

DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lesley Hay

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Dilwyn Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025 starting at 7.30pm

The Chairman welcomed those present to the January Parish Council Meeting and wished everyone a very Happy New Year.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr J Hall (Chairman); Cllr J Lewis; Cllr A Towler; Cllr J Clarke; Cllr J Stirling-Brown; Cllr M Griffiths; Cllr J Stokes and Cllr M Thomas.

Also present: Parish Clerk – Lesley Hay; Ward Councillor Nick Mason and five members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllr D Stirling-Brown; Cllr R Fellows (Vice Chairman); Cllr P Preston; Cllr E Jordan; Glen White (lengthsman) and PC Emma Turberfield (West Mercia Police).

2. Declarations of Interest: All Councillors declared an interest in The Crown Public House as the Parish Council is the owner of the said Public House. No other declarations received.

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 business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of business.

2.1 Exclusion of members of the public and press: To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. None declared.

3. Ward Councillor report: will be added to the end of these minutes and will be available on the website.

3.1 Open Session

3.1.1 The police reported by email that neither Felix nor Emma could attend the meeting. However, looking back on their system since the date of the last meeting on 9th December, the only reports had been a highway incident in which sheep were in the road and a false alarm activation.

3.1.2 The Clerk reported that following the recent very cold weather, the grit bins owned by the Parish Council are now empty. It was agreed to order a pallet of grit/salt bags for delivery to The Forge so that Glen could then distribute it to the various village grit bins. The Clerk

will liaise with the residents at The Forge and also contact Highways to request that the Council-owned bins are refilled.

An email had been received from Cllr R Fellows with regard to the lane leading up to The Headlands Farm (circulated). Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had spoken with the Locality Steward who confirmed he had recently inspected the lane and liaised with the farm owner. The Locality Steward stated that the potholes were not deep enough to be logged for repair at this time.

In the email, Cllr Fellows mentioned that the ditches near to the farm may benefit from some digging out and it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for Glen and Cllr Fellows to meet onsite to discuss these issues. Item to remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Locality Steward asked the Clerk to inform the Parish Councillors that he would be undertaking his annual inspection of the U roads towards the end of the month.

3.2 The Chairman closed the Open Session.

4. Minutes of the last meeting. It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th December 2024 were a true record and it was unanimously voted by the Councillors in attendance that they be adopted and signed.

5. Finance: Schedule of payment sheet for December 2024 (circulated)

5.1 It was unanimously agreed to pay the outstanding invoices for December. The Clerk outlined a draft schedule of payments for January and it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the Clerk should proceed and pay these invoices.

5.2 New website domain. Ian Brown very kindly attended the meeting to explain that he had purchased domains for use by The Dilwynner. The Chairman to liaise with Ian regarding implementation. The Chairman thanked Ian for his time/support and for attending the meeting.

5.3 The Clerk explained that she had now made a claim against two purchase orders – one for reimbursement for the Mayglothlings ditching invoice and the second for the work undertaken at Henwood Lane entrance. To date, neither had been reimbursed. Until reimbursement is received, there are insufficient funds available in the current account to pay the outstanding invoice for Henwood Lane. However, once the funds are available, it was agreed the Clerk should proceed and settle the outstanding invoice. It was noted that D C Gardening and Glen White had done an excellent job in clearing this area.

5.4 Precept 2025–2026. The Clerk confirmed she had submitted the application form and had received an acknowledgment.

5.5 VAT reimbursement. As agreed at the last meeting, the Clerk confirmed she had made a claim for reimbursement of the outstanding VAT as of the end of December 2024 and that £1704.56 had been paid into the current account.

6. Highways/Footpaths and Environmental Matters

6.1 The Chairman reported that the visit by Stephen Organ – Parish Footpath Officer – had been very well attended, with representatives from Monkland, Eardisland and Weobley. The newly appointed Dilwyn Footpath Officers attended along with the Chairman, Ward Councillor Nick Mason and the Parish Clerk.

Stephen Organ had given a short presentation outlining the new PRow schemes and offered to support Dilwyn's footpath application by ordering the required materials and financing them directly via the financial allocation.

It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Dilwyn Footpath Officers in the near future, when hopefully each Officer would elect to manage a footpath(s) near to them. This will enable them to report any issues to the Clerk – some of which they may be able to rectify themselves – but either way, they will be reported to Stephen Organ and the Ward Councillor so that they are aware of 'activities' in the area.

The Chairman will suggest a date for the Dilwyn Footpath Officers meeting and the Clerk will liaise.

6.2 Discussion on Mayglothlings jetting/camera findings – circulated. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mayglothlings for a written report, a proposal based on that report and a quotation to undertake any work suggested.

6.2.1 Ongoing flooding issues at West View – these are associated with the above and residents will be kept informed.

6.3 Flooding issues on the Common Road – email circulated. The Clerk to ask for Welsh Water details and the Chairman to write with a view to arranging an onsite visit with residents, the Ward Councillor and members of the Parish Council.

6.4 Discuss future plans for Haven Lane – date agreed for Monday 20th January to meet at 10.00am. The Clerk will inform residents.

6.5 The Clerk confirmed that the Drainage Grant financial timescale had been extended to the end of June 2025.

6.6 Lower Burton flood gauges – these are now in place.

6.7 Due to uncertainty with regard to the parish boundary, the Clerk to ask D C Gardening to withhold repairing the Swanstone Court bridge rail and to liaise with the Parish Clerk of Birley.

6.8 Update on St Peters Lodges, Knapton – again, as above, the parish boundary to be clarified.

6.9 Update on Hillcroft. This location is one which D C Gardening has visited in the past, at which time they dug out the ditch, jetted the area and also tried to find a pipe leading underneath the road. However, all that they found was a pile of broken bricks and rubble in one corner of the ditch. In the company's opinion, the only way to solve the problem would be to install a new drainage pipe from the ditch underneath the road into the opposite ditch

which drains away down the field. Unfortunately, this work could only be carried out by Balfour Beatty/Herefordshire Council as D C Gardening are not permitted to dig up a highway.

Now that Herefordshire Council has taken the Drainage Grant works under its jurisdiction, the Clerk confirmed that she had submitted a request for ditching work, as recommended by D C Gardening, that will be completed by the council's own contractor and financed directly from the Herefordshire Council Drainage Grant Funds.

6.10 Alton Brook/Sandpits – email circulated. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with the local landowner with regard to damage caused by contractors when removing felled trees. With regard to the filled-in ditch to allow for extra parking, it is hoped that this can be reinstated following discussion with the new owners.

6.11 Chapel Corner culvert – emails circulated. It was noted that the culvert needed digging out and it was agreed to proceed with D C Gardening's quote as a first phase. Given the considerable amount of water that flows from the field, it was likely that further work would be required to either attenuate the flow or to increase the drainage to prevent flooding on Chapel Corner which, in turn, contributes to flooding down Common Road. Cllr J Stirling-Brown offered to speak with the landowner about the possibility of works to help slow the flow. The Ward Councillor suggested given the complexity and significance of the problem, this might be a candidate for an engineer's report commissioned through Balfour Beatty and if funding for this work through Herefordshire District Council were available, the PC would need to decide where this work could be best deployed. A depth gauge could put in place (subject to appropriate approvals) as a safety measure while flooding remained an issue. The Clerk will inform D C Gardening and the item to remain on the agenda.

6.12 It had been reported the recent flooding at Gadbridge corner had been worse than ever. The Clerk was able to confirm that work is scheduled to begin on Thursday of this week (weather permitting).

6.13 The excellent drainage work in the field at the back of The Moat was discussed. It was agreed the clerk should arrange a meeting to discuss the possibility of future works which may help with the current flooding issues.

7. The Crown

7.1 Cllr M Thomas reported that he had inspected The Crown garage guttering and it is in a poor state of repair. All fascia boards and guttering need to be replaced, but access to undertake the work will be difficult because a greenhouse and small shed are attached to The Forge side of the garage wall. The Clerk will liaise with the residents at The Forge regarding the access problem. Item to remain on the agenda.

8. Planning

8.1 Windsor Cottage – erection of a garden shed/workshop. As suggested, the resident has approached the Planning Department and been assured that no planning permission is required.

8.2 Perrymead – removal of a disease ash tree. As this is in a conservation area, the Clerk had advised the resident to liaise with the Planning Department directly as planning permission would most likely be required.

9. Christmas 2024

Cllr J Lewis will liaise regarding the removal of the Christmas lights. These will be checked for damage caused during the recent storms. The Clerk confirmed that the lights can be stored at The Crown.

10. Defibrillator batteries – item to remain on the agenda.

11. To raise issues for the next meeting of the Parish Council (no discussion).

12. Date of next Parish Council meeting – Monday 10th February 2025 – 7.30pm in the village hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Date:

