

DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lesley Hay

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Dilwyn Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th February 2025 starting at 7.30pm

The Chairman welcomed those present to the February Parish Council Meeting.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr J Hall (Chairman); Cllr J Clarke; Cllr J Stirling-Brown; Cllr R Fellows (Vice Chairman); Cllr P Preston; Cllr E Jordan and Cllr M Thomas.

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

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllr M Griffiths; Cllr J Lewis; Cllr A Towler; Cllr D Stirling-Brown; 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. The Ward Councillor's report (when available) will be added to the end of these minutes and will be on the website.

3.1 Open Session

3.1.1 Cllr P Preston reported that the two benches (owned by the Parish Council) on the village triangle are both broken and beyond repair. Cllr Preston considered them to be a health and safety risk and it was agreed that these should be removed as soon as possible. Cllr P Preston offered to check prices for their replacement at Philpotts Nursery Leominster, Lyonshall Nurseries and KBS in Kington and will report back to the Clerk.

3.1.2 Cllr P Preston raised an issue on behalf of a contractor whose quote, to undertake the summer grass cutting of the village green, had, unfortunately, not been acknowledged. The Clerk confirmed that she could find no record of receiving the said quote. The Chairman will email the contractor with an apology on behalf of the Clerk and Parish Councillors and extend an invitation to submit a quote for 2026.

3.1.3 Herefordshire flood risk team. Following the recent online meeting led by Ward Cllr N Mason, it was agreed that Dilwyn would benefit from a Flood Lead Person. Cllr J Stirling-Brown volunteered to take on this role. Further discussion on how the post will evolve and be coordinated will be discussed at the next meeting.

3.1.4 A letter had been received (and previously circulated) with regard to the maintenance of the small strip of verge in front of The Martins. The letter referred to a Parish Council meeting held on 17th April 2008 when it was minuted that this strip formed part of the village green. However, the Clerk was able to confirm that the village green as a whole has now been registered with the Land Registry and this strip of land does not, in fact, form part of the village green. A map showing the strip (outlined in blue) confirms that it is excluded from the registration – a copy of the map was circulated and is available for general inspection.

Whilst it was acknowledged that there is now official evidence that this strip of land is not part of the village green and, therefore, its maintenance is not the responsibility of the Parish Council - Cllr P Preston kindly offered to inspect it with a view to having it cut back and the area generally tidied up.

3.1.5 The Clerk explained that she would be taking a period of sick leave from Tuesday 11th February 2025, but hoped to be able to attend the next meeting on Monday 10th March 2025.

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 12th January 2025 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 January 2025 (circulated)

5.1 It was unanimously agreed to pay the outstanding invoices for January 2025. It was unanimously agreed that, once reimbursement is received from Herefordshire Council, the Clerk should settle D C Gardening's invoice for the work completed in December at Henwood Lane.

5.2 New website domain. The Chairman confirmed she is continuing to liaise with Ian Brown regarding implementation.

6. Highways/Footpaths and Environmental Matters

The Chairman explained that several site visits had taken place on Saturday 25th January 2025 and reports on these visits are contained within Item 6.

6.1 The Chairman reported that the newly appointed Dilwyn Footpath Officers had attended a second meeting and each had taken on the responsibility for walking one or two footpaths close to their residence. They will now liaise with the Clerk as and when problems arise, who will, in turn, liaise with the lengthsman, Ward Councillor and Stephen Organ. In the meantime, the Clerk confirmed that she had tried to contact Stephen Organ to confirm that he has placed an order for the replacement gates/stiles etc. as highlighted within the Footpath Grant Funding scheme, but had not been able to speak with him prior to the meeting. The Clerk will email again.

6.2 Discussion on the original Mayglothing jetting/camera findings had been circulated. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would again ask Mayglothing for a written report, a proposal based on that report and a quote to undertake any work suggested.

6.2.1 A detailed email from the residents of West View outlining the recent findings associated with the various neighbouring drains had been circulated. Cllr E Jordan explained that her husband has a machine for unblocking pipes/drains and it was agreed that she would liaise directly with the residents of West View and The Forge with a view to them borrowing the machine. This hopefully may be able to unblock the pipes and drains by West View and Orchard Close and so help alleviate the recent ongoing flooding problems associated with this area.

6.2.2 The resident from The Forge explained that – despite Mayglothings not finding an outlet pipe in the drain outside his property – on close examination he had found what appears to be an old outlet – albeit blocked. The resident will liaise with West View and Cllr Jordan with a view to borrowing the above described machine to see if he can clear the pipe and so alleviate the flooding that occurs on the outside of this property wall.

6.3 The Chairman confirmed that there had been a site visit at Haven Lane on Monday 20th January and D C Gardening had since provided a quote for substantial remedial work to be carried out. The Clerk confirmed that this work has already been agreed with Herefordshire Council with reimbursement from within the current purchase order. D C Gardening will liaise with the lengthsmen and landowner and will inform the Clerk when this work is scheduled to be carried out.

6.4 Additional gauges for Lower Burton ford. After lengthy discussion, Cllr M Thomas and Cllr P Preston will visit the site with a view to rotating one of the gauges and assess whether a third gauge is necessary. The Clerk asked them to also look at the handrail on the small bridge as it has been reported as unsafe.

6.5 Following the site visit on Saturday 25th January 2025, discussion took place on proposed work at Townsend pond. The Clerk confirmed she had received a quote from Martyn D Meredith (Agricultural Contractor) which had been circulated. With the agreement of the Chairman, this had been submitted to Herefordshire Council for consideration for reimbursement under the current Drainage Grant funding scheme. The Clerk explained that this is a new request and so is ‘in addition’ to the one previously submitted and agreed.

6.6 With regard to the lane leading up to The Headlands Farm, the Locality Steward confirmed he had recently inspected the lane and has now logged the job with Balfour Beatty.

6.7 Update on Gadbridge – Ward Councillor Mason reported that he had been to see the landowner and plans are in place to dig out the ditch and replace the pipe. However, this work may need to be delayed until the better weather, as surface water is currently making access difficult. Item to remain on the agenda.

6.8 The Clerk confirmed that the replacement grit bags had been ordered and delivered to The Forge and the lengthsmen is in the process of refilling the Parish Council-owned grit bins.

6.9 The Clerk reported a recent increase in fly tipping. Several cases have been reported and the items cleared.

6.10 Chapel Corner – email and photos from Cllr A Towler had been circulated. The Clerk confirmed that D C Gardening and Mr Edward Lewis (farmer) have recently carried out some remedial work in this area. The invoice has been sent to Herefordshire Council for reimbursement as this work is already included within the Drainage Grant funding scheme.

6.11 Cllr J Clarke asked the Clerk to record a vote of thanks to Locality Steward, Phil Pankhurst, for his very prompt action in getting the three very deep pot holes filled on Common Lane.

7. The Crown. Cllr P Preston reported that, following the recent gale force winds, several fence panels have blown down in The Crown garden. Cllr M Thomas and Cllr P Preston agreed to inspect and repair and/or replace.

The Christmas lights will be taken down at the weekend and stored at The Crown. It was acknowledged that due to the recent high winds, the lights may have suffered some damaged. Richard Thomas has kindly offered to inspect them later in the year and to ensure that they are in good working order for December 2025.

8. Planning – none to date.

9. Defibrillator batteries – Cllr R Fellows will inspect the batteries and order replacements if required.

10. The police reported by email that neither Felix Rawlinson nor Emma Turberfield could attend the meeting.

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

Signed:

Date: 10th March 2025