

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 27th October 2021 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

115/21 – 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

116/21 – 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.

117/21 – Public involvement session.

No members of the public attended the meeting.

118/21 – Approval of the Minutes of the 22nd September 2021

The Minutes of the meeting on 22nd September 2021 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting. Cllr. S Povall **Proposed** that the Minutes of the meeting on 22nd September 2021 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting’s business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Neden

Vote on Proposal: Adopted unanimously.

The Chairman signed the Minutes.

119/21: Matters arising from the Minutes of the 22nd September 2021 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

109/21: Cllr. Morgan confirmed he will be meeting Mr Williams of the Louise Powell Almshouses on the 17th November 2021.

The Clerk confirmed she had written to StreetScene about the dog fouling issue but had received no response to date: she will contact them again. She has not yet applied to NatWest

for an account: the matter was reconsidered: councillors want it to proceed. She has also reported the pothole in the Westhope road and reported the blocked drains in Mill Lane. She was asked to write to Mr Jack Wrigley to thank him for purchasing the mirror for the Bache Mill junction.

120/21 – Reports

120/21/1 – Chairman’s Report: The Chairman reported that following discussions Gary Trim confirmed he is stepping down from the post of EMO to DPC. The Chairman had contacted Chris Jackson to see if he was available, but he is currently unwell. He and the Clerk met Mr James Bent of Bourton on 11th October in Diddlebury and discussed the EMO role with him. Mr Bent is the EMO for Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council and the Clerk was able to vouch for the quality of his work. It was agreed to give Mr Bent a trial and the Chairman handed him a list of works needed around the parish. The Clerk had then driven him around the parish to familiarize him with the boundaries and works needed. Cllr. Neden had seen him painting railings in Diddlebury and checked the quality of his work, which was satisfactory.

The Chairman has been further involved with the planning application at Sutton Farm and had discussed it with Richard Fortune and Trystan Williams at the Planning Department. He had attended a meeting at DVH car park with Mike Woodhouse, Jonathan Brough (school) and Ffion Hughes at which he pointed the quotation for the resurfacing works obtained by Ms Hughes had omitted a large part of the car park, including the whole area by the front door to the village hall. Concerns were also raised about drainage issues. Ms Hughes has gone away to get a further estimate and to see if she can obtain any CIL funding from a fund Craven Arms holds towards the cost, thus the matter remains in abeyance for the time being.

The Chairman had also discussed the two tree works applications with Cllr. S Povall and Cllr. R Povall.

He confirmed the problems in Bouldon have now been resolved.

The Chairman discussed the spurious emails which the Clerk and councillors have been receiving, purportedly from him. He has changed his passwords as a precaution. Cllr. Rattu suggested the Chairman contact Cllr. Motley to see if other parish councils were having a similar problem. Finally, he had read all 37 pages of the new Code of Conduct and recommended that DPC adopts it at the November meeting.

120/21/2 – Flood Action Group report. Cllr. Neden reported that the FAG has:

- Firmed up on a meeting on 3rd November 2021 with the National Flood Forum to finalize FAG’s Flood Response Plan, which could go on to Shropshire Council’s emergency response list.
- Set a date of 28th October 2021 for the final work party of the year in the Diddle Brook.
- Resolved a problem at the Bache Mill development.
- Chased via DPC a response from the Planning Department re the FAG’s concerns over possible flooding at the chicken shed development in Corfton.

120/21/3 – Westhope Village Hall report Cllr. Watson (as Chairman of WVH committee) reported that the AGM had been successful and all posts on the management committee had been filled.

120/21/4 - Diddlebury Village Hall Report Cllr. Rattu reported that Covid restrictions were still hampering activities at DVH and attendances at events were lower than expected, although the Harvest Festival event was well attended. Flicks in the Sticks commences on 18.11.21, and the Christmas Fayre will be on 27.11.21.

120/21/5: Cllr. O’Boyle reported on the meeting attended by him and Cllr. Rattu at Beambridge on 25.10.21, organised by Munslow Parish Council to discuss, essentially, speeding vehicles and motor bike noise on the B4368 through the Corvedale. Delegates from several other parish councils were present, plus officers from the police and the speed watch team. The meeting lasted 3 hours. The differing speed limits in the Corvedale, 60mph, 40mph and 30mph were a problem. The Clerk of Munslow PC will produce a report on the matters discussed and distribute it to all interested parties, including SC and Philip Dunne MP. It is hoped the various Corvedale parishes will be consistent in (a) approving the report and (b) in seeking parity for the various speed limits.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. O’Boyle for his report and to both councillors for attending the meeting to represent DPC.

Cllr. O’Boyle reported that he has discussed with Mr Ian Davies the setting up of DPC’s mobile speed unit. Mr Davies is going to advertise in the Corvedale News for volunteers to help run it and he is contacting the police to see where it can be set up.

121/21 – Chairman’s Actions relating to tree works applications

21/04828/TCA – application to fell two Leylandii trees within Diddlebury Conservation Area at Delbury Farmhouse, Diddlebury.

21/04813/TCA – application to fell seven Ash trees (showing signs of Ash die-back) within Diddlebury Conservation Area, on land at Delbury Hall Parkland, along Mill Lane, Diddlebury

Due to the time limits imposed on tree works applications these applications were 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 application 21/04828/TCA and accordingly supported it.

As Tree Warden, Cllr. S Povall had discussed application 21/04813/TCA with both the applicant and his agent and established that all the trees were suffering from ash die-back disease. They are big trees and would cause considerable damage if they fell. Having considered the application, DPC supported it.

Cllr. O’Boyle asked whether there are any re-planting arrangements proposed, given the loss of a number of mature trees in Diddlebury recently: he felt there should be an obligation on applicants to replace such trees. The Chairman said he would raise this issue with the applicant and see what his plans are.

122/12 – Consideration of highways and environmental matters

The appointment of the new EMO, Mr James Bent has already been discussed.

The Chairman reported that the Highways Dept. had been doing some roadworks in Bouldon, but these did not include the large hole under the bridge opposite the Tally Ho, nor the damaged and loose wings on the bridge leading up to the Mill.

Cllr. O’Boyle advised many roundels (road signs) are obscured by vegetation and asked what the solution to this is. The Clerk advised Mr Bent is happy to clean them and clear surrounding vegetation, positioning his vehicle and road cones so as to ensure his safety.

Clerk to ask him to clear those which are obscured.

Councillors also advised the latches on the gates along Footpath 40 (school to The Moors) are not holding, plus a gate by “Moorlands” by the B4368 is hanging off its hinges and is rotten.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to report these to the Footpaths Team.

123/21 – To consider the following communications and correspondence received and to deal with any issues arising therefrom as appropriate.

1. email from Cllr. C Motley about changes to the Highway's road works programme on the B4368.
2. Email from Mr McEvoy of BDUK in response to Cllr Rattu filing a Public Review response concerning areas of no Broadband reception in Diddlebury Parish, known by BDUK as "white areas". Cllr. Rattu's response included post codes where there is no reception. Mr McEvoy confirms the area is not expected to be covered commercially within the next 3 years. If no credible commercial plans are received as part of BDUK's review they may be included within an Intervention Area and thus eligible for government subsidy. Until BDUK have assessed all responses to their Review the position on "white areas" will not become clear.
3. Notification of outcome of planning application 21/03367/FUL – erection of an extension to an agricultural building to form a stock handling area at Sunny Side Farm, Corfton. Planning permission granted on 13.,10.21
4. Notification of a temporary road closure – 16th & 17th December 2021 – at A49 to B4365 at the racecourse junction, Bromfield (Severn Trent Water)
5. Emails from Clerk to WebOrchard (DPC's website hosts) and Cllr. Motley concerning Shropshire Council withdrawing the facility for all planning information to be automatically displayed on DPC's website. Cllr, Motley to take the issue up with the head of Planning, Tracy Darke.
6. Details of a new autumn/winter 2021/22 SC Community Tree Scheme. Details obtainable from tree.scheme@shropshire.gov.uk
7. Notification from Planning Dept. – provided for information only – 21/04883/AGR for relocation of top soil to reinstate part of an agricultural field and in-fill old access track, at Sunny Side Farm, Corfton.
8. Email from Clerk to Planning Department asking for a response to a letter and FAG Report sent to Mr Ian Kilby 19th June 2021, concerning flood risk in Corfton by old poultry sheds development site. Response received from Sandy Stevenson confirming DPC's letter & the FAG report have been passed to planning officer Mr Richard Fortune and uploaded onto the planning portal.
9. Notification from Munslow Parish Council plus agenda re meeting on 25th October 2021 to discuss issues re B4368/B4365.
10. Email Clerk to P. C. F Bridgwater re scam sent to DPC involving "a chance to obtain a full UK registered and authentic driving licence." It has been forwarded to the police intelligence dept. for investigation.
11. Email Clerk to Highways Dept. asking for the drains in Mill Lane, by Delbury Farmhouse, to be jetted as soon as possible as they are blocked. Request has been logged.
12. Letter Clerk to StreetScene at Shropshire Council concerning the issue of dog waste disposal in Diddlebury Parish, seeking notices and additional bins.
13. Email Clerk to SALC asking them to add the Bouldon House defibrillator to their proposed Shropshire-wide defibrillator mapping project,
14. Query from Mrs S Hackett, DPC's auditor, as to whether we will be appointing her for our 2021/2022 Audit. Her charge will be £140. (DPC will need to pass a resolution on this).
15. Email from Clerk to Stanton Lacy PC with a query over a possible boundary change involving Lydehole Farm.

Responses –

Item 14: The Chairman **proposed** that Mrs S Hackett should be appointed as DPC's Auditor for 2021/2022 audit.

Proposal **seconded** Cllr. Rattu

Vote: Proposal unanimously approved and adopted.

Item 15: Councillors discussed the request that Lydehole Farm should become part of Stanton Lacy Parish rather than Diddlebury. It was agreed that in principle DPC has no objection to this request.

124/21 – Finance Report for 18th October 2021 and financial matters to be discussed.

1. <u>Precept balance b/fwd from September 2021</u>			£5,463.41
Less: Cheques authorised to be drawn on Precept Funds in October 2021			
1. Clerk's net salary for October 2021		£236.74	
2. PAYE on Clerk's October 2021 salary		£ 11.60.	
3. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by the Clerk in October 2021 on behalf of DPC</u>			
• October 2021 contribution to telephone & Broadband @ £20 per month	£20.00		
• 1 ream white A4 copy paper	£ 2.85		
• 2 packs of ink cartridges	£10.98		
• 12 x 2 nd class stamps	£ 7.92		
• Travelling expenses claimed at 45p			
11.10.21. Purchase salt in Ludlow, meet Chairman and James Bent at DVH, take James around Middlehope, Westhope & Corfton – move and fill salt bins – 40 miles			
27.10.21 – to DVH for p.c. meeting 34 miles			
74 miles @ 45p	£33.30		
Total of administrative expenses	£75.05	£ 75.05	
Total claim on Precept funds in October. 2021		£323.39	£ 323.39
			<u>£5,140.02</u>
• Community Infrastructure Levy /Neighbourhood Fund			
Balance b/fwd from September 2021		£8,564.61	
Less: Transferred to environmental works and asset mgmt.		£2,000.00	
		£6,564.61	£6,564.61
• Environmental works & asset management fund			
Balance b/fwd from September		£ 708.52	
Add: Sum transferred from Neighbourhood Fund		£2,000.00	
		£2,708.62	
Less: 3 bags of road rock salt (paid for by the Clerk) £ 11.97			
Payment to Cllr. T Pardoe for materials to repair the Peaton bus shelter	£232.74		
Paid to Cllr. Pardoe for his labour re bus shelter	£225.00		
	£469.71	£ 469.71	
Balance carried forward to November 2021		£2,238.81	£2,238.81
• Funds held for Flood Action Group - bal. b/fwd from Sept. 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. O’Boyle **proposed** that the cheques listed in the Finance Report should be approved for payment.

The Chairman **seconded** the proposal.

Vote: Proposal carried by an unanimous vote.

3. Balance held by DPC following authorisation of the payment of the above listed payments on 18.10.2021

1. Precept	£5,140.02
2. Community Infrastructure Levy	£6,564.61
3 Environmental grant/fund	£ 2,238.81
4. FAG third party funds	£ 200.09
6. Ear marked DVH car park reserves	£4,723.39
7. Westhope Village Hall grant	<u>£2,000.00</u>
Total:	<u>£21,866.92</u>

4. Bank statement and cash book reconciliation

Verification was sought of the Clerk’s reconciliation between HSBC bank statement 345 and DPC’s Cash Book. Cllr. O’Boyle performed the verification.

5. Consideration on how much money to transfer from either Precept Funds or Neighbourhood Fund to supplement the Environment Works & Asset Management Fund.

A list of works has been given to the new EMO, Mr Bent, the cost of which will exceed the available funds of currently £463.81.

The Chairman **proposed** that the sum of £1500 be transferred from the Neighbourhood Fund (currently containing £8,564.61) to the Precept Fund to fund the EMO/Asset maintenance works until the end of the financial year.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. S Povall

Vote: Proposal carried by an unanimous vote.

6. Peaton Bus Shelter. In August a hit and run driver had collided with the bus shelter at 2am and caused substantial damage to it. Estimates for its repair or replacement ran over two thousand pounds. However, Cllr. Pardoe had stepped in and repaired it for the modest materials cost of £232.74.

Cllr. Pardoe was asked to leave the meeting. In his absence the Chairman **proposed** that Cllr. Pardoe should be paid the sum of £225 for his time and labour in repairing the bus shelter.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

Vote: Proposal carried by an unanimous vote.

The above variations will be incorporated in an amended Finance Report for October 2021 for inclusion in the October Minutes.

125/21 – Any Other Business (for dissemination only).

125/21/1: The Chairman has read the new Code of Conduct, which SC will be adopting and relying on in all matters of councillors’ conduct from December 2021. He advised therefore that the Code should be adopted at the November meeting, and urged councillors to read it.

125/21/2: The Clerk will have a revised version of DPC's Standing Orders ready for discussion and /or adoption at the November meeting and further consideration will be given to a vexatious complaints procedure.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th November 2021 commencing at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

Date 24th November 2021