

**DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley**

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, 1 Pipe Aston Barns, Pipe Aston, Ludlow SY8 2HG

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**MINUTES**

**Of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall.**

**103/21 – Present**

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

**Apologies** were received and accepted from Cllr. R Povall

**In attendance** - the Clerk, Shropshire Cllr. Cecilia Motley, seven members of the public, Community police Officer Lisa and Ms Rachael Corner of SWS..

**104/21 – 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.

**105/21 – Questions & Answers session with Ms Rachael Corner of SWS, concerning the provision of Broadband signal in Diddlebury parish.**

Ms Corner of SWS had been asked to attend the meeting to, in particular, discuss the possibility of getting Broadband provision to those parts of the parish which have either no or very poor Broadband signal, namely parts of Westhope, Burwood, Middlehope and Bouldon. The parish councillors and local residents discussed the various problems and explored solutions for 35 minutes. SWS had looked at possible solutions for all individual properties currently affected and had concluded that some properties might have options for signal which can be explored, but for others there are currently no solutions which SWS can offer as the properties have no line of sight from existing masts and are too remote for fibre cables to be laid to the properties as the cost is prohibitive at present. SWS is committed to getting Broadband to all properties in Shropshire and she urged residents to contact SWS either on their website or by telephone and register an expression of interest in obtaining Broadband signal and ask for a survey. SWS can then explore the options for getting signal to the properties and can advise on the Gigabit vouchers which households can access. These vouchers are worth £1500 for households and £3500 for businesses. The more households in a community that pursue the voucher funding, the more funds SWS will have to improve their infrastructure. A community leader in such areas would be helpful to co-ordinate funding packages plus interest from land owners who are willing to allow cables to cross their land. Ms Corner advised that Connecting Shropshire have access to top-up funds. The

government has pledged that by 2025 every UK property will have Broadband. BDUK will have access to £5 billion of grants and SWS has submitted a tender for further funding for Shropshire.

Cllr. Rattu had responded to the Public Review by BDUK on behalf of DPC and local residents to highlight the areas within the parish that should be prioritised as intervention areas by the BDUK Gigabit scheme.

Satellite Broadband signal was discussed as an interim solution, currently the cost of which is rather high (£450 for hardware then £90 per month thereafter).

Following the end of her presentation Ms Corner then went into separate discussions with residents from Westhope and Middlehope. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

#### **106/21 – Public involvement session.**

No issues were raised, but a Community Police Officer, Lisa from West Mercia Police had attended the meeting to discuss the West Mercia Police Community Charter which is due for renewal on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (item 13 in Correspondence List). It was agreed DPC will renew the Charter: DPC's concerns remain thefts, particularly from farms, speeding and internet scams.

The Chairman thanked Lisa for her attendance.

#### **107/21 – Approval of the Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

The Minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. Rattu **Proposed** that the Minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Neden

**Vote on Proposal:** Adopted by a majority of seven members with one abstention

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

#### **108/21: Matters arising from the Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.**

084/21/2 – Mirror for Bache Mill junction. Cllr. Stephen Povall confirmed the mirror will be installed shortly.

098/12: Raised manhole cover on B4368 adjacent to top of Mill Lane. The Clerk had checked and confirmed the necessary remedial work has been done.

#### **109/21 – Reports**

109/21/1 – Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that he and Cllr. Motley had been consulted by Mr Burgess about the Sutton Farm planning consent. The planners had put restrictions on it which he was unhappy about. A new layout has now been agreed which means all outside lights will be contained within a quadrangle. The Chairman advised that Mr Ian Kilby, head of planning, has left SC as has planning officer Heather Owen. Mr Kilby's role is being covered in the interim by Mr. Tim Rogers.

He has been involved with the problems at the Tally Ho in Bouldon: he is able to confirm the Tally Ho will re-open – when new staff are appointed.

He had spent some time researching the Gigabit voucher scheme and discussing it with Cllr. Rattu.

He was also in liaison over the next step in the DVH car park work.

109/21/2 – Cllr. Motley's report: Cllr. Motley has been in contact with Ffion Hughes about DVH's car park and it seems the resurfacing scheme is progressing. She spoke at length about the Town & Parish Boundaries Review and the Parliamentary Boundary Review. The latter is not at all what was expected: the Ludlow constituency is being extended almost into Shrewsbury and out towards Much Wenlock. She had planned to hold a Chairs and Clerk meeting to discuss the Town and Parish Boundary review, but the parameters of the scheme are still awaited as there are many anomalies to be considered. She suggested that Corvedale parish councils meet informally to discuss any boundary issues they have. It is likely that small parish councils and parish meetings will be amalgamated with larger neighbours. She will call a Chairs and Clerks meeting hopefully in October.

SC's Local Government Budget 2023 funding from government remains unknown as the government have not yet provided details. The only help SC will get with the cost adult and social care will come from increasing property rates – it seems there will be no help from government.

A new Shropshire Council initiative is Shropshire Local – SL. SL is an information service for Shropshire residents who live far from Shrewsbury. An Information Desk has been set up in Ludlow Library and a mobile library van has been repurposed as a travelling information service. It is hoped it will stop at village halls if co-operation is forthcoming from village hall committees.

109/21/3 – Flood Action Group report. Cllr. Neden reported that the FAG has had a busy month. They have:

- Provided information to Ruth Awaea, a Doctoral Researcher at the School of Engineering, Computing & the Built Environment at Birmingham City University, who is carrying out work “identifying workable improvements in the flood management system in England and help identify specific legal and governance requirements.”
- Arranged a work party which carried out the usual clearance tasks in the Diddle Brook at the bottom of Mill Lane on 28<sup>th</sup> August. One more work party will probably need to be organised before the end of the year.
- Cleared Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the Diddle Brook and publicised the need to eradicate this alien plant.
- Complained to Highways about the lack of access to Andy Keyland at the Craven Arms Depot.
- Given advice on potential flooding to prospective house purchasers in Bache Mill.
- Chased Highways over their promised but unfulfilled actions at Peaton Strand following the site meeting there in April.
- Held site meetings with local residents and the developer on potential flooding problems at the new housing development in Bache Mill.

109/21/4 – Westhope Village Hall report Cllr. Watson (as Chairman of WVH committee) reported that a full programme of events is underway at Westhope and are well attended. Good progress is being made on the purchase of the Hall from Mis Dyer

109/21/5 - Diddlebury Village Hall Report Cllr. Rattu delivered a report prepared by the Chairman of DVH Committee.

**AGM:** 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 AGM's were held consecutively in a combined event due to the impact of covid. Accounts for both years were approved. Following a successful year for activities and events in year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 negligible activities were held in year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The three required trustees elected are Steven Ross, Jayne Kirk and Mike Woodhouse.

**Activities:** Nearly all activities have now re-started post-covid.

The End of Lockdown party was well attended and received. New residents to the area welcomed the opportunity to meet neighbours and make new friends. The school children entered the Art Competition with great enthusiasm and 72 entries were received.

First monthly Flicks in The Sticks is starting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Harvest Supper is set for 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Cllrs. O'Boyle and Watson stated they felt, as a committee member of DVH, the DVH report should be drafted by Cllr. Rattu. Cllr. Rattu explained the report was from the committee of the DVH and all committee members contribute to it therefore, content wise, it was accurate.

Cllr. Watson raised with Cllr. Rattu, in his capacity as a member of the DVH committee, the disappointment expressed by some Diddlebury families about the criteria for the Children's Amazing Art Competition advertised in the August Corvedale News. It seemed the DVHC had limited it to children attending Corvedale Primary School which thus excluded the children of at least six Diddlebury families. As the school and the village hall are separate entities, she could not understand why this had been allowed.

109/21/6: Louise Powell Almshouses. Cllr. Morgan advised that Mr Eric Williams, the secretary of the Almshouses, has made contact with him, informing him that they have been carrying out maintenance during the summer to some of the properties including re-roofing works and replacing front doors. Mr Williams will arrange a face-to-face meeting with Cllr. Morgan in October.

### **110/21 – Planning applications**

110/21/1: **21/03813/LBC** – application for listed building consent for the replacement of all windows and the rear door at Brook Cottage, Peaton.

This application was considered. It was noted there were no objections to it on the planning portal. The works seemed necessary, sensible and appropriate to the style of the existing windows and door. Cllr. O'Boyle **Proposed** that DPC should support the application and raise no objection to it.

Cllr. Pardoe **seconded** the proposal.

**Vote:** Members voted unanimously to adopt the proposal.

110/21/2 - **21/03278/COU** – application for change of use from a holiday let to a residential annexe at Little Sutton Farm, Stanton Lacy.

The Chairman advised there were no public objections to the application. It is to allow the applicant's son to live on the farm whilst taking over the management of the farm. The applicant has confirmed the annexe will not be separated from the farm but will remain an integral part of the farm holding. There will be no alterations to the building itself. A query about a footpath is for SC to consider.

Cllr. Rattu **proposed** that DPC supports the application with a caveat the planning permission includes a condition that the annexe remains part of the farm holding so it cannot be sold off as a separate entity, and that the footpath issue be resolved.

Cllr. Neden **seconded** the proposal.

**Vote:** Seven members voted in favour, one abstained. Proposal adopted.

110/21/3 – Chairman's Action relating to **21/03367/FUL** – an application for the erection of an extension to an agricultural building to form a stock holding area at Sunny Side Farm, Corfton.

As no meeting was held in August, this application was dealt with utilising DPC's Standing Order No. 27, Sections (g) to (k). The Chairman, Cllr. R Povall and Cllr. S Povall formed a group of councillors and considered this application. They found nothing objectionable in the application and accordingly supported it.

110/21/4 – whilst DPC had not been formally notified of application 20/02197/VAR, they felt it was right to discuss it. The application involved a fairly minor re-location of Unit 3 at the old poultry sheds site in Corfton. It was generally agreed that the re-alignment of the house was actually an improvement, and so DPC had no objections to it. It was noted however that DPC has not had a response to a letter submitted to the planners some months ago about a flooding issue at the site. The Clerk will pursue the matter.

**111/12 – Consideration of highways and environmental matters including the provision of bins for the disposal of dog waste**

111/21/1: Provision of bins for dog waste. The responses listed in the Correspondence List were considered. The Clerk will collate the information and take the matter up with Street Scene at SC. It was suggested that signs should be printed and posted asking people to take their dog waste home if no bins are available.

111/21/2: Some concern was expressed that the speed indicator device has yet to make an appearance in the parish. Cllr. O’Boyle will discuss the matter with Mr Davies and report back to the next meeting.

111/21/3: Mrs Worthington reported that a serious pot hole in Westhope has not been fixed. The Clerk will take the matter up with Highways.

111/21/4: Cllr. Morgan reported that two road drains near Delbury Farm House were blocked solid and need jetting. The Clerk to report this.

111/21/5: The role of the EMO was discussed.

**112/21 – To consider the following communications and correspondence received and to deal with any issues arising therefrom as appropriate.**

1. **Broadband responses/issues:**

Mrs Betty Manley, Westhope. Mast in Burwood serves part of Westhope but not properties below the college, including the village hall. This creates problems with calling emergency services if needed, plus users of events can’t pay by card; some users of the hall need a wi-fi signal.

Mr & Mrs Barry Wilson: Live in Middlehope and have very poor signal which only available intermittent. Even using a mobile hub with sim supplied by BT aimed to the local mast only produces a poor and intermittent signal. Completely unable to stream. Pay BT a lot of money for a very poor and inadequate service.

Mrs Mary Neville of Peaton Strand reports that there is a terrible Broadband provision in Peaton Strand. Regularly it is 1.2 mps download and 0.9 mps upload.

Mr Scott Donovan, Middlehope, finds it extraordinary that Westhope is a black hole as the BT/EE mast provides Wifi 4G service that a number of people in Middlehope are on. Westhope is not a black hole although the quality and costs of the service are poor when compared with cable Broadband in Diddlebury and Superfast Broadband elsewhere.

Dr. Colin Stanford: Briefing paper of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 re points of concern for Middlehope residents.

“Connecting Shropshire’s update on Project Gigabit – August 2021

Cllr. Anil Rattu – 20.9.21 – Response to BDUK’s Public Review Project for Gigabit within Shropshire and acknowledgement by Mr Matt Envoy of BDUK.

Bundle of emails between Clerk and Connecting Shropshire and SWS.

2. **Provision/siting of possible dog waste bins in Diddlebury**

Mr L Robinson asks for one in the picnic/car park area at Harton Hollow, Westhope.  
Mr I Metcalfe suggests the bin by the bus shelter opposite The Sun Inn as the new dog bin trial.

Mrs S.Greenaway states fouling is bad at the lane which leads up to the walled nursery on the Delbury estate and by Home Barn Cottages. Many people walk there and do not pick up after their dogs.

Mr R Coleman asks for a bin by the bus shelter by the Swan Inn, Aston Munslow, plus signs to be affixed to the existing bins in Corfton, Diddlebury village hall, bus stop at top of Mill Lane.

Mr M Martyn requests a bin be sited against the stone wall at the split cross road in the Bache.

Plus a request to provide bins at Sparchford, Culmington.

Shropshire Council advise that they don't provide specific bins for dog waste any longer. They encourage the use of litter normal bins for bagged dog waste and can provide signage to attach to existing bins advising of this fact.

[StreetScene@sheopshire.gov.uk](mailto:StreetScene@sheopshire.gov.uk) will be contacted in due course by the parish council so they can look at mapping, see how many bins already exist and how many complaints have been received. They will then consider possible options for the parish.

3. Correspondence between Ffion Horton, SC and the Chairman re Diddlebury Village Hall car park resurfacing. She believes Kier will do the work.
4. Post card from ex-councillor Selina Thomas thanking DPC for her certificate of service.  
She says " 8 years! It was quite an experience for me. Not all bad!"
5. Email from Clerk to Munslow Parish Council. They are still endeavouring to fix a date for a joint meeting about the B4368 speeding issues. Nick Newton, Shropshire Traffic Engineer has visited the area and seen the problems. A Route Study is to be carried out.
6. Enquiry from the Clerk to Louise Powell Almshouses asking for details of DPC's current representative. Advised him it is Cllr. Richard Morgan.
7. Request from Ruth Awara seeking assistance with a PhD doctoral research involving, amongst other things, flooding issues. Cllr. Neden has contacted her.
8. Information from SALC about the Shropshire Carers Support Team and their Carers Register.
9. Notification from SC about the closure of the Highways Depots in Bridgnorth and Hodnet: this leaves just Whittington, Shrewsbury and Craven Arms.
10. Request from new Clerk to Clee St Margaret Parish Council about how DPC communicates with its parishioner. Clerk and Cllr. Neden provided her with relevant information.
11. Notification that Castle Square, Ludlow, will be closed to traffic on 10<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October for filming, and second notification saying its 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October.
12. Notifications from planning department re planning applications:  
21/02067/FUL – erection of an extension to dwelling (revised scheme) plus detached garage/workshop after demolition of existing buildings at Red Brick Barn, Corfton.  
Planning permission granted 20.07.21  
21/03080/FUL, 21/03081/LBC, 21/01785/FUL – three applications for erection of single storey extension and removal of dormer window, alterations to porch and internal alterations to a listed building, Bouldon Mill, Bouldon.  
Planning permission granted for all three applications.
13. Notification from West Mercia Police re charter contact with PC 2693 Grant, seeking a review of the charter.
14. Request from GoCompare to put their guide about preparing for a flood and protection of property on DPC's website. To be discussed.

15. Notification from the Vintage Motorcycle Club about a timed road run on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Responses** –Item 1 was fully explored during the presentation by Ms Corner of SWS.  
Item 14. It was not felt appropriate for GoCompare to put notices on DPC's website.

**113/21 – Finance Report for 22nd September 2021 and financial matters to be discussed.**

**113/21/1 – Finance Report**

**Precept balance b/fwd from July 2021** **£6,049.14**

**Less:** Cheques authorised to be drawn on Precept Funds in September 2021

1. Clerk's net salary for August 2021	£236.54	
2. PAYE on Clerk's August 2021 salary	£ 11.80	
3. Clerk's net salary for September 2021	£236.74	
4. PAYE on Clerk's September 2021 salary	£ 11.60	
5. SALC – for training course on 09.06.21	£ 30.00	
6. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by the Clerk in August/September 2021 on behalf of DPC</u>		
• Aug. & September 2021 contribution to telephone & Broadband @ £20 per month	£40.00	
• 1 ream white A4 copy paper	£ 2.85	
• Travelling expenses claimed at 45p To WVH for parish council meeting 22.09.21		
36 miles @ 45p	<u>£16.20</u>	
Total of administrative expenses	£59.05	<u>£ 59.05</u>
Total claim on Precept funds in Aug/Sept. 2021	<u>£585.73</u>	<u>£ 585.73</u>
<b>Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to October 2021</b>		<b><u>£5,463.41</u></b>

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

- **Community Infrastructure Levy /Neighbourhood Fund**  
Balance b/fwd from July 2021 **£8,564.61**
- **Environmental works & asset management fund**  
Revised balance b/fwd from July 2021 £1,083.10  
Less: Reissued cheque replacing 200423 £160.83  
Less: Invoice from Gary Trim dated 22.08.21 £213.75  
£374.58 £ 374.58  
£ 708.52 **£ 708.52**
- **Funds held for Flood Action Group - bal. b/fwd from July 2021** **£ 200.09**
- **Ear-marked reserves for DVH car park resurfacing** **£4,723.39**
- **Donation for Westhope Village Hall – being retained until conditions of grant are fulfilled.** **£2,000.00**

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that the cheques listed in the Finance Report should be approved for payment.

Cllr. O'Boyle **seconded** the proposal.

**Vote:** Proposal carried by an unanimous vote.

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

**above listed payments on 22.09.2021**

1. Precept	£5,463.41
2. Community Infrastructure Levy	£8,564.61
3. Environmental grant/fund	£ 708.52
4. FAG third party funds	£ 200.09
6. Ear marked DVH car park reserves	£4,723.39
7. Westhope Village Hall grant	£2,000.00
Total:	<b>£21,660.02</b>

**113/21/2 - Bank statement and cash book reconciliation**

Cllrs. O'Boyle and Watson verified the Clerk's reconciliation between HSBC bank statements 348 & 349 and DPC's Cash Book.

**113/21/3 – HSBC Bank.** The Clerk had reported that a letter had been received from HSBC indicating, on the face of it, that they will be closing DPC's bank account as they are withdrawing facilities for community account holders. She had discussed the matter in detail with Ann Pugh at the Bishop's Castle Branch of HSBC and it transpired HSBC will automatically close our community account but re-open it under another designation, in November. From then on HSBC will levy a range of charges. Those which will affect DPC are: a £5 monthly fee and a 40p fee for each cheque issued or paid in to the account.

The matter was discussed and some length after which:

The Chairman **proposed** that Diddlebury Parish Council should move its banking arrangements to NatWest in Ludlow.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

**Vote:** members unanimously voted to adopt the proposal.

The Clerk will make enquiries of NatWest.

**113/21/4 – Peaton Bus Shelter.** In August a hit and run driver had collided with the bus shelter at 2am and caused substantial damage to it. SC have fenced it off for health and safety reasons. It was initially considered to be a write-off. The bus shelters are insured for £2500, but a claim will have an impact on the future renewal premiums and DPC carries a £250 excess. The Clerk and Chairman have researched the internet and found replacement wooden bus shelters cost around £5,000: this has been noted and the cover next year for the bus shelters will be increased. Cllr. Pardoe has looked at the shelter and believes that he can repair it for a modest materials cost. It was agreed he and the Chairman will review this offer and report back.

**114/21 – Any Other Business (for dissemination only).**

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 commencing at 7.30pm  
at Diddlebury Village Hall**

**Minutes signed by:** David Hedgley

**Date** 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021