

**DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Draft Minutes of the Dilwyn Parish Council Meeting**  
held in the village hall  
on  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.30p.m.

**PRESENT:**

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

Also present: Parish Clerk: Lesley Hay. Ward Cllr Michael Jones. Four members of the public. Mr C Houston – developer of the five houses adjacent to The Great House.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the June meeting.

**Minutes:**

**1. Apologies** for Absence were received from Cllr J Booth and Cllr R Fellows.

**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.

**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 introduced Mr C Houston – developer of the five houses adjacent to The Great House. Mr Houston gave a brief résumé of the current plans for the five building plots, explaining that Oakwrights had now been commissioned to undertake marketing etc.

A question-and-answer session followed. It was agreed that Mr Houston would liaise with the Clerk when further information is available regarding the drainage/sewage work, as the way this has to be undertaken will almost definitely cause disruption to the village traffic.

The Chairman thanked Mr Houston and he left the meeting, together with three members of the public. Cllr J Stirling-Brown joined the meeting.

**4. Open Session**

4.1 The Clerk reported that she had received an emailed request for the annual donation towards the grass cutting. After some discussion it was agreed by majority to increase the grant to £650 and the Clerk was asked to request an invoice detailing how this grant is distributed.

4.2 A new proposal had been received with regard to repainting the lamp posts. However, the Clerk explained that she had spoken with Balfour Beatty Locality Steward prior to the meeting – and unfortunately, he reported that this new proposal would not be accepted by them due to Health and Safety requirements, i.e., street work card, traffic control, men working signs, cherry picker on the highway and full insurance. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to inform the resident.

4.3 The Clerk had received a request about the possibility of arranging for the footpath from Venmore Lane to the Common Lane (now with new gates either end) to be strimmed. It was acknowledged that it is the landowner's responsibility to keep the path open and it is currently passable.

#### **4.4 Chairman closed the Open Session**

**5. Planning** – amended planning application no. 212878: Pitch Farm, Dilwyn. After a site visit – and discussion – no comment.

#### **6. Chairman's Report** – to include:

6.1 The opening of the new Play Park was a great success. A vote of thanks was extended to Graham Dyer for cutting the ribbon.

6.2 Jubilee celebrations – a vote of thanks was extended to everyone who organised an event. They did a fantastic job to ensure that everyone enjoyed a successful weekend.

6.3 The Chairman reported that she had arranged to deliver nine boxes of old records/minutes to the Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre at Rotherwas.

#### Additional items:

6.4 The Council was informed that there are two gentlemen residing in the area who may be able to help with the repainting of the underpass. The Clerk will follow up and report back at the next meeting.

6.5 The Councillors were informed that their liaison link with Tyrells had now left the Company. The Chairman agreed to write to Tyrells Personnel to establish the name of the replacement.

**7. Ward Councillor Report** – see full report at the end of these minutes.

**8. To Approve Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022. It was agreed that these were a true record and it was unanimously agreed that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

8.1 The Clerk confirmed that the annual insurance policy had been paid.

8.2. The Clerk confirmed that a VAT claim has been submitted for 14 months to include the recent invoices associated with the Play Park equipment and the repairs to existing equipment.

### **9. The Crown**

9.1 Fire safety check update – Cllr Thomas reported that all is in hand.

9.2 Gas tank access – Chairman to speak with tenant.

9.3 Boiler update – all in hand.

9.4 New storage – the pool table is now stored with Jason Stokes. It is thought to be in reasonable condition and there was discussion on whether to sell it. In the first instance, the Chairman to discuss with present tenant. If the option is to sell – and if ever a replacement is required – the tenant could take out a rental agreement.

9.5 Infestation update – no active infestation visible – no official written report available.

The Chairman will make arrangements to see Maria and Max to discuss issues as above and will bring back to the next meeting.

### **10. Lengthsman/Locality Steward/Footpaths**

10.1 Lengthsman worksheet – repositioning of the airman memorial sign.

Agreed in principle, but Clerk to liaise with the Royal British Legion.

10.2 Stile/pedestrian gate – Venmore Lane – some concern with regard to the gate opening outwards. Clerk to discuss with contractor.

10.3 Lamp posts – item discussed above.

10.4 Compost bin – Cllr Thomas is still trying to get the two replacement concrete supports. There is current negotiation with Karen Court with regard to sharing delivery costs. Item deferred until next meeting for update.

10.5 It was reported that some of the children playing on the village green have been attempting to break off one of the lower tree branches. Clerk to ask Glen to keep an eye out for damage.

**11. Finance Matters:** Invoices have been circulated plus up-to-date financial accounts/bank statements. It was unanimously agreed to pay the outstanding invoices.

The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the 2021–2022 end-of-year accounts to the External Auditor – and the Public Rights Notice is on the Notice Board.

**DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL** Schedule of payment – up to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

<b>PAYABLE TO</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>GROSS AMOUNT</b>	<b>VAT £</b>	<b>NET AMOUNT £</b>
Glen White	May invoice	£500.00		£500.00
R Hall	Play Park signs	£9.16	£1.53	£7.63
KBS	Play Park bark	£1219.10	£203.18	£1015.92
Active Gardens	Play Park repairs	£2239.20	£373.20	£1866.00
Active Gardens	Play Park equipment	£5251.80	£875.30	£4376.50
KBS	Play Park bark	£406.37	£67.73	£338.64
D C Gardening	Venmore Lane gate	£847.01	£141.17	£705.84

**Bank accounts:**

20373220	£12,060.41
20373733 (Hub)	£8,718.99
20416807	£16,189.86
20444581 (Tenant deposit)	£10,206.16
Bond	£9,298.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>£56,473.69</b>

**12. Update on Traffic Plan** – no update available. Defer until next meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Cllr Peter Kyles asked the Chairman and those present to accept his resignation as Parish Councillor representing Dilwyn Parish Council with immediate effect.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kyles for his many, many years of dedicated service to the Parish Council – associated with saving the school, saving The Crown and developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk will inform the Elections Officer tomorrow. Arrangements will be made to remove Cllr Kyles as Bank signatory. Co-option of a new Parish Councillor may be delayed until the September meeting due to the August break.

**Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05p.m.**

Date of the next full Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30p.m. in the village hall.

Signed:

Date:

### June 2022 Ward Councillor Report

The Panorama programme looking into the Herefordshire council children's services was screened on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. This follows the damning report by Judge Keenan which concluded that Herefordshire's children's Social Service department was not fit for purpose. The Council have been aware that an investigative journalist was looking into the events which led to this verdict and looks at the period 2012 until 2019 when serious flaws took place. Although this was a damaging programme for Herefordshire Council, this does seem a widespread problem across the country.

Hereford Council is looking into the mis-management of the Link Road costs. What was meant to be a budget of £20 million pounds more than doubled to £40 million pounds, extra was paid for compulsory purchase of land and no one person was managing the costs; this led to the over spend. There is now a team in place which will manage these infrastructure projects so this should not happen again. These types of projects are challenging to budget for, especially with compulsory purchase of land and usually go over budget, but not to this extent.

The Lengthsman Drainage Grant Scheme have been allocating monies to parish councils. It seems that most parish council applications have received around 50% of what they applied for. This Scheme seems to work well with work being done by the Lengthsman on jobs which Balfour Beatty don't get around to. Digging out culverts, clearing ditches and trees is very important, more so than the continuous use of jetting.

Ambitious plans are in place to convert the Hereford Museum into a state-of-the-art Tourist attraction Museum once the library has been relocated into Maylord Orchard. This will cover all three floors showing off all of Hereford artefacts. Currently only 20% is on display due to limited capacity. Also included is a roof top viewing area with a cafeteria.

There was is a full council meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> May for the AGM. No big changes at the top of the council. Due to the difficulty in finding a new solicitor to head up the Herefordshire council legal team. It was agreed to increase the salary up from £90,000 to £109,000 per annum. Over 75 applicants were looked at for the role and it became clear that the existing salary was well under the going rate to attract a suitable qualified person.

An extraordinary meeting of the Council was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May to discuss ward Councillor Graham Jones extended leave of absence. This has now been extended until the 18<sup>th</sup> of June.

The third local public consultation on Herefordshire spatial planning going forward up to 2041 has started from the 13<sup>th</sup> June going up until the 29<sup>th</sup> July. There will be opportunities for the public, parish councils and members to attend events and on line to have their say. These will be advertised through Parish Clerk and on the council web site.

The Council first settlement pond for stripping out Phosphates becomes operational later this month at Luston. Seven more are planned with Herefordshire Council buying up ground to install more of these unique ponds around the county.