DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH
Tel: 01547 519282 "e" mail address: clerk@diddleburypc-gov.uk
Website address: www.diddlebury-pc.gov.uk

MINUTES

of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall.

092/26– Present and apologies for absence

Present:

Cllr. W. Watts, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr A Rattu.
Cllr. Watson agreed to chair this meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. D Hedgley and Cllr. C Martyn.

In attendance - the Clerk, Shropshire Cllr. Colin Stanford and 20 members of the public.

093/26 – 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.

094/26 – Public involvement session,

094/26/1

On Sunday 13th September Mr Martin Jones of Corfton notified the Clerk that some Corfton residents had become aware that the Forestry Commission North West had been asked to issue a clear felling licence for woodlands on parts of the Delbury Estate under reference FL-015-2985-2026. Although the application had apparently been submitted to Shropshire Council and had been sent to the Shropshire Hills National Landscapes, the Clerk advised that no one had notified the parish council about this particular application. Any objections to it had to be lodged with the Forestry Commission by 22nd September. Members of the Corfton community had come to the meeting to seek confirmation that the parish council would lodge objections to the granting of the clear felling licence. Considerable discussion ensued about the detrimental effects this felling would have on the Corfton, Lower Corfton, Bache Mill and Middlehope communities as the trees are located on steeply sloping ground. The possible effects included flooding of houses and roads, severe soil erosion, detrimental effects on wildlife and on the scenic amenity of the Corvedale Shropshire Hills landscape. It was believed the woodlands were partly larch planted in the 1950s and natural regeneration of mixed trees following earlier felling operations. There was also much concern expressed as to how the resulting timber would be transferred from the hill top to the main road below given the narrowness of the tracks which would have to be used. Cllr. Watts voiced the view that whilst the effects of clear felling could be undesirable, the trees in question are essentially a crop and in need of felling and replanting.

It was agreed that the parish council would lodge an objection with the Forestry Commission to the clear felling licence by 22nd September. Cllr. Standford will take the matter up with Shropshire Council to ascertain why the parish council has not been alerted to this clear felling application.

096/26/2. The Clerk advised that a letter had been received by the parish council from the Diddlebury Village Hall Committee following the incident on 14th July 2026 when DVH had closed part of the community car park. The letter contained complaints and criticisms about the way the parish council had minuted the matter in its draft Minutes of 29th July 2026 and in its report in the Corvedale News. The author of the letter had been notified the complaints would be dealt with at this meeting. She was not in attendance and in the absence of the author and of Chairman, Cllr. Watson **proposed** that the matter be deferred to the 21st October 2026 meeting.
Proposal seconded by Cllr. Watts
Vote: proposal carried unanimously

095/26 – Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 29th July 2026

The draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 29th July 2026 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were checked by councillors before being placed on the website. No objections were raised to them by any of the councillors.
DPC's Standing Orders provide that if the draft Minutes of a meeting have been served upon all the councillors prior to the next meeting at which they are to be approved for accuracy, then the Minutes shall be taken as read. There shall be no discussion in relation to the draft Minutes. No member of the public has the right to challenge the accuracy of parish council Minutes approved by councillors.

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 29th July 2026 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
Proposal **seconded by** Cllr. Watts
Vote: Proposal approved with one abstention (Cllr. Rattu had not been at the 29th July meeting), two in favour.

096/26: Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting of 29th July 2026 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

078/26: The Clerk had contacted Mr Banford at Shropshire Council to progress the request that Diddlebury Parish Council had been asked to financially support Ludlow Library. Mr Banford advised that Ludlow Town Council had refused to offer support and so the proposal has been withdrawn. He had no information about the future of the mobile library.

097/26 – Reports

097/26/1 – Chairman's Report: The Chairman had submitted a written report which the acting chairman Cllr. Watson read out to the meeting.

Sink Hole DVH car park. The hole has been filled in by the same firm who did the car park resurfacing. It was caused by a collapsed pipe joining 2 other drain systems at a cost of £564.

The meeting between the school and DVH reps was held and a solution agreed on re the parking issues. Dick Hughes has very generously agreed to make available long term a piece of land to hold ten cars for school staff only on the over spill area used at present as long as it can be returned to grass eventually. An agreement with him will be drawn up and DVH has come to

a similar arrangement for access along the track to it. The next step is to prepare the area for matting to be laid to provide an all-weather surface. With the original nine spaces behind the school also available this should alleviate the parking stress position. The school will use its contribution to the car parking fund over the last four years to fund the work for the benefit of the community.
As re correspondence the schools air pump has received planning permission with the usual provisos. At present some internal wiring has been done in preparation for fitting internal units but due to national supply issues the units hadn't arrived before time ran out so work on everything is suspended until the October holidays. The school and the parish council has kept Mr Waites abreast of the situation and of its continued support for the air pump to be fitted on the field side.
I have completed the Crime and Police Commissioner Survey.

097/26/2 – Corvedale Division Shropshire Councillor Colin Stanford's report.
Cllr. Stanford reported that he too had been in ignorance about the tree felling licence. He has taken the matter up at Shropshire Council to ascertain why neither he nor the parish council had been notified about it. Taking Cllr. Watts' views into account, he will make representations on behalf of the community. He thinks flood risk is a salient risk as he has seen flood damage in Corfton. As he sits on the committee of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape he has views on how they should deal with the matter.
He has had numerous complaints about the forthcoming rally – his in-box is full of objections to it, from parish councils and residents.
He is objecting to the proposal for the erection of solar panels on a 130 acre site: he believes it is in the wrong place.
Shropshire Council has had some experts examining its finances: there is a shortfall of income over expenditure of £120 million for the last financial year and £180 million deficit is predicted for the next financial year. The deficit is due to the very high cost of adult and child social care, which is under-funded by the government.

097/26/3 - Diddlebury Village Hall
Cllr. Rattu advised that he has resigned with immediate effect from Diddlebury Village Hall Committee. DPC thus has no representative on that committee.

098/26 – Planning applications

26/02932/FUL – application for alterations and additions to dwelling to include erection of garden room in place of a conservatory at Warwick Cottage, Corfton, SY7 9DF

Councillors considered the plans lodged in support of this application. There were no objections to it on the planning portal and no one present at the meeting raised any objections. Cllr. Watts **proposed** that the parish should support this application and raise no objections to it.
Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Rattu
Vote: unanimous in support of the proposal.

26/03107/LBC – application for listed building consent for alterations to kitchen and utility room at Elsich Manor (Grade II listed buiding) at Seifton. SY8 2DL

Councillors considered the plans lodged in support of this application. There were no objections to it on the planning portal and no one present at the meeting raised any objections. Cllr. Rattu **proposed** that the parish should support this application and raise no objections to it. Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watts
Vote: unanimous in support of the proposal

26/01105/FUL – up-date on the application for an air to air heat source pump at Corvedale C of E Primary School. As mentioned in the Chairman's report, the planning application for this work has now been approved by Shropshire Council. The pump has been re-sited and is further away from the boundary with The Old Vicarage than originally planned.

099/26 – Re-consideration of the Resolution passed on 23.01.2019 as revised on 22.01.25 concerning any further housing development at Corfton.

At the request of the Corfton community in 2019 DPC passed a Resolution stating that it would no longer support planning applications for housing in Corfton. This was revised in 2025 to allow affordable homes and exception site homes. The combined Resolutions currently reads as follows:

"**Resolution dated 23rd January 2019**
The Chairman **Proposed** that DPC will formally request that Corfton is withdrawn from the Community Cluster and becomes Open Countryside for planning purposes; that DPC will not support further applications for new housing in Corfton and that DPC will submit a response to the SC Local Plan Review - Preferred Sites Consultation document which mirrors that of the PPSG.
Proposal seconded Cllr. O'Boyle
Vote: members voted unanimously to support the Proposal.
Resolution adopted 21st January 2025
Minute ref. 012/25
012/25 – To consider an amendment to the Resolution passed on 23rd January 2019 concerning any further development in Corfton.

The Chairman **proposed** that the above Resolution passed on 23rd January 2019 be amended as follows. "The original Resolution, Minute Ref 012/19, concerning development in Corfton should be replaced by the following Resolution: "Diddlebury Parish Council will not support any further applications for open market housing in Corfton, only affordable or exception sites will be considered".
Cllr. Rattu **seconded the proposal.**
Vote: Unanimous"

Subsequent to this second amendment Diddlebury Parish Council discovered that the Shropshire Council Planning Department do not notify the parish council concerning Reserved Matters Applications on any open market housing application it had permitted (in spite of the views of the residents and parish council.) Where outline planning permission is granted, a Reserved Matters application follows, detailing the materials, landscaping etc of any proposed house. It was felt that Diddlebury Parish Council should engage in the Reserved Matters applications, so it could at least have some input into the look of the proposed new house. It therefore suggests the Resolution needs to be amended.

Cllr. Watson **proposed** the following Resolution:
"If Shropshire Council Planning Officers disregard Corfton communities' objection to planning permission being granted for open market housing in Corfton, Diddlebury Parish Council will nonetheless engage with and give its opinion on all aspects of Reserved Matters applications relating to any outline planning applications granted".

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Watts
Vote: unanimous in support of the proposal.

100/26 – Consideration of highways, footpaths and environmental matters

No matters were raised.

101/26 – Consideration of correspondence and communications - Correspondence List for meeting on 16th September 2026

1. 13.09.26 Email from Martin Jones attaching document "Proposed Tree Felling on Delbury Estate – Public Comments due by 22nd September" concerning felling of 57 hectares of woodlands mostly located in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.

2. Notification of road closures on Sunday 20th September 2026 due to the Hills Ford Rally, including Abdon, Bouldon and Broncroft.

3. Letter Clerk to Shropshire Archives delivering Minutes, Audited accounts and planning application files to be archived.

4. Letter from Mr Phil Mark of Severn Trent Water offering to do a presentation to Diddlebury parishioners dealing with flood resilience measures which can be taken by homeowners and who to contact in the event of property flooding. A date to be fixed for this presentation, probably in November 2026.

5. Email from Clerk to Culmington Parish Council asking if DPC is interested in joining Culmington and Stanton Lacy Parish Councils in providing verge cutting services.

6. Letter Clerk to Mr Waite concerning the air source pump planning application at Corvedale C of E School for which planning permission has now been granted.

7. Notification that SC have refused planning permission for the planning application 26/02213/FUL for proposed conversion and extension of existing barns at Lower House Farm, Middlehope

8. Letter DPC to the Tree Service confirming it had no objections to tree works application 26/02970/TCA for proposed tree works at The Old Vicarage.

9. Letter from Ms Catherine Webb of Severn Trent Water responding to DPC's enquiry about water testing in Diddlebury, with accompanying sheets of analytical data.

10. Letter from John Campion, Police & Crime Commissioner seeking DPC's co-operation in completing his Town and Parish Council Survey by 14th October 2026.

11. DPC's response to Mr John Gould re his comments on the parking difficulties at the community car park in Diddlebury on 14th July 2026.

12. Notification that the next Chairman's Network meeting is on Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 6pm via Zoom.

13. Letter of complaint addressed to DPC dated 14th September 2026 from Mrs Wendy Ross writing on behalf of Diddlebury Village Hall Committee re the parking issues of 14th July 2026

14. Email dated 15th September 2026 from Cllr. A Rattu enclosing a copy of his letter of resignation from the Diddlebury Village Hall Committee

Responses:
Item 1 – dealt with in public involvement session
Item 5 – Ask Culmington's Clerk what width of verge is proposed to be cut back and what the charges are.
Items 13 and 14: deferred to October meeting.

102/26 - Finance Matters for consideration at 16th September 2026 meeting

Balance of Precept funds carried forward from July 2026			**£8,910.29**
Less: cheques/direct debits drawn on Precept Funds on 16.09.26			
1. HSBC bank charges		£ 2.00	
2. Balance. due on Clerk's net salary for August 2026		£ 2.87	
3. Payment of Clerk' net salary September 2026		£302.87	
4. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk's Aug/Sept 2026 salary		£ 56.40	
5. Russell Brooks – paediatric defibrillator pads for DVH		£138.00	
6. Administrative expenses for August/September 2026 paid by Clerk & reclaimed by her			
• August & September 2026 contribution to Broadband/telephone @ £20 per month	£40.00		
• Andy Holmes – IT support. Renewal of anti-virus protection & checking up-dates	£35.00		
• 16.09.26 – Clerk's travelling expenses to Diddlebury Village Hall for PC Meeting 32 miles @ 55p per mile	£17.60		
Total admin expenses	£92.60	£ 92.60	
		£594.74	£ 594.74
Balance of Precept Funds c/fwd to October 2026			**£8,315.55**

Ring-fenced funds, reserves funds and third-party funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council in September 2026

CIL/Neighbourhood Fund: sum b/fwd from July 2026	**£2,792.55**	
Less: payment to Corvedale C of E school for replacement of part of the play area equipment funded by Diddlebury PC	£ 416.00	
	£2,376.55	**£2,376.55**
Environmental/asset maintenance fund:		**£ 745.82**
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		**£ 332.73**
Ring fenced fund for WWI Information Board		**£ 300.00**
Third Party Funds		
Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group		**£ 800.00**
Flood Action Group		**£ 228.46**
		£9,033.56

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that cheques to the value of £1,010.74 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Rattu
Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

Balance of funds held by DPC following payments of July 2026 authorised cheques

Precept Funds	**£ 8,315.55**
Ring-fenced and third party funds held	**£ 9,033.56**
	£17,349.11

Verification of the Clerk's Cash book / HSBC Bank Statements No. 408 reconciliation

Cllr. Watson verified the reconciliation.

103/26 - Any Other Business (for the dissemination of information only)

No matters were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the Acting Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.05pm

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st October 2026 commencing 7.30pm, at Westhope Village Hall.

Minutes signed by: David Hedgley

Dated: **21st October 2026**