

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall.**

### **067/25– Present**

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

**In attendance** - the Clerk, Corvedale Division Cllr. Colin Stanford, and six members of the public.

**Apologies:** Received and accepted from Cllr. C Martyn and Cllr. A Watson

### **068/25 – 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. Rattu declared interests in planning applications 25/01457/FUL and 25/01458/LBC and left the room whilst these applications were considered and voted on.

### **069/25 – approval and co-option of a ninth councillor**

Dr William Watts of Sutton Hill Cottage, Stanton Lacy had submitted a written application to be considered as a councillor, attended the meeting and was interviewed by the councillors. The Chairman **proposed** that Dr William Watts be co-opted as a ninth councillors to Diddlebury Parish Council.

The proposal was **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously to appoint Dr William Watts as a co-opted councillor.

The appointment took immediate effect, Cllr. Watts signed the Declaration of Office form and joined the meeting as a councillor.

### **070/25 – Public involvement session.**

Mrs Worthington raised a query about the criteria to be applied in granting one of the new proposed Connexus Housing properties in Mill Lane. Ms Tina Porter of Connexus Housing advised that a local connection will be the predominant criteria for these houses.

Mrs Worthington advised the council that when Severn Trent Water installed the new water main on the bridge on the B4368, they had blocked the steep footpath from the bridge down

into Bache Mill. It was agreed that Cllr. Martyn will be asked to report on this matter at the July meeting as the footpath is adjacent to his home.

### **071/25– Approval of the Minutes of the two parish council meetings of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

071/25/1 - The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. R. Povall **Proposed** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. R Morgan

**Vote on Proposal:** Six in support, one abstention – carried by a majority.

071/25/2 - The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. S. Povall **Proposed** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by the Chairman

**Vote on Proposal:** Six in support, one abstention – carried by a majority.

### **072/25: Matters arising from the two Parish Meetings of 14th May 2025 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.**

046/25. It was agreed the Motte Farm issue be deferred until Cllr. Martyn was available.

063/25: It was agreed that the proposed new notice board for Bache Mill be deferred until Cllr. Martyn is available.

060/25: Cllr. Rattu clarified representation of the DVH committee at DPC meetings. He will attend DVH meetings and report on them but if he is unable to attend, Cllr. Morgan will deputize.

066/25/2: The issue of notices being removed from DPC notice boards was discussed and it was agreed that a statement from DPC to the following effect should be displayed on all DPC notice boards, namely

“That the notice boards are the property of DPC and DPC's notices must take priority over any other notices. Any remaining space can be utilized by anyone in the Corvedale with an event to publicise and is not limited only to Diddlebury/Westhope events.”

### **073/25- Reports**

073/25/1 – Chairman's Report. The Chairman reported he had finally been contacted concerning the longstanding highways works in Bouldon. He will discuss the matter at Item 9 on the Agenda. He has finally given up trying to get the WWI information board sited by the war memorial in the churchyard, after further intransigence from members of the Hereford Diocese. He is now endeavouring to get permission from Highways for it to be mounted on the pavement by the church gate, with a small sign on the War Memorial drawing attention to it.

He has had a blocked footpath in Middlehope reported to him and is arranging for Mr Jack Wrigley to look at the footpath as it is believed to be on Delbury land. Along with Cllr. R Povall and the Clerk, he has completed the recent Shropshire Council questionnaire (item 10 on Correspondence List).

073/25/2 – Corvedale Division Cllr. Colin Stanford's report. Cllr. Stanford was pleased DPC members had responded to the recent SC questionnaire: he is keen that there should be better

communication between SC and the Town and Parish Councils. It was noted Parish Meetings had not been included and this oversight is being corrected.

The North West Relief Road around Shrewsbury had featured at a recent Cabinet Meeting. The new SC administration is keen that it should be halted and that some of the £39 million spent so far should be recouped. No land had been purchased and no construction work has started. Councillors queried what the £39 million had been spent on it: it seems it was consultant's fees. Cllr. Stanford was asked to make DPC's dismay at this waste of money to be made known to the Cabinet.

Cllr. Stanford advised his in-box mostly fills up with complaints about potholes. He has been on a course and discovered that SC only has a legal obligation to repair holes of a certain specific depth, but lesser potholes have to wait. Councillors' views on this and on the standard of work carried out by Keir on highways maintenance were voiced at length. He has attended his first Planning Committee and was disappointed that the Committee had refused a farmyard conversion which the relevant parish council had supported: he was disappointed with the outcome.

Cllr. R Povall asked what SC Committees Cllr. Stanford had been appointed to. He responded only the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee, which confers no powers on him.

Conservative and Reform councillors are in the minority at SC and so far none have been offered significant roles.

073/25/3 – Louise Powell Almshouse charity. Cllr. O'Boyle reported there is a vacancy in one property at the moment: there is a lot of interest in it despite it involving stairs so is not suitable for anyone with disability issues. The rents are being increased and are in the region of £500 per month

#### **074/25 – Planning applications**

**25/01457/FUL** and **25/01458/LBC** application for the erection of single storey rear extension, erection of an outbuilding following demolition of garage, installation of 18 solar panels roof mounted to existing outbuilding and listed building consent for these works at Bache Mill House, Bache Mill, Diddlebury.

Cllr. Rattu explained what his applications involved – a small extension for a WC/utility/boot room to the main house, partial demolition of a garage and replacement with a studio, and installation of solar panels on an existing building - why they were needed and what materials would be used. He then left the room whilst the applications were considered.

It was noted there were no public or statutory objections to the applications. Issues involving trees had already been addressed by the applicants. Pre-application discussions with SC had been going on for almost a year. After consideration of the plans and documentation Cllr. S Povall **proposed** that both the full application and the listed building consent application should be supported by the parish council, with no objections raised to it.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Morgan

**Vote:** Members unanimously voted in support of the proposal.

**25/01873/FUL** – application for the demolition of a pair of semi-detached dwellings and replacement with two pairs of semi-detached dwellings at 3 – 4, Mill Lane, Diddlebury by Connexus Housing

Ms Amanda Knowles and Ms Tina Porter of Connexus Housing were present to assist councillors with their application and answered any issues raised.

The Chairman went through the application. Two houses built in 1948 are to be demolished and replaced by four modern homes, each having two parking spaces with EV points, three houses are for rental and one for affordable shared ownership. Outside lighting, drainage and screening were satisfactory. Any applicants for the houses must have applied to Home

Point. The Chairman asked that Connexus put a notice in the Corvedale News outlining the conditions to be met by applicants. The time scale to completion depended on planning and the availability of builders but it hoped demolition will occur in March 2026 and they will be ready for occupation by the end of 2026. Cllr. S Povall raised concerns that Mill Lane will be blocked by builder's vehicles etc. but the Connexus representatives assured him there is space for them to operate without causing traffic problems.

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

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. R Povall

**Vote:** Six in favour, one abstention – carried by a majority.

### **075/25 - Consideration of highways and environmental matters**

The Chairman advised DPC has received a communication that the road in Bouldon would be closed from 26<sup>th</sup> August to the 19<sup>th</sup> September to enable works to be carried out to the long-outstanding damaged retaining wall. The road will however be open at weekends. He wants a meeting with Cllr. Stanford and a Highways engineer to see if better arrangements can be made so the road is open after work has finished for the day to better address local and business needs.

### **076/25 – Consideration of correspondence and communications**

#### **Correspondence List for meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

1. Notification from Planning Department re 25/01367/REM – application for reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) re outline planning permission 22/00778/OUT for a retired agricultural worker's dwelling at Corfton Farm, Corfton. Planning permission granted 02.06.25
2. Road closure notification from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 19<sup>th</sup> September, unnamed road in Bouldon, to enable repairs to retaining wall. Road will be open at weekends.
3. Road closure notification from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> September, of the B4368 at junction of road to Seifton/Westhope. Contact [streetworks@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetworks@shropshire.gov.uk) for diversion routes.
4. Correspondence & enclosures between DPC and Mr Bithell, Motte Farm, Middlehope re concrete apron.
5. Confirmation from Clear Councils that DPC has appropriate insurance cover renewed until 31.05.26
6. Notification from Planning Department re 25/020115/AGR – a proposed portal frame agricultural livestock building at Broncroft Parks, Broncroft., SY7 9HW. Sent to DPC for information purposes only – no response required.
7. Notification from Mayor of Shrewsbury (Cllr. Alex Wagner) seeking responses to his Town and Parish Councils June 2025 Survey.
8. DPC's communications with the Planning Department and with Severn Trent Water enquiring about possible works at the pumping station at The Moors, Diddlebury., possibly involving a water tower and a generator. Response from Severn Trent Water (Catherine Webb) that the only work proposed at the site is the groundwater pipe installation of which notification has already been given and a site meeting held to discuss it.
9. Letter from Tina Porter, Connexus Housing, advising that a planning

Application has now been submitted to Shropshire Council for the redevelopment of houses at 3 – 4 Mill Lane, Diddlebury, (25/01873/FUL) seeking DPC's support for the application. DPC invited a representative to attend our council meeting to discuss the application.

10. Letter from Shropshire Council's Tell Us, Feedback an Insight Team, inviting DPC to complete a questionnaire about its experience in engaging with SC.

11. Letter from DPC to the Planning Inspectorate supporting the appeal lodged against refusal of planning permission for the erection of a dwelling for single disabled occupancy on land south east of 11 Corfton Bache. (24/04151/FUL). DPC supported the appeal.

12. Letter from Promotion Officer at Shropshire Hills National Landscape (formerly AONB) with a copy of its 5 year management plan.

### **077/25 - Finance Report for June 2025**

<b>Balance b/fwd from May 2025</b>	<b>£1,942.12</b>
<b>Add: Precept for 2025/2026</b>	<b><u>£7,500.00</u></b>
	<b><u>£9,442.12</u></b>

### **Less: cheques/direct debits drawn on Precept Funds on 25.06.25**

1. HSBC bank charges as at 06.05.25	£ 7.00	
2. Clerk's net salary for June 2025	£286.94	
3. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk's June salary	£ 24.20	
4. Information Solutions Ltd - domain name charge	£ 30.00	
5. <u>Administrative expenses for June 2026</u>		
• June contribution to Broadband/telephone	£20.00	
• Postage/certificate of posting to auditor	£ 1.55	
• Stationery: A4 copy paper & file dividers	£ 6.90	
• Andy Holmes: IT support – setting up gov.uk	£40.00	
• Badger Inks Ltd – 2 sets of ink cartridges	£21.98	
• The Ink Spot, Ludlow – 4 warning road signs	£38.40	
• Mileage at 45p per mile		
31.5.25 – to Westhope/Middlehope/Bouldon/		
Diddlebury to post public rights notices re the		
2024/2025 Audit and to view Severn Trent		
Pumping Station at The Moors – 36 miles		
25.06.25 – to Westhope Village Hall for PC		
Meeting 32 miles. Total mileage – 68	<u>£30.60</u>	
Total of June 2025 administrative expenses	£159.43	<u>£159.43</u>
		<u>£507.57</u>
		<u>£ 507.57</u>
<b>Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to July 2025</b>		<b><u>£8,934.55</u></b>

Cllr. O'Boyle **proposed** that cheques/dd's totalling £507.57 be approved for payment.  
Proposal **seconded** by the Chairman

**Vote:** 6 in favour, 1 abstention, carried by a majority.

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

**CIL/Neighbourhood Fund:** Balance b/fwd from May 2025 £2,198.05

**ADD:** VAT reclaim from 2025 playground works £3,302.90

£5,500.95

**£5,500.95**

**Environmental/asset maintenance fund:** Bal. b/fwd from May 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
<b><u>Third Party Funds</u></b>	
Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group	£ 850.00
Flood Action Group	£ 228.46
	<b><u>£12,117.96</u></b>

**Balance of funds held by DPC following payment of June authorised cheques etc**

Precept Funds	£8,934.55
Ring-fenced and third party funds held	<b><u>£12,117.96</u></b>
	<b><u>£21,052.51</u></b>

**Verification of the Clerk's Cash book and HCBC Bank Statement No. 393 reconciliation** was checked and approved by Cllr. O'Boyle.

**078/25 - 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. The meeting closed at 8.50pm

**The next Parish Council Meeting, commencing at 7.30pm, will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 at Diddlebury Village Hall. There will be no meeting in August unless urgent business arises.**

**Minutes signed by:** David Hedgley

**Dated:** 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025