

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

Clerk/RFO: Mrs Jean de Rusett ,

MINUTES

of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Wednesday 19th May 2021, 7.50pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

058/21- Present

Cllr. D Hedgley – Chairman

Cllr. R Povall

Cllr. T O'Boyle

Cllr. A Watson

Cllr. G Neden

Cllr. A Rattu

Cllr. T Pardoe

Cllr. R Morgan

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. S Povall

In attendance

Mrs J de Rusett – Clerk, Unitary Cllr. Cecilia Motley and four members of the public.

059/21 – Notice convening the meeting

In accordance with statute, the Notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the Parish Council's Notice Boards throughout the Parish and on the Parish Council's website.

060/21– Reports

Normally, at the Annual Parish Meeting each person delivering a report reads it out. However, due to Covid 19 the council felt it was prudent this year not to have the reports read out: instead, the reports listed below are accessible to the public on DPC's website. Paper copies were available at the meeting.

Chairman

Unitary Cllr. C Motley

Diddlebury Village Hall Committee: report prepared by Mr M Woodhouse

Westhope Village Hall Committee: report prepared by Cllr. Watson

Parish Plan Steering Group: report prepared by Mr Ian Davies

DPC's website manager's report: prepared by Mrs Sara Thompson

Diddlebury Charities: report prepared by Mr David Francis

Diddlebury Flood Action Group: report prepared by Cllr. Geoff Neden

Louise Powell Almshouses: report prepared by Mr C E Williams

Buzzard Community Bus: report prepared by Mrs K Worthington

The Chairman's report is set out in full below.

Chairman's Report 19th May 2021

This was our first contested election since May 2013. Prior to the election we said goodbye to Cllrs Selina Thomas, Mike Woodhouse and Mervyn Thomas who all chose not to stand for re-election. We would like to thank all three for their services to the community. A special mention must go to Mervyn Thomas whose service to the council has been a truly long one. Unfortunately, time has caught up with Mervyn but his dedication to the parish over such a length of time (40 years +) is to be admired and commended. We also have to say goodbye to Kath Worthington who sadly was not re-elected but who did a great job over the years, especially as a link to The Buzzard and Ludlow charities.

Following the election we have been joined on the council by Cllrs R. Morgan, T Pardoe, G. Neden and A Rattu and those councillors who have been re-elected: Cllrs. D. Hedgley, T. O'Boyle, S. Povall, R. Povall, and A. Watson: I extend a warm welcome to them.

Main Issues.

1. The major issue this year was COVID and the effect this had on holding meetings which complied with the Government's Covid Restrictions whilst also making meetings open to the public and transparent. Last year's Annual Parish, Annual General and Ordinary Business Meetings due to be held in May 2020, along with the election of Parish Councillors, were cancelled on Government instructions and the Chair/vice Chair remained in office until May 2021. Emergency powers were delegated to the Clerk until May 2021. Using guidelines from the Shropshire Association of Local Councils and National Government guidelines, our remaining Parish Council Meetings were held via Zoom.

2. We have continued liaison with DVH Committee over the funding of the upgrade of car parking facilities to meet community needs through the input of (CIL) Community Infrastructure Levy fund. We are still in negotiations with Shropshire Council over accessing these funds. Due to Health and Safety concerns some funds have been drawn down from parish funds set aside for this to repair parts of the car park.

3. We are still engaged in enhancing local safety measures with the purchase of the Mobile Speed Monitoring Unit to raise speed awareness on the B4368 in Diddlebury and pursuing the purchase of a mirror for traffic emerging from the Bache Mill turning. We have also now issued SmartWater kits to everyone in the parish and police notices to this effect have been put up. Salt bins have been purchased following resident's requests and Shropshire Council's failure to provide them.

4. The Chairman and Clerk have spent time dealing with issues raised by a parishioner concerning a councillor's non-use of a camera at Zoom meetings, a councillor's intention regarding standing for election this May and council Minutes, which led to a Code of Conduct complaint being lodged against the Chairman, which was not upheld by Shropshire Council.

5. A decision was taken to support Westhope Village Hall Committee with the purchase of the hall from Lady Dyer.

6. Discussions have taken place with the Parish Plan Steering Group over another Parish Plan possibly in 2022 and the publication and development of a Community Led Housing initiative.

Precept 2021-22

Following the council meeting on the 27th January 2021 the precept for the next financial year was set at £8,666.88. This was an increase of £1,714.88 on last year. The overall increase in the precept will be approximately £6.30 per household.

The extra costs related to an increase in the clerk's salary as per national scales of £338.00 and the recoupment of the extra cost of £806.88 incurred in the purchase of the additional Smart Water kits needed to supply everyone in the parish. Last year we invested £1,500.00 for the purchase of Smart water kits which we obviously do not need this year but, as below, we are this year donating £2,000.00 to Westhope Village Hall Committee for the purchase of the freehold of Westhope Village Hall. The council thought that this was something that it should support in principle. However, funding for this will not be released to the WVH Committee until DPC has seen documents satisfying the council that it is an unencumbered freehold which is being transferred to WVH Committee. The above items and some small increases in running costs equates to the £1,714.88 increase.

Having committed to the donation to WVH we declined to add any more to the DVH car park fund as along with other parties the council is exploring other funding routes. Likewise, we felt that we could not contribute to a Defibrillator purchase fund at this time but would encourage any interested party to fund raise for Defibrillators. This has already happened in Bouldon where residents have successfully sourced one from a charity. We are due an election in May but again we have put off budgeting for this until next year when we will know the exact cost. The election does not have to be paid for until 2022. Other council costs have largely been kept in line with last year's budget.

Planning

22 Planning application have been received this year all of which bar 3 were supported. This compared to 19 with 3 not supported last year. Two non-supported applications from last year went to the Planning Inspectorate who upheld their non-approval. Of the 22 applications, 4 related to tree work. One proof of local residence was submitted. No enforcement enquiries were lodged this year.

One EGM was held in August to deal with a planning application at The Moors, Diddlebury.

Responses to Consultations.

Community Governance Review.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams feedback

Local Plan

Leisure activities survey.

For obvious reasons there were no physical public sessions this year.

External Meetings- DVH car park with SC

Samples of other topics arising.

Ditches being cleared, roads collapsing, potholes, landslips

HSBC and their continued support of our account.

Road side signage.

Footpaths

Over the last year the parish council has yet again continued to work closely with the Flood Action Group, the village hall committees of Diddlebury and Westhope and the Parish Plan Steering Group. The continued presence of Covid 19 has caused the need for a lot of adjustments to be made this year to meetings and working practices. As Chair I would like to thank my colleagues for the work they put in within a voluntary role and the extra work our

Parish Clerk has had to absorb as well as Councillor Motley for her continued unstinting support.

D. Hedgley Chairman 2020-21

The Chairman thanked everyone who had submitted a report. He said there are encouraging signs that Shropshire Council may finally release DPC's CIL funds, which would mean that work could start on re-surfacing the village hall car park. He thanked the PPSG for their work on the parish plan and the proposed Community Led Housing Scheme, which DPC hopes to progress in the coming year. In particular he thanked the Flood Action Group led by Cllr. Neden, which has as always been very pro-active in the past year.

061/21 – Open Forum for members of the public to raise issues with the parish council

No issues were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm and proceeded with the ordinary business meeting.

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

Dated: 23rd June 2021