

DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of the Dilwyn Parish Council Meeting
held in the village hall
on
Tuesday 12th April 2022 at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT:

Cllr J Hall (Chair); Cllr J Clarke; Cllr M Thomas; Cllr S Thomas; Cllr P Kyles;
Cllr D Stirling-Brown; Cllr J Stirling-Brown; Cllr I Brown.

Also present: Nine members of the public

Parish Clerk: Lesley Hay. Ward Cllr Michael Jones.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the April meeting.

Minutes:

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr C Fellows; Cllr R Fellows (Vice Chairman); Cllr J Lewis and Cllr J Booth. 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 item 3.

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. The Chairman welcomed Ian Connolly – West Mercia Police Safer Roads Team – who had very kindly agreed to attend to take part in a ‘Question-and-Answer’ session on the speeding issues throughout the village, but those particularly associated with Stockingfield.

Mr Connolly presented a general but detailed account of the various issues associated with speeding, speed-reducing measures and traffic regulation order (TROs). Mr Connolly then focused on the issues associated with Stockingfield and made several suggestions that could be considered whilst undertaking the long and often drawn-out procedure of applying for a speed reduction on that particular stretch of road.

There was a question-and-answer session during which members of the public expressed their concerns with regard to the safety issues associated with this stretch of road.

Before a definite plan of action is agreed, Mr Connolly offered to attend another site visit with Balfour Beatty's Locality Steward and members of the Parish Council. Clerk to arrange. Following this meeting, their findings and suggestions will be brought back to the next Parish Council meeting, when a plan of action can be drawn up.

The Chairman thanked Mr Connolly for a very interesting and supportive presentation. Mr Connolly left the meeting.

4. Open Session

(a) Planning Application No: 220383 – Orchard Cottage – extension.

The applicants expressed their confusion in that the original plans for a much bigger two-storey building finished in oak cladding were passed by the Parish Council, and yet the Parish Council had objected to the recently revised plans for a much smaller extension still finished in oak cladding.

The applicants explained that it had taken 16 months of negotiations with the planning and conservation officers to get to this point. They are both of the opinion that they do not want to see a new building trying to look old – they want to see a modern build with a clear definition between old and new. The applicants explained that this is not the design of choice but a plan of compromises made to suit both the planning officer and the conservation officer. The applicants explained that they have complied with all requests from both the above parties, including surveys for English Heritage.

The Chairman apologised to the applicants, explaining that it was the Parish Council's policy to visit all planning applications and so have an opportunity to discuss any application in detail with applicants. Unfortunately, on this occasion, this had not happened. However, with photographic evidence provided and the explanation detailed above, the Parish Council was now in a much better position to understand the application.

(b) Chris Houston, the developer of the five houses on land next to The Great House, has offered to come to the Parish Council meeting to

introduced himself and outline his plans for the development. This was agreed and the Clerk to issue an invitation to attend the next meeting in May.

4.1 Chairman closed the Open session

5. Planning

5.1 Application No: 220480 Upper Haven Cottage (circulated and site visit) – after discussion – no comment.

5.2 Application No: 220888 Appledore Cottage, Dilwyn, Hereford, first-floor extension and internal reconfiguration (circulated and site visit) – after discussion – no comment.

5.3 Application No: 221118 Hillcrest, Dilwyn – proposed extension etc. (circulated and site visit) – after discussion – no comment.

6. Chairman's Report

6.1 School Play Park

The quote from Active Garden of £10,503.60 for the new play equipment and installation had been circulated and, by majority, agreed via email as per the last meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that she had now received the full £10,000 donation and had sent a letter of thanks to the donor. The Clerk confirmed that she has paid Active Garden a 50% deposit (receipt on file) and the remaining £5,000 has been 'ring fenced' in a separate deposit account.

Active Garden have confirmed that if all goes to plan, installation of the new equipment will commence on Tuesday 17th May and finish on Thursday 19th May. It is hoped to undertake work on the existing play equipment at the same time.

Once the new area has been extended, the Clerk will order the new bark ready to be spread on completion of the work.

Cllr J Stirling-Brown will put in a notice in The Dilwynner stating that the play area will be closed from Tuesday 17th May until the Jubilee weekend.

Regarding fencing off the area during installation, as the area is already fenced from the public, Active Garden have said that they will double line hazard tape across the field as a visual barrier for the children at school throughout the build.

7. **The Crown** – The Chairman explained that an Extra Ordinary Meeting has been called for Tuesday 19th April 2022 specifically to discuss issues associated with The Crown. The meeting will be in Village Hall starting at 7.30p.m. and open to public and press. Paper copies of recent reports etc. will be available.

8. **Ward Councillor Report**

The first wetland pond for stripping out phosphates will be operational by June. This one is situated in Luston, with a further seven planned around the county to protect the River Lugg. Currently there are 137 planning applications held up affecting 1,538 new homes from the phosphate issue.

The council has just had a report on the effect of COVID-19 on the mental health of children. As one would expect, there has been an increase right through all ages, with the early years most affected and with children in years 1 & 2 and year 7 most affected at school.

Early years from 1–3 years of age most affected especially in communication and language. Their speech and accent have suffered from lack of socialising.

This report will be updated in six months' time to monitor changes and help with the direction of support and resources to address this issue. Brookfield School is the only specialised school in the county to take children with special mental health needs. This has capacity for 100 pupils with a decision needed to either expand or build another new school to support the increase in demand.

At the Bromyard West Ward Council election on 10th March, The True Independent Clare Davies won the seat with a 160-vote majority. This makes for a very interesting council make-up with the current coalition now not having a majority, with only 26 seats and opposition could have 27 seats.

Clare Ward, the head solicitor of the Council, has left the council employment after 6 years' service. She was very well respected and will be missed by all who sought her advice and direction right through all levels of the council legal services.

The spatial consultation on the direction of planning going forward to 2042 is still receiving feedback. The Policy Option consultation runs from 4th April through to 16th May. Option 5 seems to be getting the most support. This is looking at bigger developments such as ones put forward for Ross-on-Wye,

where blocks of 1500 houses are built and so protecting villages with small developments. This makes good sense with these large developments built close to good infrastructure access, something which Hereford does not have with no bypass or link roads to get through the city.

The Children's Directorate of the council have put forward a proposal to increase the number of children's social workers with up to five new teams to address a big increase in demand. The cabinet met at the end of March and voted to allocate £6 million out of the council's reserve which is on top of the £5 million that was already agreed in the budget. This is a big increase in resources which will need to be managed and monitored to make sure it is money well spent for the council's children's services.

9. The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record and it was unanimously agreed that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

10. Lengthsman/Locality Steward/Footpaths

10.1 Lengthsman work sheet for April/May – as and when needed.

(a) Locality Steward to be asked to look at the well at the top of the village road – Leominster junction.

(b) Clerk is waiting for approximate costings from Balfour Beatty to erect two 'No Entry' signs to the slip road at the Leominster junction. This would be to back up the current arrow indicating traffic must bear to the left to exit the junction.

(c) Locality Steward – Clerk to ask about the missing sign on the A4112 indicating the left turn onto the slip road to approach Dilwyn Village.

(d) Lengthsman – broken 30mph repeater sign by Woodstock Cottage.

(e) Locality Steward – collapsed culvert opposite The Barr.

(f) Locality Steward – dip in road opposite The Firs.

10.2 Stile/pedestrian gate – Venmore Lane.

The Clerk explained that the stile had been modified but that there were still requests for a pedestrian gate to be erected. The Clerk had met with D C Gardening (enhanced lengthsman from Leominster) and was awaiting a

quote. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead and replace this stile with a pedestrian-friendly gate.

10.3 The Clerk explained that now the lengthsmen has his Street Card, he needed some road safety signage. She had approached Balfour Beatty for 'Men at Work' signs but they only provide signs for short-term hire. It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase two 'Men at Work' signs online.

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

11.1 To consider and approve the outstanding invoices for March – schedule of payments circulated. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to pay the outstanding invoices for March.

11.2 The paperwork associated with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2021/2022 had been received. The Clerk explained that the 2021–2022 end-of-year accounts now have to be finalised, sent to the internal auditor and then submitted to the external auditor.

DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL Schedule of payment – up to 31st March 2022

PAYABLE TO	FOR	GROSS AMOUNT £	VAT £	NET AMOUNT £
Lesley Hay	Clerk's March salary	As per contract		
Lesley Hay HMRC	March PAYE	£158.80		£158.80
Expenses	March 2022	£30.00		£30.00
S Thomas	Gift G Dyer	£22.00		£22.00
SLCC	Annual subscription	£43.00		£43.00
Bank Charges	PC and The Hub	£36.00		£36.00
Active Garden	Play Park	£5251.80	£875.30	£4376.50

Current bank accounts:

20373720		£10,612.70
20373733	HUB account	£3,618.99
20416807	Inc. Play Park	£21,189.86
20444581	Crown Deposit Acc.	£10,206.16

12. Highways

12.1 A larger dog poo bin has now been erected on the village green and the smaller bin repositioned at the top of the village road – Weobley end.

Unfortunately, Balfour Beatty have refused to empty this additional bin but the lengthsman has kindly agreed to monitor the bin and will empty as required.

13. Website

It was agreed that the Clerk would go ahead and pay the 123R Domain Renewal fee for The Crown – payment due £28.78 for two years. Discussion with regard to future payment deferred until the Extra Ordinary Meeting.

14. Items for the Next Agenda (no discussion)

Thanks were extended to Cllr Clarke for providing refreshments.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45p.m.

**Date of Extra Ordinary Meeting – Tuesday 19th April 2022
Village Hall – start time 7.30p.m.**

**Date of the Next full Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 10th May 2022
Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00p.m. in Village Hall.
Annual Parish Council Meeting – 7.30p.m.**