

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 22nd October 2025 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.**

100/25– Present

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

Apologies for absence: Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. R Morgan, Cllr. A Watson and Cllr. B Watts

In attendance - the Clerk. Corvedale Cllr. Colin Stanford plus two members of the public

101/25 – 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. O’Boyle made a declaration of interest relating to planning application 25/03206/TCA and took no part in the consideration of the application.

102/25 – Public involvement session.

Cllr. S Povall took the opportunity to enquire of the councillors whether they had any objections to him building further chicken housing sheds at Corfton Farm. He explained the market forces which necessitate him needing further housing for raising chickens and due to the high cost of making a planning application for the additional housing, he wanted to get the council’s view before proceeding with a formal application. Whilst sympathetic, the Chairman felt it was only right that the whole community had the right to take a view on such an application, and that could only happen at a public parish council meeting once a formal application was launched.

103/25– Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meetings of 24th September 2025

The draft Minutes of the meeting of 24th September 2025 had been circulated prior to the meeting and three amendments had been requested and actioned: no further amendments were raised at the meeting.

Cllr. Rattu **proposed** that the Minutes of the meeting of 24th September 2025 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Martyn.

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

104/25: Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting of 24th September 2025 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

094/25/1: The Chairman advised he had not been able to progress a new Three Castles notice board as details are still awaited re the WWI information board.

096/25/3: The Clerk confirmed she had contacted the Tree Team at Shropshire Council about the dead tree on the bridge on the B4368 and had also suggested a risk assessment was advisable for the remaining trees on the bridge. A response is awaited.

096/25/3: Cllr. Rattu advised he has not yet been able to make an appointment with a Highways Engineer to discuss the flooding issue re his driveway and whether he should proceed with tarmacking the drive.

098/25/3: Cllr. Martyn has selected a suitable notice board for Bache Mill and circulated its details to the councillors. It costs £224 plus £159 for posts. Matter then dealt with under Finance.

105/25- Reports

105/25/1 – Chairman’s Report. The Chairman reported on two matters. First, he had considered the Shropshire Council proposed scheme – “Working Together” – which invited parish and town councils to take on responsibility for some works normally carried out by Shropshire Council and he had attended a meeting in Shrewsbury to further explore the scheme. The time frame for making a decision on whether to support the scheme or not had been very short so he had reported to councillors by email with his views on the scheme, which is DPC should not get involved.

It was proposed that the work carried out by parish councils should be funded by the parish council through their precept budgets and the parish council would be responsible for all aspects of the work’s administration and oversight. Our previous experience of jointly employing an EMO had not worked and DPC does not have the resources to take on the large amount of work involved in this proposed scheme. Also,

+ the previous scheme excluded any working on the B4368 which runs through the whole of the Corvedale.

The second issue was the Chairman had considered, researched and discussed the problem raised concerning issues with the gate behind the Sun Inn.

105/25/2 – Corvedale Division Cllr. Colin Stanford’s report. Cllr. Stanford reported that SC’s Budget overspend was even larger than anticipated. Adult and child social care and school transport for certain children was consuming most of SC’s annual budget.

On the proposed devolution issue, there was a mixed reaction to proposed amalgamations and no decisions have been taken yet.

The Shropshire Together proposal seemed to him unsuitable for the Corvedale parishes on many levels, especially given that parish councillors are volunteers.

He continues to have difficulties with the planning department and is concerned that they continue to override both parish council comments and his when he supports parish council’s views. He commented on the consultation document SC has circulated to all councils about proposed designs for housing. He congratulated the Chairman on his persistent efforts to get the work done on the Bouldon bridge, which has finally been completed.

He has been contacted by a Corvedale resident who is trying to discover if Open Reach’s new broadband contract for South Shropshire includes Middlehope. The interactive map Open Reach use does not show Middlehope. Mrs Worthington asked whether Westhope was included and was advised no hamlets are shown on the map. Cllr. Rattu advised that DPC

has not had any Broadband updates for years and no new fibre cabinets have been installed in the area, Cllr. Sandford will make further enquiries. Cllr. S Povall advised he had fibre Broadband to his house and it was so poor he's had it removed. Airband and satellite networks are being promoted at the moment.

105/25/3 - Flood Action Group report. Cllr. Martyn reported that he has submitted an article to the Corvedale News dealing with local flooding issues.

105/25/4 - Diddlebury Village Hall Report: Cllr. Rattu advised he had been unable to attend the last committee meeting. Cllr. O'Boyle requested that Cllr. Rattu obtains details of DVH's up to date financial position.

105/25/5 - Westhope Village Hall Report. Mrs Worthington reported the new electric heating system and fire alarms have now been installed, all having been paid for from fund raising events. Cllr. Rattu advised that Stanton Lacy have had electric heating installed free and they are selling electricity back to the grid. He will get the details.

105/25/6 – Louise Powell Almshouses Cllr. O'Boyle had attended a meeting of the Trustees today. All the almshouses are fully occupied. £30,000 had been spent recently on renovations and repairs. There are on-going issues with dog ownership and the parking of mobility scooters.

106/25 – Planning applications

25/03460/FUL – an application for the siting of nine holiday letting units and associated works at Westhope Country Retreats, Middle Westhope Farm, Westhope.

Mrs C Crowther attended to represent the applicant.

The Chairman advised Westhope is designated as a community cluster. He noted there were no public objections to the application. Pre-planning advice had been sought and the subsequent advice noted and applied. No issues were raised with planning policies, ecology, land scaping, flooding or historic environment. SC's only concern was with highways issues.

Cllr. Watts was unable to attend this meeting due to illness but had sent the Chairman some written observations. He was concerned that the Westhope/Seifton road to the B4368 is already busy with traffic - residents, users of the college and a lot of agricultural machinery – but is a narrow lane with few passing places. He is concerned at the impact the additional traffic using these nine units would generate. He is also concerned that there is already a planning application extant for three houses in Westhope (23/04417/OUT). Councillors were also concerned that there will be additional staff attending the site to service these nine units, creating more traffic.

Mrs Crowther was asked to explain the applicant's lettings policy. She advised this is not yet finalized but it would not involve all nine units changing on the same day and they would endeavour to stagger the arrival and departure times. They will probably have a minimum 2 nights stay policy. She agreed the lettings information will include details of the three possible routes into the site and will discourage access via the B4368. As for staff travel arrangements, the existing staff will be encouraged to work longer hours – which had been well received – to reduce additional traffic.

Councillors considered the application further.

The Chairman **proposed** that the parish council strongly supports this application, but does request that the applicant takes into account the narrow lanes leading to the site and the effect the extra traffic will have on local road users. They are asked to stagger the arrival/departure times of their guests and to provide details of the three routes available to the site.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall

Vote: Five votes in favour, one abstention: proposal carried.

25/03205/TCA – application to reduce the height of one beech tree to approximately 3.5 metres and to reduce the height of a second beech tree by 50%, within the Diddlebury Conservation Area, namely at Glebe Farm, Mill Lane, Diddlebury.

This application was discussed by the councillors. Some felt the tree being reduced by 50% would cause it to die but the Tree Surgeon involved had advised it would survive.

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

Cllr. Rattu **seconded** the proposal.

Vote: Five members entitled to vote – and voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

107/25 – Highways, foot paths and environmental matters.

Cllr. Rattu had received by email a complaint that a possibly protected wall behind the Sun Inn had been destroyed and debris spread across the lane. The planning history of the area was researched and Cllr. R Povall visited the site the afternoon the complaint had been lodged. The debris on the lane had been cleared away. A pre-existing gate had been moved 8 metres back into the field so that farm machinery would not block the lane whilst the gate was being opened and shut. The wall had not been damaged. The Chairman was satisfied that the matter had been investigated and no planning breach detected.

108/25 – Consideration of correspondence and communications - Correspondence List for meeting on 22nd October 2025

1. Road closure notifications:

- a. 20th – 21st December 2025 between 23.00 – 10.00 unnamed road between A49 and B4365 – railway maintenance.
- b. : 19th – 23rd January 2026. 07.00 – 17.00 on road between Westhope and Harton – Capital resurfacing.

2. Planning decisions:

25/01457/FUL and 25/01458/LBC –extension, solar panels etc.at Bache Mill House, Bache Mill, Diddlebury – Planning permission granted 02/10/25
25/02877/VAR and 25/02888/VAR – variations to existing planning applications at The Green Farm, Middlehope. Planning permission granted 02/10/25
25/02831/FUL – erection of garage at Moat Hollow House, Bache Mill
Planning permission granted 20/10/25.

3. Email confirming that DPC will pay for defibrillator pads for Westhope Village Hall

4. Email from Corvedale Cllr. Colin Stanford with details of the Shropshire “Working Together” Partnership

5. Email Clerk to Mrs C Horton re damaged gate

6. Email James Walton, SC to DPC re implementation of Memorandum, of Understanding re Shropshire “Working Together” Partnership.

7. Email with updates and opportunities in the Shropshire Hills, from Shropshire Hills National Landscape.

8. Poster – Shropshire Speaks Up Campaign re White Ribbon Day. Go to **sc.wr@shropshire.gov.uk for details.**

109/25 - Finance Report for October 2025

109/25/1

Balance b/fwd from September 2025

£7,529.17

Less: cheques/direct debits drawn on Precept Funds on 22.10.25

1. HSBC bank charges	£	.40	
2. Clerk's net salary for October 2025	£	286.94	
3. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk's October salary	£	24.20	
4. Chairman's expenses "Shropshire Together" Course 25/7/25 48 miles @ 45p per mile	£	21.60	
5. SALC – fee for above course	£	21.00	
6. <u>Administrative expenses for October 2026</u>			
• October contribution to Broadband/telephone	£	20.00	
• Badger Inks Ltd – Epson 503 ink cartridges	£	13.98	
• Andy Holmes: Supply & fit new 550w power supply unit to DPC desktop PC	£	50.00	
• Mileage at 45p per mile 22.10.25 - Diddlebury Village Hall for PC meeting - 32 miles		<u>£14.40</u>	
Total admin expenses	£	98.38	£ 98.38
		<u>£452.52</u>	£ 452.52
Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to November 2025			£7,076.65

Cllr. Rattu **proposed** that cheques/direct debits to the value of £452.52 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

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

CIL/Neighbourhood Fund: Balance b/fwd from September 2025	£5,500.95
Environmental/asset maintenance fund: Bal. b/fwd from September 2025	£ 530.82
Legal Expenses ring-fenced fund	£ 750.00
Diddlebury Village Hall reserves fund for car park maintenance	£3,500.00
Reserves Fund held for SC elections	£ 457.73
Ring fenced fund for WWI Information Board	£ 300.00
<u>Third Party Funds</u>	
Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group bal. b/fwd from September 2025	£ 550.00
Flood Action Group	£ 228.46
	<u>£11,817.96</u>

Balance of funds held by DPC following payment of October authorised cheques etc

Precept Funds	£ 7,076.65
Ring-fenced and third party funds held	<u>£11,817.96</u>
	£18,894.61

109/25/2

Verification of the Clerk's Cash book and HCBC Bank Statement 398 reconciliation

The reconciliation was approved by Cllr. O'Boyle

109/25/3

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that the parish council should authorise the purchase of a notice board and posts for the Bache Mill community at a cost of £224 for the board plus £159 for supporting posts.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Martyn

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal

110/25 - Any Other Business (for the dissemination of information only)

110/25/1 By email Cllr. Watts had suggested that it would be useful if short profiles of each councillor, supported by their photographs, should be displayed on the website.

The suggestion was considered by councillors. Of the six present, not all were in favour of the photograph element. One had a valid reason for not having their photograph displayed. Cllr. Martyn was fairly sure that there was no space on the website to accommodate a profile and a photograph. It was agreed therefore that this matter be deferred to the November meeting when Cllr. Martyn would know what is possible and all members may be present to take a vote on the suggestion.

110/25/2 The Chairman drew councillors' attention to the email dated 17th October from Kathryn Maylett of Shropshire Council on SC's Notification of Consultation on Design Guidance. He is keen that councillors respond to the consultation, especially on bullet point 1 (draft design of new dwellings) and bullet point 2 (draft design of residential extensions and alterations).

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.55pm

The next Parish Council Meeting, commencing at 7.30pm, will be held on Wednesday 26th November 2025 at Diddlebury Village Hall.

Minutes signed by: _____

Dated: _____