**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 Extraordinary General Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Thursday 1st November 2018 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall**

**128/18: Present and apologies for absence**

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

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. K Worthington

**In attendance**:

The Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett, Unitary Cllr. C Motley and 26 members of the public

Before the meeting commenced the Chairman welcomed the members of the public and advised that this meeting had been called purely to deal with planning application 18/04563/OUT, an application for ten entry level dwellings and seven self-build dwellings on land at The Moors and Moors View, Diddlebury. Due to the intensity of feeling locally about the application it had been deemed prudent to hold this separate meeting to consider it.

The Chairman explained that features of the application did not chime with DPC’s current understanding of planning law nor SC’s strategic plans: Both Cllr. Motley and DPC had sought the attendance of a Planning Officer at tonight’s hearing to explain the anomalies and changes which are unfolding. No officer agreed to attend but correspondence between Cllr. Motley and the Planning Officer indicated that aspects of planning law are in a state of flux at present. It was also known that the Applicants, who had declined to attend this meeting, had drafted their Application without professional help and without any pre-planning advice from Shropshire Council.

The Chairman went on advise that a development in this matter had occurred very late this afternoon, as a result of which it will not be wise to deal with this application tonight.

Late this afternoon Cllr. O’Boyle had noticed a late Consultee Comment had been uploaded onto the Planning Portal. He had alerted the Chairman to it.

The Comment was headed **“SC Affordable Houses” – Comment Date: Thu 01 Nov 2018**”

There was no indication as to who had posted this Comment and thus on what authority their comments rested. It was posted too late in the day for enquiries to be made of the Planning Department as to its authorship and thus the validity or otherwise of this Comment was open to doubt.

The Comment is available to be viewed on the Planning Portal. The thrust of the Comment is that there is no evidence accompanying this application that there is any housing need in Diddlebury. The SC Housing Register does not evidence any housing needs within the Parish. Further, the Comment goes on to state: “The Self Build Register does not list any individual with an interest in Diddlebury or the surrounding area. Irrespective of a lack of evidence, the application site is not considered to be ‘Suitable for housing’ in planning policy terms”.

The Chairman, supported by Cllr. Motley, **Proposed** that until the authenticity of this Comment could be ascertained, it is not possible for the planning application to be dealt with by DPC tonight. It will therefore be adjourned, to be re-listed for hearing as soon as the credentials of the Comment can be ascertained.

**Proposal seconded** by Cllr. M Thomas

**Vote**: Four votes in support of the Proposal

 Three abstentions

Proposal carried by a majority.

The Chairman thanked the public for their attendance and regretted that the meeting could not proceed.

**129/18 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

129/18/1 The Clerk had been tasked to respond to SC concerning the Petition raised by the residents of Lower Corfton. She has not seen the Petition, so feels unable to comment on it.. It was agreed that Cllr. O’Boyle will draft a response.

129/18/2 The Clerk reported her Broadband speed has now dropped below 0.95mbts which has caused a range of problems, making her job as Clerk almost impossible. Discussion about her setting up an office in the village hall was found not to be feasible.

It was agreed that a notice will be placed on DPC’s website directing DPC users to the email address of Cllr. O’Boyle – tomoboylediddlebury@hotmail.co.uk – as an emergency measure. The Clerk will also investigate the possibility of getting a satellite system set up, as BT have indicated fibre optic lines will not be available in her area in the foreseeable future. She will initially contact SWS.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

**Date and venue of the next Diddlebury Parish Council Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting will be on Wednesday 28th November 2018, 7.30pm in Diddlebury Village Hall

**If a further EGM is to be called an Agenda will be issued**

**MINUTES SIGNED BY Robert Povall**

**DATED 28th November 2018**