

DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL

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Dilwyn Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th July 2026 starting at 7.00pm

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

MINUTES

Present: Cllr J Hall (Chairman); Cllr D Barron; Cllr J Clarke; Cllr M Griffiths; Cllr J Lewis; Cllr P Preston and Cllr M Thomas. Also present: Ward Councillor Nick Mason; Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk); Gareth Jenkins (lengthsman) and three members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Ben Woodcock and Merry Albright who, on behalf of the River Arrow Trust, gave a detailed presentation on the current state of the River Arrow. A question-and-answer session followed. The Chairman thanked both for coming and looked forward to receiving further information and updates via a newsletter. Sign-up link: <https://riverarrowtrust.org/newsletter-signup>.

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

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.

2.1 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.

2.2 Attendance Ruling. Parish Councillors are legally required to attend meetings and self-disqualification occurs if they fail to attend for six consecutive months (not six meetings) – unless the reason for absence is approved by the council beforehand.

3. Ward Councillor's Report

Welsh Water and Drainage: I continue to seek details on the works I have been promised should be happening this summer, so that I can check exactly what they are looking to address. I am meeting someone from WW this Wednesday, so will be able to put more pressure on them.

I am delighted that Herefordshire Council has confirmed all of the drainage grant capital bids for drainage, including the issue around West View and Orchard Close.

Hurst Lane Repairs: To confirm that I have not been able to get this added to the works for this year, but have been pushing hard – after visiting businesses there and getting a sense of the traffic levels – for it to be added to next year.

The Salutation in Weobley: Not specifically Dilwyn, but I am sure that most have been aware of the issues at The Sal, which until last week was closed to residents. That got resolved after some serious lobbying of the company that owns it, and it is now open to all. So I apologise for any fall off in the recent flood of custom to The Crown from Weobley! But more seriously, like all our local pubs, “use it or lose it”.

Speeding and Signage in the Village, including Tyrrells: I have had some feedback from officers about building on the Tyrrells signage, where they are pushing back against proposals and, in particular, about introducing any further signs discouraging trucks from coming into Dilwyn. I continue to work on this, and also on the broader question of speeding and weight restrictions, as well as continuing dialogue with Tyrrells about those travelling to the site.

Weobley Traffic Calming: It will probably be of interest to Dilwyn residents that there will be some traffic-calming works in Weobley, especially around the school, in the October half term.

Leominster Post Office: Following closure of the banks in Leominster, the Post Office in the newsagents is also under threat. Herefordshire Council has offered space in the former Barclays bank building at The Buttercross as a potential temporary home, initially rent free. Ultimately, we need a permanent solution and for it to sit alongside the banking hub that the Council has established there. While we have all been encouraged to use online banking, having a live service is important to our rural communities.

Oil Grant Scheme: For information, this has now been closed, as prices came down to pre-crisis levels. I believe this ward to have had one of the highest uptakes of the grant, which is welcome. That said, oil prices have spiked again and so I will be investigating whether it is to be reopened.

Bridleways: I am in the early stages of trying to find out whether anything can be done about the remarkably low number of bridleways in a county with such a strong equestrian heritage. If anyone has any insight they can lend, I would be very grateful.

Open Session

3.1 Mrs Sonia Freemantle explained that the ‘Love our Village’ team will start ‘tidying up’ on the 18th/19th July from 11am–3pm. This will include painting all the other benches and notice boards, and weeding the village green and triangle plus some of the nearby roads and pavements. The Councillors thanked Mrs Freemantle for all her hard work and enthusiasm and gave their full support to the initiative.

The council was asked if they could supply a trailer for the surplus greenery for the two days in July and Cllr P Preston kindly offered to park a trailer at The Crown, collect at the end of the two days and dispose of the waste. The question of high-vis jackets was raised – various Councillors thought they have some stored away and any available will be left with the trailer.

3.1.1 Mrs Freemantle asked about a possible inspection of the trees on the village green as some branches were very low and could pose a health and safety issue. Councillors were reminded that this item had been discussed at the last meeting, when it was agreed to add this to the Precept meeting in November with a view to discussing funding for a future inspection. However, in the meantime, Cllr P Preston offered to inspect the trees and come back to the Parish Council with his findings and recommendations.

3.1.2 Mrs Freemantle asked about booking the village green and was advised that this is done in The Crown.

3.1.3 Mrs Freemantle reported that the Millennium Stone is in a dangerous state of repair. The Clerk will liaise with a view to getting this repaired.

3.1.4 The Clerk confirmed that she had circulated an email from the Dilwyn Green Action Group (DGAG) with a view to planting a hedgerow on the village green. This was discussed at length, with specific concerns raised about future maintenance. Mrs Freemantle was asked to confirm with the DGAG – once decided – what species/hybrids are planned for the planting.

3.2 Possible amendment to the Code of Conduct (circulated). Dilwyn Parish Council does not have a Local Resolution Protocol in place and it was unanimously agreed to leave things as they are and not adopt an LRP.

3.3 Declarations of Interest forms. The Clerk explained that Councillors' addresses are to be removed from their online Declarations of Interest forms.

3.4 Biodiversity (circulated). After discussion, it was agreed that the DGAG are in the process of fulfilling issues raised within this document.

3.5 Change of date for the church Christmas Tree Festival to 5th and 6th December 2026.

3.6 An Open Garden event at The Moat House – in aid of St Michael's Hospice – will be held on Sunday 26th July 2026, with teas being served on the village green.

3.7 Summit meeting – 14th July 2026 (circulated). Please register via the link provided.

3.8 The Chairman closed the Open Session.

4. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th June 2026 (circulated). Cllr J Clarke asked for a small amendment to Item 3.1.10 so that

the word 'HGVs' be replaced by the word 'cars'. With this amendment, it was agreed that the minutes were a true record and it was unanimously voted by the Councillors in attendance that they be adopted and signed.

5. Finance

5.1 It was agreed to pay the outstanding invoices for June 2026 (circulated).

5.2 Clerk's mileage expenses – the Clerk explained that the mileage allowance had recently been increased from 45p per mile to 55p per mile.

6. Highways and Environmental Matters

6.1 Lengthsman Gareth Jenkins explained that he had cleared the drains from Townsend House to the end of the village green and they are now ready for jetting. However, before proceeding, he asked what path the drains follow once they turn at the end of the village green. The Clerk to make enquiries about providing a map.

6.2 Update on Drainage Grant. The Clerk confirmed that the two Capital Applications for West View/Orchard Close and Common Lane had been accepted. The Clerk explained that she had circulated this information and Gareth Jenkins will confirm start dates for the work.

6.3 Lengthsman Glen White to be asked to trim the entrances to various footpaths – top of Hanson bank footpath/bridleway; the Dingle; off the back road to Weobley approaching the new footpath bridge and beyond; and The Plateau to Stockingfield footpath entrance.

6.4. Rubbish bin in the lay-by at the A4112 Haven junction. Councillors were reminded that the Parish Council owns the bin and it is emptied from within the lengthsman's budget. This is proving to be very expensive and time consuming and a suggestion was put forward that the bin be removed. However, it was agreed this might encourage fly-tipping. Ward Cllr N Mason offered to liaise with the new contractor to see if the bin can be reinstated on their waste removal round. Item to remain on the agenda.

6.5. Cllr D Barron asked about the possibility of a bus shelter for the village. It was explained that this idea had been proposed in the past but that there was no funding available. However, Ward Cllr N Mason reported that there may be some funding available in the pipeline for rural areas and he would follow up and report back.

7. Footpaths

7.1 DW7 gates – it was agreed that the Clerk should go ahead and order the four self-closing gates for the DW7 footpath (purchase order in place) for delivery to The Crown. Cllr M Thomas will liaise with Maria and collect them from The Crown to store at his house. In the meantime, Cllr Thomas will liaise with the landowners so that once the harvest is completed, he and the lengthsman will erect the gates.

7.2 DW19 – Stockingfield to The Plateau. Cllr D Barron reported that the stile by The Plateau is in need of repair and/or replacing and the wooden bridge is also in need of repair. The entire footpath is very overgrown and almost impassable. It was agreed that

Ward Cllr N Mason and Cllr Barron would meet to walk the footpath, make notes and report back with a view to applying for funding from within the PRow grant system.

8. Lengthsman – July and August worksheet. As above – drainage; erection of gates.

9. The Crown

9.1 Update on cellar head. The Clerk confirmed she has a quote from Graham Dyer and Cllr P Preston will have a quote from Kevin Whittall by tomorrow. It was agreed to liaise via email once both quotes are available so that work can be completed before the music festival.

9.2 It had been reported that the fence panels between The Old Shop and The Crown have fallen down and need replacing with new posts. Cllr M Thomas has provided a quote for replacement materials and labour and reported that he will be liaising with the resident next door to The Crown with a view to also getting the work done before the music festival.

10. Play Park

10.1 It appears that various pieces of equipment in the play park are not fit for use and extra bark is also required. The play park has now been inspected and it was agreed to wait until the report is available before making any decision. The Clerk will circulate the report when available and, depending on the findings, it may be necessary to make decisions on how to proceed via email.

10.2 Concerns were raised about a general lack of upkeep in and around the play park and adjoining car park. There was some confusion as to who is responsible for what and so it was agreed the Chairman would liaise with Mr P Kyles to discuss and confirm responsibilities. In the meantime, as the school holidays are about to start, Cllr P Preston kindly offered to tidy up the various areas with a strimmer.

11. Dilwyn Parish Council Risk Register – no issues raised.

12. Update on the Asset Register

Cllr A Towler sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting. However, by email, Cllr Towler confirmed that the Asset Register is now at a first-draft stage. The Chairman to speak to Maria about The Crown inventory as this element remains uncompleted. After discussion, as there is no meeting scheduled for August, it was agreed to circulate the draft Asset Register with a view to bringing it to the September meeting for subsequent adoption at the October meeting.

13. Police Report – no report available.

14. Planning

14.1 No. 261110 – Bankside, Dilwyn (circulated – deferred at last meeting). After discussion – no comment.

14.2 No. 261698 – Luntley Court Farm Holiday Lets, Pembridge. DESCRIPTION: To convert part of the shed (approximately 5 bays the balance will remain in agricultural use) into a padel court, for leisure use primarily for our existing holiday cottage guests on site. After discussion – no comment.

15. To raise issues for the next meeting of the Parish Council – no discussion.

16. Date of next Parish Council meeting: this will be held on Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please note: there will be no meeting in August.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Signed:

Date: