

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH
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MINUTES

**Of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council
held on Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 7.15pm at Westhope Village Hall.**

079/24 – Present

Cllr. D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. R Morgan, Cllr. A Rattu, Cllr. T O'Boyle, Cllr. T Pardoe

In attendance - the Clerk, Shropshire Councillor C Motley and five members of the public

Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr. R Povall and Cllr. C Martyn

080/24 – 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.

081/24 – Public involvement session

No matters were raised.

082/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and of the Parish Council Meeting, both held on 22nd May 2024

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd May 2024 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. Watson proposed that the Minutes of the APM on 22nd May 2024 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal Seconded by Cllr. S. Povall

Vote on Proposal: 6 in favour, one abstention, carried by a majority.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held following the APM on 22nd May 2024 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 parish council meeting on 22nd May 2024 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. S. Povall

Vote on Proposal: 6 in favour, one abstention, carried by a majority

083/24: Matters arising from the Parish Council Meetings of 22nd May 2024 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

034/24/1: Cllr. Rattu has had no response as yet from Mr Nick Newton of Highways to DPC's submission about speed reducing methods on the B4368. Cllr. Motley advised there have been 200 redundancies at SC, so matters are difficult for the remaining staff.

050/24: The Clerk has contacted Fix My Street about the ruinous state of the highway from Peaton Strand to Bouldon.

053/24 – Possible EV charging point at DVH. Cllr. O'Boyle asked what the difficulties were that the Chairman had referred in the May Minutes. Chairman replied a parish councillor he had met advised the costs are high and there are endless complications involved with running an EV unit. Cllr. S Povall advised the DVH committee are considering whether to instal one at the DVH.

064/24 – Mrs Kath Worthington advised that the WVH committee had appointed her as their representative at DPC meetings.

084/24 - Reports

084/24/1 - Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported he had attended the recent Centenary Celebrations at Westhope Village Hall. There were about 90 people in attendance and he thought the event's organisation was excellent and it was an enjoyable celebration.

He has been in communication with Mr Rob Ireland about the parking situation at Jack's Cottage, Bache Mill. Mr Ireland has identified a spot nearby and neighbours have supported his plan to dig into an earth bank to level it, thereby creating a parking space. He is going to seek planning permission for this.

There have been problems in Bouldon with the intermittent failure of the Broadband signal, which adversely affects the Tally Ho as they can't use their card machines from time to time. He has been in communication with SWS about it. He has also been dealing with the issue of paediatric pads for the defibrillator at DVH. The Chairman reported he had represented the parish council at Sally Woodhouse's funeral.

084/24/2 – Cllr. Motley's Report. Cllr. Motley had been advised by the legal department at SC that with the approaching General Election she should not report on SC activities. All she could say is dozens of council meetings have been cancelled or postponed and there will be a frantic re-ordering of work after the election.

084/24/3 – Broadband. Cllr. Rattu advised that VONEUS have taken over from SWS and have been awarded the government funding contract to deliver the Project Gigabit Broadband to south Shropshire, including the to hard to reach places such as Westhope and Middlehope. They have carried out mapping and they have access to funding. The voucher scheme has been withdrawn. Their funding includes new antennas where necessary. Mr Brooks advised he has tried and tried to contact VONEOS about his connection, but they never respond. All communication has to be conducted through a webchat, to which they never respond, and it is impossible to contact them direct. Cllr. Motley suggested DPC should talk with neighbouring parish councillors to see if their parishioners have had the same issues and take the matter up collectively with VONEUS. We could invite VONEUS to a future meeting for them to explain how they intend to spend the government funding in the Corvedale parishes.

084/24/4 – Westhope Village Hall report. Mrs. Worthington thanked all who had worked hard to make the centenary celebrations a success. The committee have obtained a stone commemorative plaque which will be displayed outside the hall. The hall is hosting many regular events, but have had to cancel some recent events due to the resurfacing of the Seifton to Westhope road, which has dented their fund raising efforts. Their next project is to get the floor inspected and repaired. Whilst many other projects compete for the funds they can raise, such as new curtains and curtain poles, they believe the flooring must take precedence for health and safety reasons.

084/24/5 – Diddlebury Village Hall Report. Cllr. S Povall reported that DVH committee meetings are held during the working day so he is unable to attend them. However, the recent pizza night was very well supported and the hall was getting a lot of use. The Chairman noted it was good to see that both village halls are thriving and are being well supported by their communities.

084/24/6 – Louise Powell Almshouse Trust. Cllr. O’Boyle referred to his report to the APM, and clarified that the various almshouse charities have formed one joint board of trustees for ease of administration and to better enable the movement of residents between the various almshouses.

085/24 – Planning applications

24/01809/OUT – an outline application for the erection of a single dwelling house and garage (to include access) on land adjacent to The Sun Inn, Corfton.

The Chairman outlined the application and went through the Design and Access Statement. He noted there were no objections on the planning portal. However, DPC is constrained in dealing with any applications relating to Corfton by the Resolution it passed on the 23rd January 2019 (Minute ref 012/19) whereby it agreed not to support any further applications for open market housing in Corfton as the number agreed in the Community Cluster had been far exceeded, a stance which has been supported by Shropshire Council.

Cllr. Rattu **proposed** that the parish council will not support this application and objects to it. Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watson.

Vote: Unanimous in support for the proposal.

24/02102/TCA – application for works to a number of trees, as scheduled, within the Diddlebury Conservation Area, namely at The Old Vicarage, Diddlebury.

It was noted that none of the trees listed in the schedule are subject to a TPO.

Cllr. Pardoe **proposed** that the parish council should support the application and raise no objections to it.

Proposal **seconded** by the Chairman

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

24/01977/FUL – application for proposed change of use from ancillary annexe to open market rental accommodation, at Lydehole Farm, Mulberry Lane, Upper Hayton, Ludlow.

Mr & Mrs Brooks, the applicants, attended to assist the councillors. The annexe had been occupied as a granny flat but following the death of the relative residing there, they now wished, as part of their farm diversification scheme, to let it as a low-cost open market rental property. After discussing the application, Cllr. Rattu **proposed** that the parish council should support the application.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pardoe

Vote: Unanimous in support of the application.

24/02080/FUL - application for the development of 10 shepherd’s huts for wedding accommodation at The Walled Garden, Delbury Hall, Diddlebury.

The applicants, Mr Patrick Wrigley and Mr Jack Wrigley attended to assist councillors and explained that to be competitive in the wedding venue market they needed to be able to provide guest accommodation. They felt such accommodation would be a boost to the local economy, and a positive impact of providing such accommodation on site would be the reduction in the number of vehicles leaving the site late at night. In answer to councillors' queries, they confirmed they will monitor noise levels, which should anyway be reduced by the walled nature of the site and they will not be installing hot tubs; the units will all be plumbed to a treatment plant. They have not yet done a landscaping plan, but will ensure only low level lighting will be installed to illuminate pathways etc.

After discussion Cllr. Pardoe **proposed** that the parish council should support the application.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

Vote: Six in favour, one abstention, proposal carried by a majority vote.

086/24 – To consider highways and environmental matters

086/24/1- Mrs Worthington queried why the chippings on the Westhope road only go as far as the college and asked if the road works will continue as the road between the college and Hillside Coppice is in a shocking state and the residents are concerned that they paid thousands in CIL but the road works appear to have stopped before reaching them. The Chairman said DPC will query the situation.

084/24/2 – Cllr. Watson reported that SC are to be congratulated for once. She had reported a falling tree on the Bache Mill side of the B4368, opposite the entrance to The Moors, to SC in the morning and it had been felled and cleared by lunch time. The operatives also said they will be filing a report as there are other dangerous trees at this location which need attention.

087/24 – Consideration of correspondence and communications received in June 2024

Councillors considered the following correspondence and communications:

Highways matters

1. Highways closure notification: A4113 at Bromfield: road closure 23rd, 24th and 25th June, 2nd to 6th July, from 07.00 – 17.00.
2. Highways closure – unnamed road Seifton to Westhope. 23rd, 24th, 25th June, 4th July to 6th July, 07.00 to 17.00
3. Notification from DPC to FixMyStreet re state of the road at Peaton and Peaton Strand.

General correspondence

4. Notification from SC of a Public Spaces Protection Order which comes into force on 24th June 2024. Fixed penalty notices of £100 will be issued to owners who allow dogs to foul public and amenity spaces, plus dogs will be subject to constraint in such areas. Full details on SC's website.
5. Details about boundary changes, polling station details, voter ID etc re forthcoming General Election on 4th July.
6. Email from PKF Littlejohn LLP, external auditors, confirming receipt of DPC's AGAR/audit documents for the 2023 2024 audit process.
7. Email from SALC with details of a course - "Making SALC councils sustainable".
8. Notification from Diddlebury Village Hall advising that their hire charges are increasing from 1st September to £15 per hour for the large room and £10 per hour for the small room.
9. Response from Connexus re DPC's enquiry as to why 3 and 4 Mill Lane, Diddlebury, have been empty for so long (3 years and 16 months respectively) in a time of housing crisis. DPC

response expressing extreme dissatisfaction with the lack of urgency exhibited by Connexus and asking them to attend a DPC meeting to discuss the matter.

088/24 – To consider progress on the new public access playground in Diddlebury.

The Chairman reported that the surface works will be commenced on 15th July. Complaints had been received that the picnic table has been sited underneath a tree and receives a lot of avian droppings. Cllr. Pardoe said unfortunately when he assembled the table that was the only site which was on level ground. He had foreseen the problem and had cut back some branches. He will move the table once the new surface has been laid. The Chairman hopes to get the Shropshire Star to attend an opening celebration: Mrs Worthington said they had declined to attend to report on Westhope’s Centenary celebrations on financial grounds.

089/24 – Financial matters

089/24/1 – Finance Report for June 2024

Precept Balance b/fwd from May 2024 **£8,710.75**

LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on 26th June 2024

1. HSBC bank charges.	£ 7.40	
2. Clerk’s net salary for June 2024	£273.47	
3. PAYE on Clerk’s June 2024 salary	£ 21.00	
4. Russell Brooks: paediatric pads for defibrillator at DVH	£114.00	
5. Expenses paid by Chairman May/June 2024 inc. D-Day lamp post signs, travel and stationery	£ 76.99	
6. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in May & June 2024</u>		
• June 2024 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision at £20 p.m	£20.00	
• Andy Holmes – IT support on 23.5.24 – Uploading Microsoft Cloud	£20.00	
IT support on 28.05.25 – fixing printer and problem with Outlook	£15.00	
• Postage to PKF Littlejohn LLP- AGAR forms	£ 1.35	
• 1 pkt A4 copy paper and book of 8 x 2 nd class stamps	£11.55	
• Travel expenses at 45p per mile 03.05.24 – 42 miles to Leebotwood to deliver accounts to auditor – return journey to collect the audited accounts on 08.05.24 Total mileage 84 miles but shared with Eaton PC so is 42 26.06.24 to Westhope Village Hall for parish council meeting - 32 miles Total mileage claimed: 74 miles	£33.30	
Total of June 2024 expenses	<u>£101.20</u>	<u>£101.20</u>
		<u>£594.06</u>
Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to July 2024		<u>£ 594.06</u> <u>£8,116.69</u>

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that the cheques listed amounting to £594.06 be approved for payment. Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. O’Boyle

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

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

CIL/Neighbourhood Funds balance b/fwd from May 2024	£18,457.45
Environmental & asset maintenance fund b/fwd from May 2024	£ 1,010.82
Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from May 2024	£ 750.00
Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park maintenance reserve funds, bal. b/fwd	£ 3,500.00
Reserves fund for SC elections, bal. b/fwd from May 2024	£ 457.73
<u>Third Party Funds</u>	
Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group funds. Bal. b'fwd from May	£ 700.00
Flood Action Group funds, bal. b/fwd from May 2024	£ 228.46
Total of funds	<u>£25,104.46</u>

Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed

Precept Funds	£ 8,116.69
Ring fenced and third party funds	<u>£25,104.46</u>
	<u>£33,221.15</u>

089/24/2 - DPC's Cash Book was reconciled by Cllr O'Boyle with HSBC Bank Statement No 382 and was verified as being correct.

089/24/3 – To consider, approve and adopt a new set of Financial Regulations.

The new Financial Regulations had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting: no issues were raised.

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that the parish approve and adopt the new Financial Regulations

Proposal **seconded** by the Chairman

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

090/24 – Any Other Business (for the dissemination of information only)

No matters were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th July 2024, 7.15pm at Diddlebury Village Hall
No meeting in August 2024

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

Dated: 24th July 2024