

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 23rd June 2021 at 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall.**

076/21 – Present

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

In attendance - the Clerk, Shropshire Cllr. Cecilia Motley and four members of the public

077/21 – 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.

Cllr. Pardoe made a Declaration of Interest relating to planning application 21/02067/FUL and the Chairman made a Declaration of Interest in relation to application 21/01785/FUL.

078/21 – Public involvement session.

No members of the public raised any questions.

079/21 – Approval of the three sets of Minutes of the 19th May 2021

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested.

Cllr. R Povall **Proposed** that the AGM Minutes of the 19th May 2021 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting’s business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

Vote on Proposal: Adopted by a majority of eight members with one abstention.

The Chairman then signed the AGM Minutes.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested.

Cllr. R Povall **Proposed** that the APM Minutes of the 19th May 2021 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting’s business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

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

The Chairman then signed the APM Minutes.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Business Meeting had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested.

Cllr. R Povall **Proposed** that the Minutes of the business meeting on 19th May 2021 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

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

The Chairman signed the ordinary business meeting Minutes.

080/21: Matters arising from the AGM, APM and ordinary business meeting Minutes of the 2021 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

No matters were raised in relation to the AGM or APM.

067/21 - recording of meetings.

The Clerk was asked at the May meeting to clarify the advice received from NALC that individual councillors could object to being filmed during parish council meetings. She reported she had researched the relevant legislation, consulted the Arnold Barker book on Local Council Administration and nowhere had she found any legal authority indicating that councillors can object to being filmed by members of the public during parish council meetings. Some parishes had adopted their own recording/filming policies and all the policies she considered had made it plain it was only members of the public who could object to being filmed, not councillors. She had emailed the legal officer at NALC seeking clarification of the advice she had given in March, only to receive a response the officer was away on maternity leave. It is the Clerk's considered view that councillors cannot object to being filmed in public meetings. DPC might want to adopt its own policy on this topic.

041/21 – attendance at DPC meeting by PC Steve Grant, the local police officer for the Corvedale area.

The Chairman had completed and submitted DPC's views on West Mercia Police's Charter for Local Communities. He had stated theft from farms; speeding on the B4368 through Diddlebury and Corfton, and the proliferation of internet and telephone scams, as being the three items of particular concern to the Diddlebury community. He has also spoken to PC Grant about attending a DPC meeting. PC Grant is unable to attend the DPC meeting on 28th July, but will advise on his availability for September.

041/21/3 – CIL payment: Cllr. Motley advised she has spoken to Ffion Horton of SC, who had indicated at the recent DVH car park meeting that the CIL money would be forthcoming. The contractors Ms Horton aimed to use were too busy to carry out the work. There is still no indication when the CIL money will be paid to DPC.

068/21: The Chairman wants the Standing Orders to be reviewed and up-dated. He asked it be an agenda item for July and that the Clerk circulates copies to the Standing Orders to all members.

070/21 – Up date on Broadband programme from Connecting Shropshire

The accuracy of Ben Walker's Broadband delivery update was debated: there is no Broadband in Burwood or Westhope and it is patchy and not super-fast elsewhere in the parish. Some residents have joined SWS. Cllr. Motley advised SWS are still in negotiations with the government, OpenReach and Connecting Shropshire, but they will need a critical mass before extending superfast Broadband into the Corvedale. She recommended joining with other parishes and negotiating with SWS.

081/21 – Reports

081/21/1 – Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported that he has had a discussion with Mr Trim, who confirmed he will be bringing his EMO works up to date within the next couple of weeks. He has had discussions with Cllr. Motley about planning issues, and he has completed the Police & Crime Commissioner’s consultation paper.

081/21/2 – Cllr. Motley’s report

Cllr. Motley confirmed Cllr. Lezley Picton is now Leader of SC and she has given Cllr. Motley a seat on the Cabinet, placing her in charge of Communities, Place, Transport and Tourism. “Communities” is self-evident. “Place” is a catch-all phrase, essentially meaning communities. Transport is a large brief as it includes not just transport links but such items as cycle lanes: her brief does not include potholes. She is working hard on a transport system which will serve rural communities.

The Community Governance Review is again under active consideration and may in time lead to changes in parish/town boundaries and even amalgamation of small parishes. She will be calling a Chairs and Clerks meeting as soon as possible to discuss how parish councils can work together to ensure any changes are to their advantage. She urges Diddlebury to open up lines of communication with adjoining parishes, Culmington and Munslow, to discuss boundary anomalies and areas of possible joint venture, e.g. Broadband provision. In due course the Community & Governance Review team will produce some regulations and a draft Proposal for Change which will then be circulated to parish and town councils for consultation. Parishes may need to form working groups to respond.

The Parliamentary Boundaries are also changing – and not as expected. Ludlow constituency will be enlarged. Additionally, unitary county boundaries are also being reviewed.

081/21/3 – Flood Action Group report

Cllr. Neden reported that since the last meeting the FAG has chased up Highways over outstanding issues in Peaton. He attended a Zoom meeting of the DEFRA Steering Committee on Slow the Flow. Their report is due to be published this summer and will hopefully provide certainty on the effectiveness of leaky dams. The first working party for the year to clear gravel and excess weed growth from the Diddle Brook in Mill Lane took place yesterday.

081/21/4 – Westhlope Village Hall report and Diddlebury Village Hall Report

Cllr. Watson reported that the programme of events planned has been pushed back to await the government’s July announcement. On the issue of the purchase of the hall, the WVH Committee’s solicitors had indicated on 14th June 2021 that a legal difficulty involving a pre-emption has now been resolved - it does not affect the freehold of the village hall. A draft Transfer document is now awaited, so the purchase can be progressed.

Mr Woodhouse reported that due to the extension of lockdown by the Government their proposed programme of events has been put on hold. In the meantime, they are restricting their activities to clearly permitted ones.

082/21 – Planning application

082/21/1; 21/02067/FUL – application for the erection of two-storey extension to form self-contained living accommodation, with single storey glazed link to main house, erection of a 3-bay garage/workshop at Red Brick Barn, Corfton SY7 9DE

The Chairman gave the back-ground to this application: DPC had supported the previous application but the planners had refused it. He noted there are no public objections to this application, indeed two neighbours had written to SC to support it. The objections come from the Tree Team (which has refused to attend a site visit) and the Conservation team at SC who are citing over-development. The conservation arguments are difficult to understand as this is not an ancient heritage property and it cannot be seen from the road. Sympathetic materials will be used on the extension. After discussion, the Chairman **proposed** that the Parish Council strongly supports this application. The support is based, inter alia, on the following grounds. We note the Conservation Historic Environment's concerns but do not share them. The existing building and proposed extension will be completely screened from the road by trees and hedging. We do not agree that the extension would create a harmful impact on the appearance of this non-designated heritage site nor detract from its historic standing. We would like to emphasise the support this application has received from local neighbours and the absence of objections from any other residents of Corfton, who always carefully scrutinize plans affecting the Corfton area.

The Applicant sought advice from the Planning Officer before drafting and submitting this application, following the rejection of his first application. He followed and implemented all the advice he was given. These plans reflect the minimal number of alterations needed to achieve the rebuild.

We believe that the plans submitted have the merit of meeting a local family's realistic housing needs.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. S Povall

Vote: Seven in favour of the proposal, 1 abstention. (Cllr. Pardoe excluded from voting having made a declaration of interest)

082/21/2; 21/01785/FUL – erection of a single-storey extension and removal of dormer window in lieu of a new roof light at Bouldon House, Bouldon, SY7 9DP

The Chairman noted that there were no public objections to this application and none now from the Flood Action Group. The proposed building materials were sympathetic to the existing building. After discussions and consideration of the plans, Cllr. S Povall **proposed** that the parish council should strongly support this application and raise no objections to it. Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pardoe.

Vote: Seven in favour of the proposal. 1 abstention. (Chairman excluded from voting having made a declaration of interest).

082/21/3 – 21/02269/VAR – application for removal of conditions 2a and 2b attached to application 1/05/1716/F and 1/05/17162/LB dated 16.08.2005, to allow use as residential annex accommodation at Little Sutton Farm Little Sutton, SY8 2AJ.

The Chairman advised that this application has been withdrawn.

082/21/4. Discussion about SC's rejection of PREAPP/21/00106 – proposed affordable dwelling on land east of Corfton.

The Chairman gave the back ground to this matter. DPC had given a positive strong local connection confirmation in respect of Mr Ryan Lewis of Aston Munslow, who wishes to build an affordable home in the Corvedale community. Mr Lewis now seeks to build an affordable exceptional site house on the land behind the Sun Inn. Permission for an open market house on this site was refused both by SC and upon appeal to the Planning Inspector.

Mr Lewis submitted a pre-application enquiry to SC's planners to ascertain whether he might be granted a single plot exception site status for this plot. The Planning Officer indicated various difficulties which could negatively influence any application he may make, especially the Planning Inspector's refusal, which is a material planning consideration. His agent has contacted DPC to see if the parish council can contact the Planning Officer involved to offer any support for his application.

The Chairman stated there would be no point in sending such a letter of support, if ultimately DPC would reject any planning application submitted.

Cllr. O'Boyle enquired whether the letter of local connection confirmation made any reference to this plot and was advised it did not.

The issue was discussed at length. It was agreed that all DPC can do in this matter is consider an application in the usual way if and when a planning application is made. The Clerk will notify Mr Lewis's agent of this decision.

083/21 – To consider the following communications and correspondence received and to deal with any issues arising therefrom as appropriate.

1. 28.05.21 – Confirmation from BHIB that DPC's public liability etc insurance is effective from 1st June 2021 – and enclosing various policy documents etc.
2. 9.6.21 – email and various enclosures from Gary Evans, CIL Policy Officer at SC, concerning CIL arrangements for 2021
3. Letter Clerk to PKF Littlejohn LP, external auditors, enclosing AGAR documents.
4. 15.6.21 – email from Sunbelt Rentals Limited on behalf of Open Reach seeking DPC's agreement to a road closure at Seifton Bach/Westhope Cottage junction on B4368 on 12.08.21. So far Cllrs. Neden and Pardoe have responded, not objecting.
5. Police & Crime Commissioner's Town and Parish Council Survey. The Chairman has completed the survey and returned it.
6. Letter 16.6.21 from Planning Validation Team informing DPC of 21/03010/AGR for an extension of existing agricultural building to provide a covered stock handling area at Sunnyside Farm, Corfton. This is sent purely for information purposes and DPC is not required to comment on it.
7. String of emails between Cllr. Neden, Shropshire Council, Cllr. Motley and others concerning motor bike noise on the B4368. Inputs are invited for SC's Local Transport Plan 4 Engagement Invitation.
8. Email Clerk to Cllr. Motley asking her to investigate why Connecting Shropshire's latest programme update advises there are no current or future plans for superfast Broadband in the Corvedale area.
9. Letter Clerk to Mr I Kilby, Development Manager at Shropshire Council drawing his attention to the FAG's advice on possible flooding issues at the old poultry shed units at Corfton.
10. Notifications from the SC Planning Department on planning applications:
21/01296/LBC – application for the replacement of 5 windows, re-tile roof, renovate & re-fit rainwater goods, replace bargeboards and repairs and repaint render to front elevation, affecting a Grade II listed building at 16 Corfton.
Permission granted 20.05.21
21/00564/FUL – Conversion of Dutch Barn into storage and garage spaces for the residents of Barns A & B at Hales Barns, Diddlebury and revised access arrangements to include a new stretch of driveway.
Permission granted 28.05.21
11. Detailed arrangements for Lighting of Beacons on 2nd June 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Responses – Item 4: Clerk to respond in the affirmative but to ask why they couldn't co-ordinate their works with Severn Trent to avoid the road being closed twice in quick succession..

084/21 – Highways and Environmental matters

084/21/1 The Chairman reported that the large hole in the road in Bouldon has worsened, with the retaining wall starting to collapse into the stream. He had also noticed that the parapet of the bridge by Bouldon Farm is moving and he has notified Highways.

084/21/2 SC's continual failure (first asked in November 2020) to provide a mirror for the B4368/Bache Mill junction was discussed and it was agreed DPC needs to take control of this situation. A suitable mirror had been sourced from Barriers Direct and approved by DPC members. Mr Jack Wrigley will be invited to obtain it, as he had kindly agreed to do.

085/21 – To consider representation at the South Shropshire Local Area Committee

Cllr. O'Boyle agreed to represent DPC on this Committee. The Clerk will notify the Secretary accordingly.

086/21 – Finance Report for June 2021

Precept balance b/fwd from May 2021	£7,166.36
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Less: Cheques authorised to be drawn on Precept Funds in June 2021

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| 1. Clerk's net salary for June 2021 (inc. HSBC compensation) | £316.54 |
| 2. PAYE on Clerk's June 2021 salary | £ 31.80 |
| 5. SALC – 2021/2022 affiliation fees | £289.26 |
| 6. Cllr. D Hedgley – ink cartridge | £ 25.90 |

7. Administrative expenses incurred by the Clerk in June 2021 on behalf of DPC

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| • June 2021 contribution to telephone & Broadband @ £20 per month | £20.00 |
| • Stationery A4 copy paper, document wallets | £ 3.85 |
| pack clear plastic document files | £ 6.33 |
| • Postage: 1 st and 2 nd class stamps | £ 9.91 |
| • Multi-pack ink cartridges | £12.98 |
| • St Leonards Press: 364 photocopies (for new councillor's induction files) | £25.00 |
| • Travelling expenses claimed at 45p | |
| 9.6.21 – around parish to put up statutory Public Rights Notices (shared with Eaton & HB PC) - 20 miles | |
| 23.6.21 – to Westhope VH for meeting – - 36 miles | |
| Total mileage - 56 @ 45p | <u>£25.20</u> |
| Total of administrative expenses | <u>£103.27</u> <u>£103.27</u> |

Total claim on Precept funds in June 2021	<u>£766.77</u>	<u>£ 766.77</u>
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Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to July 2021**£6,399.59**

Cllr. O'Boyle **proposed** that the cheques listed above be approved for payment from the { Precept Funds.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watson

Vote: proposal unanimously approved by councillors.

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

- **Community Infrastructure Levy /Neighbourhood Fund**
Balance b/fwd from May 2021 **£8,564.61**
- **Environmental works & asset management fund**
Balance b/fwd from May 2021 **£1,083.10**
- **Funds held for Flood Action Group - bal. b/fwd from May 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**

3. Balance held by DPC following authorisation of the payment listed above above listed payments on 23.06.2021

1. Precept	£6,399.59
2. Community Infrastructure Levy	£8,564.61
3. Environmental grant/fund	£1,083.10
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:	<u>£22,970.78</u>

4 Bank statement and cash book reconciliation

The verification by Councillors of the Clerk's reconciliation between HSBC bank statement numbered 346 and DPC's Cash Book was approved by Cllr. O'Boyle.

087/21 – To discuss and consider a draft of an Unreasonably Persistent & Vexatious Complaints Procedure.

The Clerk had circulated a draft Procedure which she had obtained from SALC. In her view it had the advantage over many parish council's adopted Procedures in that it was fairly short and concise. It was agreed the Clerk will obtain an assurance from SALC that the document had been drawn up by their legal department, before DPC's considers it further.

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that before the eventual document is used, independent legal advice will be sought on whether the matters causing concern fall within the ambit of the document.

Proposal **seconded** Cllr. Watson

Vote: Proposal unanimously supported by the councillors

088/21 – Any Other Business (for dissemination only).

The Chairman confirmed that he has obtained certificates of service for the councillors who retired in May and will invite them to the next meeting so they can be presented.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th July 2021 commencing at 7.30pm in Diddlebury Village Hall

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

Dated: 28th July 2021