

## **DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk: Lesley Hay*

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

### **Dilwyn Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 starting at 7.30pm**

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

#### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr J Hall (Chairman); Cllr A Towler; Cllr P Preston; Cllr M Griffiths and Cllr M Thomas. Also present: Ward Councillor Nick Mason; Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk).

**1. To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr J Clarke and Cllr R Fellows (Vice Chairman).

**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's Report**

Ward Cllr Mason reported that it seems that the story on the proposed wetlands scheme broke in the news before it should have done. He reassured Councillors and residents that he will continue to seek further clarity on the scheme. Item to remain on the agenda.

#### **3.1 Open Session**

3.1.1 A vote of thanks was extended to Cllr R Fellows for installing the two replacement dog bins.

3.1.2 The Clerk explained that she had received a report that the notice board (owned by the Parish Council) by Bedford House had been damaged by a contractor delivering materials to JDW Building & Conservation Ltd. at the property. Photographs are available.

It is thought that Graham Dyer was asked to remove the debris from the site.

Unfortunately, there has been no official report to the Parish Council regarding the damage or any suggestion of replacement by the contractor or JDW Building & Conservation Ltd.

The Clerk was asked, in the first instance, to liaise with Graham Dyer and then write to JDW Building & Conservation Ltd. c/o Bedford House to ask about their plans for the replacement of the notice board.

### **3.2 The Chairman closed the Open Session.**

**4. Minutes of the last meeting.** It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 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 May 2025 had been circulated.**

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

5.2 End-of-year accounts. The Clerk confirmed that the end-of-year accounts had been sent to the external auditor by registered post. The Notice of Public Rights is currently displayed on the notice board and on the website which invites residents to view the accounts by appointment with the Clerk.

### **6. Highways and Environmental Matters**

6.1 Following the site visit to Townsend Pond on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

However, as this work had not been authorised to be carried out within the 2024–2025 financial year, it was agreed to resubmit the application for urgent consideration from within the 2025–2026 grant funding allocation. To enable the work to be carried out more easily and with as little damage as possible, it needs to be done during the drier summer months. Item to remain on the agenda.

6.2 There was lengthy discussion with regard to the continued lack of visible KP Snacks – Tyrrells road signage. The Ward Cllr Mason confirmed that he was already in negotiation with KP Snacks – Tyrrells and would again present an urgent case to get appropriate signs erected to direct delivery lorries away from the Dilwyn village centre and Common Road. Ward Cllr Mason was also asked to speak with the Distribution Management Team at KP Snacks – Tyrrells about the importance of them liaising with their suppliers so that lorry drivers are aware of the specified route to the factory and not rely on their sat nav systems.

6.3 Ward Cllr Mason explained that Venmore Lane is soon to receive an additional surface dressing which will extend the life of the dressing laid 2/3 years ago. This work will extend from Townsend House to the main Canon Pyon junction and so take in the area from Townsend House to the Sandpits which was not included in the original work.

## **7. Footpaths**

7.1 The Clerk reported that she had received notification that there will be a repeat of the PRow grant funding for 2025–2026.

## **8. The Crown**

8.1 Pool table. It had been reported that the pool table is in a very poor state of repair. With this information, it was agreed to offer it for sale at a token amount. Cllr A Towler kindly agreed to liaise with a potential buyer. Cllr Towler will arrange a viewing (if required) and report back at the next meeting.

8.2 Following a tentative request to replace the wood burner in the main bar area, it was agreed, after discussion, that the Clerk would liaise with the tenant for her thoughts on the request and report back to the next meeting.

8.3 Discussion on finance. Following recent shared information, it was agreed that further discussion was not now necessary.

8.4 The Clerk was asked to liaise with Graham Dyer about repairing a broken window (above the defibrillator) on the front of the old toilet block.

**9. Planning** – Planning Consultation – Application No: 251417 – The Coach House, Dilwyn, Hereford, Herefordshire HR4 8HW. APPLICATION TYPE: Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. The Clerk read out an email from Cllr J Clarke in which she reported that she had looked at the planning at the Coach House for the trees and spoken to both neighbours and the owner, who all agree that they need attention. After discussion – no objection.

**10. Police Report** – The Chairman welcomed PCSO Felix Rawlinson to the meeting. PCSO Rawlinson reported that, fortunately, there had been no serious incidents reported since the Parish Council's last meeting in May. There was a short question and answer session during which PCSO Rawlinson explained that the police have very little power when dealing with unwanted/unwelcome visitors but that they can respond to anti-social behaviour.

There was lengthy discussion on the speed of vehicles travelling along the A4112, particularly when passing through Stockingfield. Ward Cllr Mason confirmed that a request made by the Parish Council in 2024 – for the speed limit through Stockingfield to be reduced – is still active. After some discussion and reference to a recent road traffic accident, it was agreed that Ward Cllr Mason will liaise with Ian Connelly (Traffic Management, West Mercia Police).

At present, vehicles are passing through the hamlet of houses at the current speed limit of 60 mph, which is totally unacceptable with very little space for children to wait for school buses etc. It was agreed that the current speed limit continues to invite a serious accident to happen. Item to remain on the agenda.

PCSO Rawlinson explained that, as part of their commitment to make it easier, faster and simpler for members of the public to be directed to the right service as quickly as possible, they are providing an automated response if an email is in reference to one of the following matters: civil disputes; dog fouling and barking; fly tipping; highways and road faults; noise; parking.

Please now refer to the following link, which will provide full information to other organisations that can help and support: [www.westmercia.police.uk/maketherightcall](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/maketherightcall). Please note you will not receive further response from West Mercia Police, unless your communication is in relation to another matter.

If you wish to report a crime, please utilise the 101 facility or call 999 in an emergency. Likewise, please also note that the West Mercia Police website offers further advice leaflets to provide information and support about how people can protect themselves and their family and does allow for the recording of certain, limited crime types.

A resident raised the recent serious repeated occurrence of dog attacks within Dilwyn Parish. PCSO Rawlinson asked that these be reported via 101 (rather than to the police officers' personal mobile phone numbers) so that they get recorded on the system. If the 101 number is busy, try again at a less busy time (the line is manned 24 hours every day) and/or report online where there is a form to complete.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Rawlinson for attending and hoped to see him and his colleague again in the future. PCSO Rawlinson did stress that if anyone has an issue of concern, they could email him or PC Emma Turberfield directly – and, allowing for their shifts pattern, they would respond as soon as possible – their contact details are provided in The Dilwynner.

**11. Date of next Parish Council meeting:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 7.30pm.

Please note there will be no meeting in August.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

### **Dilwyn Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2024-2025**

Sadly we have had a number of deaths in the village over the past year, most recently John Hodgetts, Beryl Coombs, Paul Meanwell, Julie Hanson and, of course, Tony Hall. In the full circle of life, we have also had a number of births and Dilwyn continues to be a vibrant community, with people of all ages moving in or returning.

There have been developments within Herefordshire Council that have had a direct impact – namely bringing services back 'in house' which has enabled us to access a number of grants including those for drainage, flooding and the lengthsman scheme.

Footpaths and walking continue to be a subject close to everybody's heart. We've formed a Volunteer Footpaths Group and each member has taken on monitoring several footpaths near to their homes, reporting back to the lengthsman Glen White should a problem exist. In the very near future, new self-closing gates will be installed – all funded from within the 2024–2025 PRoW grant. We are liaising with other parishes around us and appreciate their offers of help and support.

We have an active Royal British Legion Group in Dilwyn which continues to go from strength to strength, having avoided the fate of being amalgamated with other branches. It works closely with the Parish Council in the community.

Dilwyn Parish Council continues to support various groups within the community, including the First Responders, the Playgroup, the PCC and the Cedar Hall committee. We also continue to support the maintenance of the Crown Inn in association with the 'Friends of The Crown'. Work this year has included repainting the entire building, sewage pipe replacement and various repairs.

The 'Light Up Dilwyn' initiative has continued to develop and is particularly enlightening (if you'll excuse the pun!) during the dark days of winter. Special thanks to Glen, Ali Jones, and James and Scarlotte Booth for the time they give to ensure the initiative is a success. We have also managed to keep Carols on the Green ongoing – another important event in the Dilwyn calendar. Special thanks to Glen for his total commitment during what was 'challenging' weather! We raised £400 for a very worthwhile cause, The Cart Shed.

With regard to planning, we continue to receive and address planning issues and have been able to fulfil our commitment to visit every application in person.

The matter of Tyrrells/KP signage is still ongoing. It is something we have chased – I believe it is currently being held up by Herefordshire Council – and we will continue to push for.

We have continued to develop our awareness and knowledge of the drains/drainage within the village and the outlying areas and have made a significant impact on flooding. Special thanks to Nick Mason (Ward Councillor) for his outstanding proactive work around our community, in particular the issues on the Gadbridge Road.

To date, we don't have any volunteers to repaint the Dilwyn bypass, but we will continue to look for help.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Poole for proofreading the minutes; to Ian Brown for maintaining the website; to Pete Stilwell for his work on and around The Crown; to Kate Albini and Richard Thomas for their work in raising the profile and developing the village hall; to Richard Thomas for his support in dressing the village at Christmas, to Pete Preston and Martin Thomas for the additional work they do around the village; to Edward Lewis and the Lewis family for their support in the Haven and around the community; to Jane Clarke and Jo Stirling-Brown for the work they do on planning; to the First

Responder team of Gerry Duncan, Abi Hiester-Wallis and Stuart Thornhill; and to Alan Rudland for his work with Neighbourhood Watch etc.

Thank you to all the Councillors who give up their evening, not just for the meetings but also in research and support. And a massive thank you to Lesley Hay for her outstanding work and the tireless research that she conducts on behalf of Dilwyn Parish Council...and for keeping us right!

Lastly, a thank you to anybody in the community who gives up their time for the benefit of others, whether it's for five minutes or five years! We need more volunteers for the very many community initiatives that we are so fortunate to have in Dilwyn.

Ray Fellows (Vice Chairman)