

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

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

Tel: 01568 701880 "e" mail address: diddleburypc@gmail.com

Website address: www.diddleburyparish.co.uk

MINUTES

**Of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council
held on Wednesday 28th July 2021 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

089/21 – Present

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. S Povall (holiday)

In attendance - the Clerk, Shropshire Cllr. Cecilia Motley, six members of the public and Mr Chris Taylor, Manager of “Connecting Shropshire”.

090/21 – Presentation of Certificates of Service

Certificates of Service were prepared by the Chairman as a testament to the public service given by the four councillors who left DPC in May. Not only had they served on DPC but some had also been involved in the PPSG, the parish magazine, local charities, the Buzzard and the major refurbishment of Diddlebury Village Hall. Certificates were awarded to Mervyn Thomas – who gave over thirty years of service; Kath Worthington, Selina Thomas and Mike Woodhouse. Mervyn Thomas and Kath Worthington attended and were presented with their certificates.

091/21 – 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.

The Chairman made a Declaration of Interest in relation to applications 21/03080/FUL & 21/03081/LBC and took no part in the voting.

092/21 – Questions & Answers session with Mr Chris Taylor, Manager of Connecting Shropshire concerning the provision of Broadband signal.

Information recently circulated by Connecting Shropshire had caused much disquiet in parts of the parish, especially Middlehope, Westhope and Bouldon where Broadband reception is either poor or non-existent. DPC invited Mr Chris Taylor of Connecting Shropshire to attend the meeting to discuss these concerns. He kindly visited Middlehope prior to the meeting and spoke to local residents. He was advised at the meeting that Westhope is another black hole in terms of signal, which he wasn’t previously aware of. The meeting was advised that there are pockets of the parish for which there are no current connection plans as the cost is too high.

Dr Colin Stanford, speaking for Middlehope residents, advised 9 households in Middlehope have no signal: five are farming businesses, for whom Broadband is essential.

Mr Taylor advised Connecting Shropshire (an arm of SC) no longer has procurement status with the various Broadband suppliers – the government has taken over this role. Connecting Shropshire now just has an advisory role and a lobbying role. To get Broadband to some outlying parts of the parish is too expensive for Broadband providers: Open Reach had tried to get some Broadband to all areas, but found the cost of connecting up small outlying settlements prohibitive. He suggested that DPC contacts SWS, a Broadband provider who have done some work in this area, to see if there are sufficient households in need of Broadband to make it financially viable for SWS to be a provider. Maybe if DPC links up with other local parish councils, they could explore whether a critical mass in terms of Broadband provision could be achieved.

Cllr. Robert Povall has paid for SWS and finds it excellent: he tried Airband too but they were not interested.

Mr Taylor also talked about the Gigabit voucher scheme, and of technological solutions which are coming on-stream, such as satellites. He promised to circulate a briefing note following this meeting. (This is now on DPC's website).

The Chairman thanked Mr Taylor for attending and for the help from the Middlehope residents.

093/21 – Public involvement session,

Mrs Worthington advised dog fouling is still an issue in Diddlebury especially along the footpaths. It is unrealistic to expect dog owners to take poop bags home: it seems we need a few well placed bins for owners to dispose of the bags. The Chairman felt this raises the issue of who will empty the bins. He suggested taking the matter up with the Footpaths Group and that the issue be an agenda item for the next meeting.

094/21 – Approval of the Minutes of the 23rd June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting on 23rd June 2021 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 meeting on 23rd June 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 Minutes.

095/21: Matters arising from the Minutes of the 23rd June 2021 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

067/21 - recording of meetings. The Chairman asked whether DPC should produce a policy on filming of meetings, or whether it should be added to our Standing Orders. It was felt an addition to Standing Orders was the way forward.

041/21 – the Clerk was instructed to invite P.C. Steve Grant to the September meeting.

082/21/4 – A letter has been sent to Mr Lewis's agent – item 20 on Correspondence List.

084/21/2 – Mirror for Bache Mill junction. Cllr. Robert Povall confirmed Mr Jack Wrigley has obtained a mirror: as soon as Cllr. S Povall returns from holiday they will attach it to the

post. The Chairman thanked both Mr Wrigley for providing the mirror and Cllrs. R and S Povall for agreeing to install it.

087/21 – Unreasonably Persistent and Vexatious Complaints Procedure – The Clerk advised SALC had not satisfactorily answered her query about the origin of the draft policy but rather had sent an alternative version. It was agreed the matter be an Agenda item once the legal basis of the document has been clarified.

096/21 – Reports

096/21/1 – Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that when Highways came to repair the hole in the road/wall in Bouldon, it had worsened and is now a larger and more complex job, so has been passed to another team to deal with. He held discussions with Cllr. Motley about Broadband and CIL issues. He and Cllr. O'Boyle met P C Bridgewater to discuss siting of the remaining SmartWater road signs. PC Bridgewater emphasised how important it is that individual household prominently display their own SmartWater signs on their properties. He has dealt with Data Protection issues about a FOI request to SC concerning the Code of Conduct complaint. He has spoken to Mr Patrick Wrigley, the Tree Team and local residents about the felling of diseased trees on the Delbury estate. He has been contacted by Mrs Brick about a Community Led Housing matter: she wishes to build a house in Sutton and queries whether Sutton is open countryside or a community cluster. He advised her there is no review of the status due until 2022.

096/21/2 – Cllr. Motley's report: Cllr. Motley spoke of her efforts to get information from Ffion Horton of SC about DPC's CIL entitlement/the resurfacing of DVH car park. She spoke to Steve Smith, the Highways manager, as SC's Property Services were asked to do the resurfacing work but now cannot, so Kier has been asked to do it as they have more capacity. The Clerk enquired how the work was to be funded. The response was it seems to be assumed the cost will come out of all available CIL funds.

Cllr. Motley spoke at length about the Environmental Grant and felt DPC should be applying for the grant and then working with an EMO jointly funded by all local parish councils.

Cllr. Motley confirmed she will arrange a meeting for Clerks and Chairs in September as the Governance Review is underway: once it goes out to consultation it has to be finished within 12 months and there are issues which need to be addressed by parish councils.

096/21/3 – Flood Action Group report. Cllr. Neden reported that since the last meeting the provision of a re-sited level gauge on the Pye Brook above Bouldon has been chased up. Steve Smith, the Director of Infrastructure at Shropshire Council and a civil engineer, wants local flood action groups to contact him advising what maintenance works need to be done. The Diddlebury Parish FAG have been doing this.

096/21/4 – Westhope Village Hall report Cllr. Watson (as Chairman of WVH committee) reported that a full programme of events is now underway in Westhope, whilst being mindful of the Covid 19 restrictions.

096/21/5 - Diddlebury Village Hall Report Cllr. Rattu (as a committee member of DVH) advised the hall has re-opened since Covid 19 restrictions were removed on 19th July but follows government guidance on keeping users, especially the vulnerable, safe. Hand gel is provided and good ventilation. Some regular events are returning in August, others in late September. The End of Lockdown/Bringing People Together party will now take place on the afternoon of 11th September. This is for the whole community, young, old and those new to Diddlebury. A date for the postponed AGM is awaited.

097/21 – Planning applications

097/21/1; **21/0308FUL** – application for the erection of a first floor rear extension, alterations to rear porch and internal alterations, all to the modern extensions of Grade II Listed Bouldon Mill, Bouldon, and **21/03081/LBC** - listed building consent in connection with the above application.

The Chairman advised that there had been no public objections to these applications and the proposed works were acceptable to the SC Conservation/Historic works team as they do not impact on the main part of the listed building.

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that DPC supports 21/03080/FUL

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pardoe

Vote: 8 members voted in favour of the proposal, 1 abstained. Proposal carried.

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that DPC supports 21/03081/LBC

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pardoe

Vote: 8 members voted in favour of the proposal, 1 abstained. Proposal carried.

097/21/2 - **21/03429/TCA** – application to fell 3 Leylandii trees within the Diddlebury Conservation Area, namely at Millfield, Mill Lane, Diddlebury.

The Chairman noted that there had been no public or statutory objections to this application, the Tree Warden had raised no objections and he **Proposed** that DPC raises no objections to these tree works. Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall

Vote: Unanimous vote in support of the proposal.

097/21/3 **Appeal against refusal of planning permission by Shropshire Council to 20/02519/OUT dated 16.10.20**, being the application for 12 houses at The Moors View, Diddlebury. The Chairman confirmed that the appeal had been lodged within the time limit. As the consideration of this application had taken place by Zoom during the lock-down, the plans and relevant papers relating to it are on display in the village hall tonight, for residents to peruse, along with details of how residents can lodge any comments with the Planning Inspector, such comments/objections have to be lodged by 9th August 2021.

The Parish Council is not lodging any comments, having said all it needed to say when the planning application was considered on 12th June 2020.

098/12 – Consideration of highways and environmental matters

The Chairman has spoken to Gary Trim and EMO works have resumed. He has asked Mr Trim to provide him with a schedule of proposed works.

Mrs Worthington reported a bad pothole on the Westhope lane by the donkey field. Cllr, Watson agreed to report it.

Cllr, R Povall has commenced trimming hedges around Corfton/Diddlebury, for which the Chairman thanked him.

The raised manhole cover (BT?) by top of Mill Lane remains a problem. Clerk to investigate/report it.

099/21 – To consider the following communications and correspondence received and to deal with any issues arising therefrom as appropriate.

1. Email - Clerk to South Shropshire Area Local Committee advising Cllr. O'Boyle will represent DPC at meetings.

2. Emails between Chairman & Andy Keyland re putting barriers up around the partial road collapse in Bouldon: barriers are now in place.
3. Email from a parishioner requesting that the vegetation along the footpath from The Moors to the school be trimmed as it is very overgrown. Footpath has now been trimmed.
4. Letter - Clerk to Mr Jack Wrigley, who had kindly agreed to fund the provision of a mirror of the B4368 where the Bache Mill lane adjoins it, enclosing details of the mirror selected from Barriers Direct. Mr Wrigley has now confirmed that he has ordered the mirror and it has been delivered so it is ready for collection by Cllr. Robert Povall who has agreed to attach it to the post.
5. Letter from Cllr. Steve Charmley, SC cabinet member with responsibility for highways, explaining why Shropshire roads are in such poor condition and what they propose doing about it. He states they filled 29,000 potholes and resurfaced 226kms of road last year and plan more for this year: also they are trialling new technology to assist.
6. Notification of Shropshire Council's HAF programme for the summer (HAF = Holiday activities and Food). Families eligible for free school meals can access vouchers: vouchers available from schools from 9th July. For details of the activities visit HAF.programme@shropshire.gov.uk
7. Bundle of emails passing between Chairman, councillors, local residents and landowner concerning felling of trees at Delbury Hall, Diddlebury.
8. Request from Munslow Parish Council that councillors from DPC, Culmington PC and Shipton PC attend a joint meeting at the Beambridge Club Room to debate the many problems arising from traffic/speeding/motorbike noise and to take a collective approach in tackling problems. Date of the meeting is still being arranged. Three DPC councillors and the chairman of the PPSG have agreed to attend but the Clerk to Munslow is adamant only three can attend.
9. Confirmation from PKF Littlejohn that DPC has been awarded exempt status and no further review of its 2020/2021 accounts and audit are required.
10. Emails between Chairman and P.C. Bridgwater to arrange a meeting to agree the positioning of the final two Smartwater signs. Chairman and Cllr. O'Boyle met and agreed the locations.
11. Letter from the Sustainability Officer of Shropshire Council enclosing a letter raising awareness of the "Warp It" – Waste Action Reuse Portal. The portal allows the repurposing and exchange of equipment. Details available from WarpIT@shropshire.gov.uk
12. Email from Annie Brick of Fuse Architecture to Chairman advising they have submitted a Pre-application to the Planning Department for a single dwelling in what may be considered the Community Cluster of Little Sutton/Great Sutton. They note that in the Shropshire Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan 2016 to 2038, Diddlebury village is still not considered a Community Hub. Chairman responds that Diddlebury village remains as "open countryside" until a possible review in 2022.
13. Planning decision: 21/01606/FUL – proposed redevelopment of outbuildings at Great Sutton Farm to flexible Class E use and ancillary works. Planning permission granted 23rd July 2021
14. Email re a new community radio station for Shropshire – INTuneRadio, inviting DPC to spotlight its community. Contact is marjorie@rtfq.com
15. Road closure notification for BT for 9th September 2021 – 24 hours. Rock Cottages Junction to Wetmoor, Bache Mill
16. Road closure notification for OpenReach for 12th August 2021 for 24 hrs. B4368 jct. Seifton Bache to Westhope Cottage.
17. Telephone request from Mrs Francis seeking assistance with debris, silt and mud being washed onto the Bache Mill/Middlehope Lane from bridleways every time it

rains. Message passed on to Mr Trim who is having trouble locating the areas mentioned.

18. Enquiry by Clerk to Planning Dept. re the exact status of planning application 21/03010/AGR. They have confirmed it relates to an agricultural building and does need planning permission so DPC will receive an application in due course.
19. Enquiry by Clerk to Planning Department as to whether the appeal to the Secretary of State concerning application 20/01519/OUT had been lodged within the statutory time limits. Planning Dept. confirms it was lodged in April, just inside the time limit.
20. Letter Clerk to Mr P Middleton re PREAPP/21/00106 – proposed affordable dwelling east of Corfton - stating DPC can only comment on actual planning applications, not proposed ones.

Responses – Item 8. A date for this meeting is still awaited and is limited to 3 attendees from DPC. The Chairman felt the police would not attend as there are issues over a 30mph limit. Cllr. O’Boyle felt that should be taken up with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

100/21 – Review and Consideration of DPC’s current Standing Orders

The current Standing Orders had been circulated and considered by councillors. Cllr. Rattu had raised queries which had been dealt with. The Chairman had raised a number of issues, which were discussed. The Clerk will produce a draft of the proposed amended document for the September meeting.

101/21 – Finance Report for July 2021

Precept balance b/fwd from June 2021		£6,399.59
Less: Cheques authorised to be drawn on Precept Funds in July 2021		
1. Clerk’s net salary for July 2021	£236.74	
2. PAYE on Clerk’s July 2021 salary	£ 11.60	
3. SALC – course fees “Handling Difficult Situations”	£ 60.00	
4. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by the Clerk in July 2021 on behalf of DPC</u>		
• July 2021 contribution to telephone & Broadband @ £20 per month	£20.00	
• Postage: 6 x 2 nd class stamps	£ 3.96	
• 1 ream white A4 copy paper	£ 2.85	
• Travelling expenses claimed at 45p To DVH for parish council meeting	28.7.21	
34 miles @ 45p	<u>£15.30</u>	
Total of administrative expenses	£42.11	<u>£ 42.11</u>
Total claim on Precept funds in July 2021	<u>£350.45</u>	<u>£ 350.45</u>
Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to September 2021		<u>£6,049.14</u>

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

- **Community Infrastructure Levy /Neighbourhood Fund**
Balance b/fwd from June 2021 **£8,564.61**
- **Environmental works & asset management fund**

Balance b/fwd from June 2021	£1,083.10	
Less: Invoice from Gary Trim dated 13 th July 2021	<u>£ 160.83</u>	
	<u>£ 922.27</u>	£ 922.27
• Funds held for Flood Action Group - bal. b/fwd from June 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 above be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watson

Vote: unanimous in favour of the proposal.

3. Balance held by DPC following authorisation of the payment listed above above listed payments on 28.07.2021

1. Precept	£6,049.14
2. Community Infrastructure Levy	£8,564.61
3. Environmental grant/fund	£ 922.27
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>£22,459.50</u>

4 Bank statement and cash book reconciliation

Verification by Councillors of the Clerk’s reconciliation between HSBC bank statement numbered 347 and DPC’s Cash Book.

102/21 – Any Other Business (for dissemination only).

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 commencing at 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

22nd September 2021

Dated: _____