps need to be taken concerning the availability of the EU and the LEADER funding.

058/15/3

The Chairman advised that the Notice concerning the vacancy for a councillor has been put on all notice boards, on the website and in the Corvedale News, with a closing date for applications of 18th September. It was proposed that interviews for any applications should be held on either 21st or 22nd September ready for the meeting on 23rd September. Ideally the interview panel should consist of all members of the Council: set questions should be prepared and a time limit given to each candidate. If a number of applications are received, consideration be given to drawing up a short-list of candidates to be interviewed.

## **096/15 - Planning Matters**

096/15/1:

15/02872/FUL Application by Mrs S J Collier of Bouldon House, Bouldon, SY7 9DP for proposed works to increase existing one-bay garden room to two bays, using existing barn.

The Chairman took no part in this application.

The remaining members considered the plans and application submitted: having satisfied themselves on the scale of the works proposed, and by the confirmation that the nearest neighbour had no objections to it, Cllr. S Povall proposed that the Council support the application and raise no objections to it: this was seconded by Cllr R Povall and passed by a majority vote.

096/15/2:

15/04596/ENF - The enforcement notice relating to Milford House, Diddlebury was discussed. Enforcement issues are meant to be resolved within eight weeks of a complaint being made, thus a response should be received by 19th June. Despite several enquiries from the Clerk, the Case Worker, Ms Bradley, had failed to respond. The Chairman advised he had tried to contact Ms Bradley: she was not available but he was able to establish that she was no further forward to resolving the matter. Cllr. Motley was going to pursue the issue,

but we have heard nothing from her to date. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a further letter to Ms Bradley, urging action.

096/15/3:

The empty houses at Bouldon

As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk had again written to Mr F Povall asking him to take steps regarding the bat surveys before the end of September, after which the "window" was closed until 2016. No response had been received. The Clerk had also contacted Mrs J Preston, the Empty Homes Officer, asking if she could come to a DPC meeting to give advice on this matter. Mrs Preston had responded on 7th August. In the Chairman's view, her response was unhelpful and inaccurate in several respects: in particular she indicated that Shropshire Council would not take any action to bring these houses back into use. She has also not advised DPC that she had been negotiating with Mr Povall simultaneously with DPC's efforts to progress the matter. The Chairman had discussed the contents of Mrs Preston's response with Cllr Fowler and Cllr. Motley at length and they, with assistance from the Clerk, had drafted a detailed letter in reply which was despatched on the 15th August: a detailed response from Mrs Preston is awaited, but she has asked for a meeting initially just with Cllr. Motley.

The stance taken by the Empty Homes Officer was debated at length and it was felt that the criteria she was applying was incorrect. Cllr R Povall was concerned that DPC was urging Mr F. Povall to take action on the houses whilst Shropshire Council were taking an opposite view. Cllr. R Povall felt that DPC's actions might be construed as harassment. Cllr. O'Boyle felt that DPC had merely been carrying out its duty to parishioners who had stipulated they wanted the houses brought back into use, and that throughout DPC had made it clear they wanted to support Mr F Povall and to find a resolution that satisfied him and the community. It had never been the intention of DPC to harass Mr Povall, only to work with him. It was agreed the Clerk will seek legal advice from SALC. It was further agreed that no further action will be taken, pending the outcome of Cllr. Motley's meeting with Mrs Preston and that for now future steps will be taken through Shropshire Council only.

096/15/4

12 Corfton Bache

Cllr. O'Boyle reported at the last meeting that he had been informed building works were taking place at 12 Corfton Bache. The Clerk had checked her records and with Shropshire Council: no planning application has been submitted for any works. It was agreed that Cllr's R Povall and O'Boyle will visit the property and assess whether the works are within permitted development parameters or not and will report back to the next meeting.

**097/15 - Reports**

097/15/1 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on his parish council activities in July/August. The Notices concerning the vacancy for a councillor had been placed on notice boards. He had done a lot of work in connection with the issue of the Bouldon houses and the Milford House enforcement notice. He had perused the crime reports: there are a lots of burglaries in Shropshire especially from outhouses plus heating oil and Land Rover Defenders were particular targets - nationwide 38 Defenders have been stolen recently.

He rounded up the news from the Rural Services Network, which confirmed what we are experiencing - a dearth of affordable homes for youngsters, who are being driven from the countryside: it is anticipated with within the next six years 40% of rural housing will be occupied by old people.

#### 097/15/2 - Diddlebury Village Hall Report

Cllr. O'Boyle reported that the third stage of the lottery bid has now been submitted and a response is expected by November. If the bid is successful it is hoped works will start in the spring of 2016. Cllr. S Povall asked whether test holes had been dug: Cllr. O'Boyle confirmed they had, and no problems had been revealed

#### 097/15/3 - Broadband provision

Cllr. R Povall has looked into a scheme whereby £3,000 vouchers are being offered to businesses in areas where there is no BT Broadband provision: oddly, farmers are excluded - seemingly farming isn't viewed as being a business. He has heard of one group of small businesses banding together, pooling their individual £3,000 vouchers and paying jointly for fibre optic cables to be laid, to serve their area.

Cllr. M Thomas advised that a satellite user in Munslow had found it to be unsatisfactory.

#### **098/15 - Review of Highways Issues**

The Chairman reported on "e" mails from a resident of Moors View who has concerns about the speed of traffic on the B4368 above the Moors and a fear that vehicles could end up in her garden. He is going to meet the resident and Mr Glyn Shaw, the Highways Engineer, tomorrow, to see what can be done to alleviate her concerns. The various options for dealing with this problem were discussed: it was felt essential for a way to be found to slow the traffic on the bridge by The Moors, especially lorries, which at the narrowest part of the footpath almost come into contact with pedestrians. Road humps, a chicane system, narrowing the road to create one-way priority and a VAS (vehicle awareness sign) were discussed as possible remedies.

#### **099/15 - Correspondence**

The members considered the following items of correspondence:

1. Document "Ruling Boost for Shropshire affordable housing developments."
2. Planning notification:
  - 2.1 - 15/00436/FUL - Mr R Parkes, Ward Farm, Westhope. Application for the erection of portable chicken sheds.  
Planning permission granted 06.06.15
  - 2.2 - 15/02418/FUL - Shepherd's Barn, Corfton, SY7 9LD - application for installation of PV solar panels on roof of existing dwelling.  
Planning permission granted 07.08.15
3. 6.8.15 - Policing in West Mercia - third annual survey for Town & Parish Councils. To be completed and returned by 16th October 2015.

4. 5.8.15 - "e" mail from Amey advising of road works on B4368 commencing 14th September and scheduled to take 4 weeks.
5. 10./89.15 - Notification of workshops for the evaluation of hip and knee surgery. Local venue is Mascall Centre, Ludlow on 24th August 2015 from 6 - 8pm.
6. 12.8.15 - Invitation from Shropshire Hills AONB for Parish and Town Councillors to become members of the AONB - 3 vacancies to be filled. Closing date 20th September 2015.
7. 16.8.15 - "e" mail from Geoff Neden re the FAG.
8. 17.8.15 - Update from NHSFutureFit re the future of Shropshire Hospitals and Urgent Care Centres.
9. 18.8.15 "e" mail Clerk to Planning Department seeking information about possible unauthorised extension being built at 12 Corfton Bache.
10. Bundle of "e" mails between Julia Preston, Empty Homes Office, SC and Diddlebury Parish Council - to be dealt with under Agenda item 6.

### **100/15 - Finance**

#### 100/15/1: Finance Report

Corrected balance of Precept Funds brought forward from July 2015 **£6,341.28**

#### **Less: cheques to be authorised for payment on 19.08.15**

• Clerk's net salary for August 2015	£113.47	
• HMRC – PAYE on Clerk's salary for August 2015	£ 28.20	
• Mrs D Malley - payroll administration - half year fees	£ 22.50	
• Clerk's expenses for August 2015 (itemized below)	<u>£ 34.26</u>	
Total deductions from Precept Funds for August	£198.43	<u>£ 198.43</u>
		<u>£6,142.85</u>

#### Total funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council

1. Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to September 2015	<b>£6,142.85</b>
2. Highways & Environment Grant funds b/fwd from July 2015	<b>£1,637.07</b>
3. Funds ring-fenced for Projects c/fwd from July 2015	<b>£ 147.18</b>
4. Other ring-fenced sums held in Diddlebury PC's Account	
• Corvedale Youth Club	<b>£ 650.39</b>
• Diddlebury Stream Management Group	<b>£ 150.00</b>
• Balance of Donations for War Memorial Appeal fund	<u>£ 155.50</u>
<b>Total of DPC funds c/fwd to September 2015</b>	<b><u>£8,882.99</u></b>

### **Clerk's expenses for August 2015**

• August 2015 Contribution towards Broadband & tel. expenses	£ 5.00
• Stretton Print: 1 x HP364 black ink cartridge & book of 12 2nd class stamps	£14.48
• 1 certificate of posting & postage for Cllr. Worthington	£ 0.63
• 1 certificate of posting & postage to Mazars, auditors.	£ 0.95
• Travelling expenses – claimed at 30p per mile 19.08.15 - from Leinthall Earls to DVH for meeting – 44 miles @ 30p	<u>£13.20</u>
Total of expenses claimed for August 2015	<b><u>£34.26</u></b>

Cllr. R Povall proposed the Finance Report be adopted and the cheques be authorised: seconded by Cllr. M Thomas and unanimously agreed by the members.

#### 100/15/2

The Clerk advised that Mazars, the External Auditors, had now completed the 2014/2015 Audit and the Accounts and Annual Return had been approved. A copy of the relevant statutory notice was on the website and had been posted on the parish notice boards.

#### 100/15/3

The Cash Book/ Bank balance reconciliation for HSBC bank statement 273 dated 14th August 2015 had been prepared and was checked and approved by Cllr. O'Boyle.

### **101/15 - Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

The Chairman had reviewed the DPC Steering Group programme and noted that there had been a slowing of progress in some areas, notably a co-ordinated approach to parking in Diddlebury and flashing speed signs in the village .

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Date and venue of next meeting:

7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd September 2015 at Westhope Village Hall.

**MINUTES SIGNED BY D Hedgley (Chairman)**

**DATED 23 September 2015**