

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 27th November 2024 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

127/24 – Present

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

In attendance - the Clerk, PC Henry King-Salter, and four members of the public

Apologies: Cllr R Povall, Shropshire Cllr. Motley

128/24 – 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.

129/24– Public involvement session.

The Chairman introduced PC Henry King-Salter who is the new Community Police Officer for this area, who will be based at Church Stretton but is assigned to cover the Craven Arms, Onibury, Diddlebury, Bromfield and other local areas. PC King-Salter accepts that Craven Arms and its surrounding areas have been neglected in the past by not having a dedicated community officer and he hopes to remedy that by being a visible presence in the area. He is authorised to proactively stop and search vehicles. He congratulated Diddlebury on its two VAR signs and is aware of our speeding concerns on the B4368. The Chairman said thefts from farms is also a concern. In answer to questions raised, he advised he has no immediate plans to visit the junior school; he is not authorised to visit secondary schools. He also regrets that residents have no access to a manned Police Station and is not aware that any change in that policy is imminent. PC 23440 Henry King-Salter’s contact details are: mobile 07483 140311, email: henry.king-salter@westmercia.police.uk, The Chairman thanked him for his attendance at the meeting.

130/24– Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting of 23rd October 2024

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 23rd October 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 meeting on 23rd October 2024 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting’s business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Martyn

Vote on Proposal: Six members voted in favour of the Proposal, two abstained as they had not been at the meeting. Carried by a majority vote.

131/24: Matters arising from the Parish Meeting 23rd October 2024 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

Cllr. R Morgan confirmed the stones had been laid in the new public playground area. The Chairman thanked him for his work.

Flooding on the B4368 will be dealt with under Highways.

132/24 - Reports

132/24/1 – Chairman’s Report. The Chairman confirmed he had attended a community meeting in Craven Arms about the new policing initiatives. He had also completed and submitted the consultation request from SC about road signs and banners advertising local events.

132/24/2 – Shropshire Cllr. Motley’s report. Cllr. Motley did not attend and had not submitted a written report due to illness.

132/24/3: Westhope Village Hall Report. Mrs Worthington reported that the fund raising event for a defibrillator involving the Newtown Male Voice Choir had to be cancelled due to the recent floods. Bingo, whilst drives and skittles nights are all well attended. The Committee are seeking grants to improve the heating.

132/24/4 – Diddlebury Village Hall: Cllr. S Povall noted that the DVH committee minutes discussed putting up signs in the car park as cars turning around on private drives were damaging tarmac. The Chairman advised that DPC had been contacted by Mr Thomas who is under the impression that DPC still owns parts of the car park. He will be contacted and advised that DPC’s ownership was transferred to the Official Custodian of Charities in 2016.

132/24/5 – Flood Action Group Report. Cllr. Martyn reported on the flooding that occurred on 24th November. Oddly, Bouldon was unaffected by flooding but Diddlebury was flooded worse than in 2020, three houses in Bache Mill were flooded and the B4368 by the bridge was so badly affected that no cars could get through. He has been in discussions with SC about enlarging the channel to drain the water away on the bridge and to get the new password so he can access the flood gauge. He is going to submit a full report on the flooding issue to John Bellis at Highways this week.

133/24 – Planning applications

24/04312/FUL application for change of use from agricultural portal frame building to office, gym, stores, toilets, showers and games room and all associated works at Westhope Country Retreats, Middle Westhope Farm, Westhope.

The plans submitted were considered by councillors. The Chairman reported there were no objections on the planning portal and reported on the Design and Access Statement.

Cllr. S Povall **proposed** that the parish council should support the application.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Rattu

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

24/04151/FUL application for erection of a dwelling for single disabled occupancy, access drive and parking on land south east of No. 11 Corfton Bache, SY7 9LE
Councillors considered the plans and discussed various aspects of the application with the Applicants. The size of proposed property and the number of car parking spaces related to there being two 24 hour carers being in attendance.

There was one objection on the planning portal, relating to rain water run off issues. The property is sited within the curtilage of No 11 but can only be accessed by a separate driveway. It is thus a separate dwelling, not part of No. 11. It is screened by trees.

Councillors considered the wording of the Resolution they had passed in January 2015 not to support any further development in Corfton. It was agreed by those councillors who had been present when the Resolution was drafted that it was only directed at open market housing, not affordable or exception sites housing. It was agreed that some type of S.106 restriction should be applied to this application to prevent it being treated as an open market dwelling.

Cllr. O'Boyle **proposed** that the parish council should support this application as an exceptional needs application, with the caveat that a S.106 type of restriction be applied to it to prevent it being sold as an open market development.

Proposal **seconded** by the Chairman

Vote: Seven in favour of the proposal, one abstention.

An application, 24/04404/FUL for the erection of a porch, side and rear extensions and internal alterations at The Green, Bache Mill, had been received too late to be included on this Agenda and it would be out of time for consideration by the time the parish council meets in January. The nature of the application was discussed and it was agreed it was suitable to be considered by a Group of Councillors pursuant to Standing Order 27. The Chairman, Cllrs. Rattu, Watson, Martyn and Pardoe agreed to hold a site meeting to consider the application.

134/24 – Consideration of highways and environmental matters

A FOI request had been sent to Shropshire Council's Highways Department, as per Minute ref. 111/24/2. A detailed response had been received from them and was considered.

Flood alleviation suggestions were discussed at length. The Clerk will contact the Highways Depot at Craven Arms to see if Diddlebury residents can collect sandbags and if so, what the cost is.

Leaky dams were discussed. It was thought they had probably all been swept away by the ferocity of the flood waters. It was felt a flood water gauge should be sited on the bridge to warn traffic of the depth of water – it cannot be judged especially at night. Cllr. O'Boyle thought that DPC should work with Shropshire Wildlife Trust to see if beavers could be introduced into the Corvedale to build dams. Cllr. Martyn said Shropshire Wildlife had mooted the idea but there was opposition to it from the Millichope Estate as the area would have to be securely fenced. Cllr. Martyn is to attend a meeting at Culmington next week and beavers are on the agenda. He will report back to the January meeting.

Cllr. Watson reported that traffic lights had been erected on the B4368 at Pedlars Rest for four days, although no work appeared to be happening and until today no Severn Trent tanker lorries had been parked at the junction. Two appeared today and were parked on the highway. The traffic lights had been placed in the carriageway causing traffic to swerve around them to avoid oncoming traffic.

(Note: the lights and lorries had been removed by 9.30pm on 27.11.24.)

135/24 – Consideration of correspondence and communications received in November 2024

Planning application decisions/matters

1. Letter DPC to the Planning Inspectorate, Bristol, supporting appeal lodged by Mr Jack Wrigley against refusal of application for 10 shepherd's huts in the Walled Garden at Delbury Hall. Ref: APP/L/3245/W/24/3352264
2. Planning decision – 24/03399/FUL for erection of a temporary marquee for longer than 28 days at the Delbury Hall wedding venue. Permission granted
3. Planning decision – 24/03616/FUL for the erection of a first -floor extension at The Green Farm, Middlehope, SY7 9JT. Permission granted.

General correspondence

4. Notification via SALC of a presentation at the SALC meeting on 29th November 2024, by the County's Chief Fire Officer on the Community Risk Management Plan, upon which the Fire Officer has launched a consultation, seeking parish council's views. which closes on 27th December. A video can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/FPLQufpkVw0>.
5. Response from Shropshire Council to DPC's Freedom of Information request re flooding on the B4368 in Diddlebury.
6. Information from Shropshire Council about fly tipping.

136/24 – Finance Report for November/part December 2024

Precept Balance b/fwd from October 2024 **£6,978.19**

LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on 27th November 2024

1. HSBC bank charges to 13.10.24	£ 6.60	
2. Clerk's net salary for November & December 2024	£547.14	
3. PAYE on Clerk's November/December 2024 salary	£ 41.80	
4. Cllr. D Hedgley – reimbursement for Poppy Wreath	£ 25.00	
5. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in November 2024</u>		
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• November 2024 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision at £20 p.m	£20.00	
• 1 book of 2 nd class stamps	£ 6.80	
• 1 pkt A4 copy paper	£ 3.99	
• Travel expenses at 45p per mile		
27.11.24 to Diddlebury Village Hall for PC meeting – 32 miles:	£14.40	
November 2024 admin expenses	£45.19	
	<u>£ 45.19</u>	
	<u>£665.73</u>	<u>£ 665.73</u>
Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to January 2025		£6,312.46
Less: Transfer of £300 from Precept Funds to Ring-fenced Funds for the WWI Information Board – Minute Ref. 235/23		£ 300.00
Balance carried forward to January 2025		<u>£6,012.46</u>

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

CIL/Neighbourhood Funds bal. b/fwd from October 2024 £2,269.45

Environmental & asset maintenance fund;

Balance b/fwd from October 2024 £1,010.82
Less: £280 to Mr J A Woodhouse & £200 to Mr F Woodhouse £ 480.00
£ 530.82 **£ 530.82**

Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from Oct. 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 October 2024 **£ 457.73**

Third Party Funds

Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group funds. bal. b'fwd from Oct **£ 700.00**

Flood Action Group funds, bal. b/fwd from Oct .2024 **£ 228.46**

WWI Information Board ring-fenced fund **£ 300.00**

Total of ring fenced funds **£8,736.46**

Cllr. Watson **Proposed** that cheques totalling £1,145.73 be authorised for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. O'Boyle

Vote: Unanimous in support of proposal

Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed

Precept Funds **£6,012.46**

Ring fenced and third party funds **£8,736.46**

£14,748.92

1. The Clerk's reconciliation of DPC's Cash Book with HSBC Bank Statement No 387 was verified by Cllr. O'Boyle.

2. Preliminary consideration of the Precept Budget for 2025/2026.

The Clerk's preliminary draft 2025/2026 Precept Budget was considered and a final draft will be approved at the meeting on 22nd January 2025

137/24 – Any Other Business (for the dissemination of information only)

137/24/1: The Chairman expressed his concern that SWS had been given a contract to provide Broadband to this part of Shropshire, but had transferred the contract on to VONEUS, who have proved to be very difficult to contact to voice complaints to. There have been frequent dips in downloading speeds of Broadband reception in Bouldon, and VONEUS have been slow and seemingly disinterested in remedying the failure, to the frustration on the villagers.

137/23/2: The Clerk suggested that there should be a Resolution on the Agenda for the 22nd January 2025 meeting to clarify the Resolution passed in January 2019 about housing development in Corfton. It needs to be made clear that the Resolution applies only to open market housing, not affordable or exceptional needs housing.

127/24/3: Mrs Worthington felt there should be a DPC representative on the board of the Diddlebury Charity. The Chairman was content that Mr David Francis reports to DPC.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd January 2025
7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall – no meeting in December 2024

Minutes signed by: _____

Dated: _____