

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 November 2025 starting at 7.30pm

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

MINUTES

Present: Cllr J Hall (Chairman); Cllr A Towler; Cllr M Thomas; Cllr J Clarke; Cllr E Jordan; Cllr D Barron; Cllr M Griffiths and Cllr P Preston.

Also present: Ward Councillor Nick Mason; Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk); two members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllr J Lewis; Cllr D Stirling-Brown; Cllr J Stirling-Brown and Cllr R Fellows (Vice Chairman).

1.1 The Clerk reminded Councillors with regard to the legally required six-month attendance rule (not six meetings).

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.

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.

3. Ward Councillor's Report

(a) Replacing the DW20 footbridge. This is being project managed by the Weobley Footpath Officers. Ward Cllr Mason reported that the new bridge has been inspected by the Herefordshire Clerk of Works who gave the all-clear to start using it.

(b) A4112 road closure. Ward Cllr Mason reassured Councillors that he was fully aware of the many complaints with regard to the lack of information prior to the closure and he is in discussion with the Leader of Herefordshire Council about the issue. There was lengthy discussion on all aspects of the closure including its effect on the local schools and businesses, and damage to local minor road surfaces and verges. The Ward Councillor confirmed that extra signage was now in place and that the damaged minor road surfaces and verges etc. will be reinstated once the work has been completed. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Ward Cllr Mason for his continued support.

3.1 Open Session

3.1.1 Mrs Freemantle confirmed that she had liaised with a local photographer who had, very kindly, taken some professional photos of the refurbished underpass mural at no

cost. The collage of photos has been framed and, along with a small plaque, is ready to be presented by Cllr P Preston to Richard Bartholomew. Cllr Jane Clarke will liaise with both Richard Bartholomew and Cllr Preston with regard to a convenient date and time and venue for the presentation. The Clerk to send a card of thanks to the photographer.

3.1.2 The Chairman agreed to prepare the wording for a small plaque to be displayed at the underpass and Cllr P Preston agreed to get this prepared and displayed.

3.1.3 Plot 4 Great House Orchard. Concerns were raised with regard to the huge amounts of soil that are currently piling up near the road hedge. The Chairman confirmed she had visited the site and had been reassured the soil will be removed.

3.1.4 Great House Orchard. Issues have been raised with regard to the overgrown hedge between the two entrances. After discussion, it was agreed to write to the developer to request that the hedge be cut back and also ask for confirmation that the hedge will be included in a management maintenance plan and not left in 'no man's land' with no one taking responsibility for its future maintenance. Item to remain on the agenda.

3.1.5 The issue with regard to applying for a speed reduction through Stockingfield was raised again with the Ward Councillor. Ward Cllr Mason confirmed that he has already been in touch with the Transport Management Team, but will follow up again on his request for information.

3.1.6 A request has been received from local residents for the 30-mph signage to be moved further up the road towards the exit onto the A4112 towards Weobley. It was generally agreed this would help reduce traffic speed along this narrow road into the village centre. The Ward Councillor will take this request forward and discuss with the Herefordshire Council representative.

3.2 The Chairman closed the Open Session.

4. To approve and sign the minutes. It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 were a true record and it was unanimously voted by the Councillors in attendance that they be adopted and signed.

4.1 At the last meeting a copy of the current asset register had been made available for discussion. Whilst it was agreed that most valuations were within current guidelines – and although proposed at the last meeting – it was agreed to postpone having The Crown valued for the time being. In the meantime, it was agreed that the Chairman would ring the insurance company to confirm that the insurance policy covering of The Crown allows for automatic annual increase in rebuild costs.

4.2 The meeting discussed the continuing revision of the Risk Register. Cllr Towler had transferred the risks to an Excel document and enriched the detail. Input to the revised register had been received from Cllr J Hall, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr P Preston and Cllr R Fellows. It was agreed that a further review of the whole document would take place on Monday 8th December at 7.00pm with Cllrs Hall, Clarke, Fellowes and Towler in the

Cedar Hall. Cllr Towler offered to draft an operating procedure for the risk management system.

5. Finance

5.1 It was unanimously agreed to pay the outstanding invoices for October/November 2025.

5.2 Budget/precept meeting. A working party met on Monday 3rd November 2025 to discuss the budget/precept application for 2026–2027. A draft budget plan was circulated and, after discussion, it was unanimously agreed that it should be adopted. It was acknowledged that due to rising costs and financial uncertainty, a small increase of £2,000 was necessary. The Clerk will now submit a request for a precept of £35,000 for financial year 2026–2027.

6. Highways and Environmental Matters

6.1 Closure of the A4112 – discussed in the Ward Councillor's Report.

6.2 The Clerk confirmed she had approach the Flood Risk Team with regard to the outstanding application for drainage works and had been informed there is a delay in responding to the many funding requests and updated information will be issued shortly.

7. Footpaths

7.1 Two gates have been replaced on footpath DW7. Cllr M Thomas explained that access to other areas where gates need replacing is restricted due to spring crops having already been planted. The lengthsman will liaise with landowners.

7.2 Reopening of the DW20 – covered in the Ward Councillor's Report.

7.3. The Clerk confirmed that she had walked the DW10 with a representative from Herefordshire Council's Footpath Team, the lengthsman, footpath officer and Cllr D Barron. Unfortunately, this footpath does not cross the fields to come out in Stockingfield as hoped, but finishes on the dangerous main A4112 which is not suitable, in this day and age, for pedestrians.

7.4 Cllr A Towler requested information on the current state of the local footpaths – what is needed and what has been done to date. The Clerk will email.

8. The Crown

8.1 Replacement of the existing wood burner in the bar. The Clerk confirmed that Smokerite have ordered the replacement wood burner and are waiting for delivery.

8.2 Replacement of three windows in outbuilding. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to accept Graham Dyer's quote and for Graham to go ahead and make the windows (at no immediate cost to the Parish Council), with a view to them being replaced spring/summer next year. The Clerk will liaise with Graham Dyer.

8.3 The Clerk explained that there had again been drainage problems at The Crown which had been dealt with as an emergency call out. Although the Clerk had only received two quotes, it was unanimously agreed to accept Graham Dyer's quotes for the

back and car park areas. As the situation is now urgent, it is hoped work will begin on Wednesday 12th November and completed that Friday. There should be no disruption to the running of The Crown. The Clerk will liaise with Graham Dyer and Maria Franzen. Cllr A Towler offered to approach The Friends of The Crown at their next meeting in January with a request for additional financial help towards these urgent remedial works.

8.4 The Clerk to confirm that The Crown's chimneys are swept annually and a certificate issued.

9. Play Park. Copies of the most recent report had been circulated. While no major issues had been highlighted in the report, Cllr M Thomas confirmed that he and Glen White will arrange a site visit in order to discuss addressing the minor issues raised.

10. Police Report – not available. However, Ward Councillor Mason was able to explain that Kington has now, at last, got a full team of Police Officers but that their shift patterns do not support evening visits to Parish Council meetings.

11. Planning:

11.1 Planning application – 252960 – The Coach House, Dilwyn. Work to trees in a conservation area. After a site visit and discussion – no objections raised.

12. Christmas in Dilwyn 2025

12.1 Update on the sale of Christmas trees – all in hand. Cllr A Towler asked that a new approach be considered for next year. Item to be discussed at the September 2026 meeting.

12.2 Update on Christmas lights for the village tree – all in hand. Cllr P Preston will liaise with regard to the cherry picker/date/time etc.

12.3 Update on Carols on the Green – all in hand.

12.4 Coffee morning – to support Carols on the Green and to confirm the charity for this year as St Michael's Hospice. Cllr J Hall confirmed that Saturday 29th November from 10.00am until 12.00pm is convenient for The Crown. Support with cakes, raffle prizes etc. and help on the morning itself will be much appreciated.

13. To raise issues for the next meeting of the Parish Council – Upstream provision (UP project) of wellbeing services (Kate Albini).

14. Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

Signed:

Date: