

DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of the Dilwyn Parish Council Meeting
held in the village hall
on
Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 7.30p.m.

PRESENT:

Cllr J Hall (Chair); Cllr J Clarke; Cllr J Booth; Cllr M Thomas; Cllr I Brown.
Cllr J Lewis; Cllr D Stirling-Brown and Cllr J Stirling-Brown

Also present:

Parish Clerk: Lesley Hay.

Neighbourhood Development Plan representative – Geoff Field.

One member of the public.

Minutes:

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr R Fellows; Cllr C Fellows; Cllr S Thomas and Cllr P Kyles. Ward Cllr Michael Jones.
Lengthsman – Glen White.

2. Declarations of Interest: All Councillors declared an interest in the Crown Public House as the Council is the owner of the said Public House.

Cllr J Hall declared an interest in 3.4. The Parish Clerk has also an interest in item 3.4.

Written request for dispensation: The Clerk reminded members that written dispensation had been received from all Councillors in respect of the Crown Public House as the Council corporate is the owner. Without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of business.

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 Update on Zoom meeting – re Local Plan 2021-2041 Spatial Options. The link associated with the Zoom meeting had been circulated and some members had watched the presentation.

3.2 Neighbourhood Plan – the Chairman referred to the Zoom meeting and outlined the deadlines that are in place to get the Local Plan 2021-2041 to the Secretary of State by Summer 2023.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that if Dilwyn wants to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place it has to be completed within the next 10/12 months. The existing NDP will need to go back to Reg 14 or Reg 16 stage. It was also pointed out that the current questionnaire was really now out of date with at least 8 new homes and many new people now living in the village since the original questionnaire was circulated. The Parish Council will also need to identify new sites to ensure that the development needs are met.

At the last meeting the Chairman had been asked to contact Bill Bloxsome – (previous NDP Consultant) which she had done by email and read out the following paragraphs from his response email –

Herefordshire Council is currently reviewing the Core Strategy and there must be uncertainty about whether the current approach will be continued or a new one utilised. I don't believe it would take away the possibility that a parish might prepare a NDP because that provision is contained within legislation. It may (or may not?), however, affect the matters that a NDP can realistically cover.

Given that the PC has been approached by Sam Banks, you may wish to consider asking Sam to clarify if - what the Planning Officer (Charlotte Atkins) said at the planning committee - remains the case (i.e. it is not possible to grant planning permission for any new dwellings at the moment because of the phosphate issue); if so, is she aware whether the issue is likely to be addressed in the short to medium term; and if not, is it worth considering whether to continue to prepare a NDP?

As reported in a recent edition of The Hereford Times – it would appear it may be another two years before the River Wye's phosphate issues are resolved.

With this in mind, the Chairman asked for a show of hands from Councillors with regard to who would be willing to undertake the work associated with finalising the existing NDP. Unfortunately, no one was able to give the time commitment required.

After a lengthy discussion - it was proposed, seconded and agreed by majority that the Parish would wait until the end of March 2022 when there will be a settlement hierarchy consultation and Parish Councils will be encouraged to take part in the consultation. After this it should be clearer whether Dilwyn will retain the RA2 classification or be reclassified as a Small Settlement or open countryside.

3.3 Visit to new Solicitor – Lloyds Cooper.

The Chairman explained that although the deeds/ownership of the Village Green are in order – the piece of land is not registered with the Land Registry. On the advice of the solicitor, it was agreed to go ahead and get this registered. The Clerk will liaise with the Solicitor.

3.4 Correspondence

The Chairman, Cllr Julia Hall, asked to stand down as Chairman for this item – and it was unanimously agreed that Cllr D Stirling-Brown would stand in as Chairman for this item on the agenda.

Clerk reported that she had recently received two emails from Mr Peter Stilwell both of which had been acknowledged and circulated. The emails contained both personal and professional reference to the Chairman and to the Clerk. After discussion, it was agreed that no further action was necessary at this time.

Cllr Julia Hall resumed her position as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

The Clerk also reported that she had recently received an email from Mr J McGeown highlighting the vaccination initiative at Weobley School which is due to take place on 18th February 2022. The email also included attachments with regard to GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pfizer vaccine adverse reactions. This email had been circulated. The Clerk was asked to acknowledge receipt of the email.

- 4. Ward Councillor Report** – apologies received from the Ward Councillor. Herefordshire Council Leader’s report has been circulated.

- 5. To Approve Minutes** of Meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022

The Clerk explained that there was an amendment to the minutes of the 11th January in that she had failed to record Cllr J Hall’s declared interest for item 7 – relating back to the Schedule of Payments for December 2021 – for work carried out by A T Hall.

With this amendment in place - it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that these minutes now be adopted as a true record.

Cllr Hall also asked that, retrospectively, she would like to declare an interest in item 6.0 in the minutes of 13th July 2021 - where work was to be carried out by A T Hall.

6. Lengthsman/Locality Steward/Footpaths

Lengthsman work sheet for February – on 'as necessary' basis.

The clerk confirmed that a drainage grant is now on offer via Balfour Beatty.

The quote for the drainage work grant had been circulated. This is a very detailed quote and the PC would like to thank Dave (D C Gardening) and his wife Pam for all their efforts to get this prepared before the PC meeting.

This grant application does not include any work on The Moat. The situation with The Moat remains the same in that Historic England have not yet given permission for any work to be carried out - despite several attempts to get a response from them. It has to be acknowledged that they may not give permission and so the situation would remain in the status quo.

The Clerk reported that she has discussed the situation with Molly Walters who is overseeing applications on behalf of Balfour Beatty - and she strongly suggests Dilwyn submit the quotation for the ditching work and that they prepare a separate grant application for The Moat and be ready to submit it when the next grant becomes available – obviously this is based on Historic England's response.

Explanation regarding Glen - Dilwyn's Lengthsman.

The Clerk explained that unfortunately - like many other local lengthsman – Glen White has not got the machinery, man power or licences required to undertake the drainage work. This has to be undertaken by an enhanced lengthsman with the appropriate licences etc. - the nearest to Dilwyn is D C Gardening of Leominster.

The Clerk checked with Molly Walters and as Glen White has not got his Street Works card - he will not be able to assist D C Gardening with the drainage work outlined in the grant application. However, Glen can be 'on

call' should his local expertise be needed - but his time will be paid for through Dilwyn's precept lengthsman budget and not the grant funding.

The Clerk explained that she has asked Molly many times in the past about getting Glen the training for his Street Works card - however, all training has been on hold due to Covid/budgeting - but Molly is hopeful that training will again become available in the new financial year.

The Clerk also asked Molly about repainting the street lamp posts in Dilwyn – Molly promised to follow this up.

The Clerk was asked to report a huge pot hole by Rose Cottage and to report that the lamp by the Church Yard gate is no longer working.

6.1 Sollars Notice Board. The Chairman expressed a vote of thanks to Mr Graham Dyer for his help with the Sollars Notice Board for which there was no charge. It was agreed to give him a bottle of whisky as token of appreciation. Clerk to liaise with Cllr S Thomas.

The Haven Notice Board. Since the last meeting, the lengthsman was asked to check the Notice Board at The Haven – he has reported back that it is in good condition and just needs securing and a coat of protective paint. The Clerk will ask him to go ahead and make good.

6.2. Since the last meeting, two additional new grit bins have been purchased. These are in place and filled. Cllr J Clarke asked the Parish Council to consider purchasing two additional bins to be sited by The Corner House and between her house and Tippets Bridge. This was agreed in principle. The lengthsman to liaise with Cllr Clarke and then report back to the Clerk.

6.5 At the last meeting Cllr Booth asked if the Clerk could arrange for the road sweeper to come through the village as there is a build-up of excess leaf debris. It was reported that the road sweeper has been through the village and made an excellent job. Also, the white lines have been reinstated at the various village centre junctions.

7. Finance Matters: Invoices have been circulated plus up-to-date financial accounts/bank statements.

7.1 The outstanding invoices for January 22 - schedule of payments circulated. It was proposed; seconded and unanimously agreed that these invoices should be paid.

7.2 Bank authorisation/cheque signatories – paperwork now completed and Cllr R Fellows is now a signatory.

DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL Schedule of payments – 31st January 2022

PAYABLE TO	FOR	GROSS AMOUNT	VAT £	NET AMOUNT £	Cheque no:
Lesley Hay	Clerk's Jan salary	As per contract			Standing order
Lesley Hay HMRC	Jan PAYE	£129.00		£129.00	online
Lesley Hay	Expenses January	£30.00		£30.00	online
G White	Lengthsman plus drainage grant assessment	£580.00		£580.00	online
D C Gardening	Drainage grant assessment	£48.00	£8.00	£40.00	online
Barriers	Two grit bins	£286.30	£47.72	£238.56	online
ICO	Data Protection	£35.00		£35.00	online DD

Current Bank account totals as of February 2022

20373720	Current	£14,081.91		
20373733	Crown	£ 11,268.51		
20416807		£16,180.75		
20444581	Deposit	£10,200.23		
TOTAL		£51,668,80	Bond	£9,298.27

8. The Crown

8.1 Update on Survey. The Clerk explained that Barnsley Marshall have undertaken a full survey on Monday 6th September and the report had been circulated. It was agreed that a site visit to prioritise issues should be postponed as the boiler has again been overheating and this now becomes priority. A vote of thanks was extended to Peter Stilwell for his heroic efforts in keeping the boiler functioning but it was thought it was time to give consideration to replacing the boiler. The Clerk has asked Peter Stilwell if he would like to quote for replacing the boiler. The Clerk will now need to obtain additional quotes and liaise with Maria.

9. Highways

9.1 Update on Speeding issues. It was proposed that an invitation be extended to Ian Connolly (Traffic Management Advisor West Mercia Police Road Safety Team) to attend the meeting on Tuesday 8th March to give a presentation on village speeding issues especially associated with Stockingfield. Residents in Stockingfield will be kept informed and invited to attend the meeting. Clerk to confirm.

10. Planning applications:

10.1 Application No: 214037 5 dwellings land next to Great House.

There has been some excavation work which has created a hard standing entrance and there has been some drainage type work in the field itself. A notice has appeared advertising 5 self-build plots on the land alongside The Great House.

11. Open Session –

Jubilee celebrations. It was reported that there had been a meeting of representatives from most of the village organisations and a draft list of activities drawn up. However, the Councillors noted that there was very little planned in the way of activities for the children throughout the four-day bank holiday. As Cllr Kyles was unable to attend the meeting - the Chairman will contact him and find out what the school has planned – although it has to be remembered that it will be half-term week.

At the meeting there was a suggestion that the Parish Council may consider funding a replacement tree in the churchyard and, perhaps, donate a Jubilee bench – but, whilst these suggestions were acknowledged – any decision was put on hold until a more formal plan has been confirmed.

The Clerk was asked to check with the Insurance Company that the present insurance policy covers a Jubilee party on The Village Green.

11.1 The Chairman closed the open session.

12. Items for discussion at next meeting – Neighbourhood Plan; Jubilee celebrations.

Members of the public left the meeting.

13. In closed session Councillors discussed an anonymous donation towards providing new equipment for the school/village play area. This equipment is to be for the smaller children. The Clerk was able to provide a detailed quotation for equipment/installtion within the proposed budget and will circulate. The four previous quotes associated with an application for a grant (which was unsuccessful) were available for comparison.

As a totally separate issue, the Clerk asked the same Company for a quote to repair the existing equipment as outlined in the recent ROSPA report. It was acknowledged that these costs are the responsibility of the Parish Council and, after discussion, this quote was unanimously accepted. Clerk to liaise.

It was hoped that the new equipment and refurbishment of the existing equipment could be carried out in time for the jubilee celebrations—Clerk will find out availability/timescale and bottom line prices and circulate details.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00p.m.

Date of the next full Parish Council Meeting –Tuesday 8th March at 7.30p.m. in the village hall.

Signed:

Date: