

DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lesley Hay

Email: thelesleyhay@hotmail.co.uk Website: <https://www.dilwynparishcouncil.gov.uk>

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

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

MINUTES

Present: Cllr J Hall (Chairman); Cllr J Clarke; Cllr J Stirling-Brown; Cllr P Preston; Cllr M Griffiths and Cllr M Thomas.

Also present: Ward Councillor Nick Mason and two members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllr R Fellows (Vice Chairman); Cllr E Jordan; Cllr J Lewis; Cllr A Towler; Cllr D Stirling-Brown; Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk); 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. Cllr M Griffiths declared an interest in Item 6.5. 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's report: when available, this will be added to the end of these minutes and will be available on the website.

3.1 Open Session

3.1.1 A resident reported a blocked drain in Probert Close. This will be reported to Balfour Beatty.

3.1.2 A resident reported that the street light outside the school is not working. This will be reported to Balfour Beatty.

3.1.3 Venmore Lane. A resident reported that the bottom of the dog waste bin is missing. The Clerk to liaise with the lengthsman.

3.1.4 Watery Lane. A resident reported a fallen tree where the hedge had recently been cut back. The Clerk to liaise with the lengthsman.

3.1.5 After discussion, it was agreed to continue to hold the Parish Council meetings on the second Monday of each month. The Clerk confirmed via email that she had received an invoice for 10 hire payments covering January to November (excluding August and December) and this invoice will be paid within the March payments.

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 10th February 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 February 2025 had been circulated.

5.1 It was unanimously agreed to pay the outstanding invoices for February 2025.

5.2 The Clerk had previously reminded Councillors (via email) that the two loan payments are due in March.

5.3 Insurance. The Parish Council has received a draft renewal insurance policy from Gallagher. This has been forwarded to Cllr R Fellows to compare costings against last year's quote and review any amendments/additions to the policy. Cllr R Fellows will report back to the next meeting. The policy is not due for renewal until 1st June 2025.

6. Highways and Environmental Matters

6.1 The strip of land attached to the village green has now been cut. The Clerk to ask the lengthsman to include this in future when mowing the village green. A vote of thanks was extended to Cllr P Preston.

6.2 The Ward Councillor reported that the resident from West View together with the lengthsman and Mr R Jordan had spent two days following the course of the drains in and around West View and Orchard Close. It became obvious that there are significant blockages along the various routes preventing surface/flood water from draining away. Ward Councillor Mason will now take these findings to Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty. It was agreed that if there is funding available to release blockages/repair broken pipes, it would have a positive impact on the area and the village as a whole given that the various systems all link together and, at the moment, none are working efficiently.

6.3 It was reported that the planned work on Haven Lane had started that morning. A vote of thanks was extended to Edward Lewis, Glen White, Cllr M Thomas and D C Gardening. This work has already been agreed by Herefordshire Council and will be funded from within the 2024–25 Drainage Grant funding.

6.4 Lower Burton ford. It was reported that Cllr M Thomas had repaired the handrail on the bridge. After discussion, it was agreed to install an 8-foot gauge which will hopefully be visible from both directions. Again, a vote of thanks was extended to Cllr M Thomas

and Cllr P Preston.

6.5 Following the site visit to Townsend Pond on Saturday 25th January 2025, the Clerk confirmed she had received a quote from Martyn D Meredith (Agricultural Contractor) which had been submitted to Herefordshire Council for consideration for reimbursement under the current Drainage Grant funding scheme. Unfortunately, despite two further reminders, to date this request has not been acknowledged or agreed. The Clerk to be asked to email again.

6.6 Update on pumping station/Common Road. Following a breakdown in the pumping station, Ward Councillor Mason had visited and spoken with local residents and with Welsh Water representatives. In the meantime, Balford Beatty have agreed to reinstate the collapsing road verges and repair the pot holes by the pumping station.

6.7 Update on village triangle benches. Cllr P Preston reported that the two benches (owned by the Parish Council) on the village triangle had been removed and replacements were now in place. The Clerk to ask the lengthsman to treat these with preservative. A vote of thanks was extended to Cllr P Preston.

6.8 Works on Hurst Lane – details had been circulated. The work is scheduled to start that night – Monday 10th March 2025 – with diversions etc. in place.

6.9 Garnstone Estate have confirmed that they are working to find a solution to the flooding at Gadbridge Corner, which will include repairing the road etc.

6.10 The Clerk had reported via email that she had submitted a claim against the 2024–2025 lengthsman grant funding and that this application had been acknowledged and agreed. Funds will be paid into the bank account within the next few days.

7. Update from local Footpath Officers. It was confirmed that four self-closing gates had been delivered for footpaths DW7 and DW19. The replacement bridge boards are to be collected. The lengthsman will liaise with a working group/landowners to get these in place. Once this work has been completed, the Parish Council will be in a position to order the next batch of replacement equipment. The payment for this is being deducted at source from the Parish Council's allocated PROW grant funding.

8. The Crown. Cllr P Preston reported that several fence panels had blown down in The Crown garden during the recent gale force winds. Cllr M Thomas and Cllr P Preston confirmed that these have now been replaced.

9. Planning

9.1 Planning Consultation – 250420 – Windsor Cottage, Fields Place Lane, Dilwyn, Hereford, Herefordshire HR4 8HJ. DESCRIPTION: Proposed demolition of conservatory and porch to rear and erection of a single storey flat roof garden room. Discussed – no objections raised.

9.2 Planning Consultation – 250533 – Bagley Head Cottage, Headlands Road,

Pembridge, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9EJ. DESCRIPTION: Proposed single storey sun room extension. Discussed – no objections raised.

10. Police Report. The police reported by email that neither Felix Rawlinson nor Emma Turberfield could attend the meeting. A report had been received by them concerning a suspicious vehicle regularly parked in a lay-by outside the village. They had managed to speak with the occupants of the vehicle and everything was deemed to be in order and not suspicious.

11. Date of next Parish Council meeting – Monday 14th April 2025 – 7.30pm in the village hall.

Signed:

Date: