

DILWYN PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Dilwyn Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.00pm

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the September Parish Council meeting.

Present:

Cllr J Hall (Chairman); Cllr P Preston; Cllr M Thomas; Cllr M Griffiths; Cllr D Barron; Cllr A Towler; Cllr D Stirling Brown; Cllr E Jordan and Cllr J Lewis.

Also present: Ward Councillor Nick Mason; Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk); Gareth Jenkins and Glen White (Lengthsmen); seven members of the public.

The Chairman paid tribute to Peter Kyles, who sadly passed away following a short illness. Peter played a major role in saving St Mary's School and served as its principal for 15 years. He was also instrumental in the community purchase of The Crown, making it — like the school — one of the first community-owned facilities in the country. Peter served as a Parish Councillor for 25 years plus. Condolences were extended to his wife Sally and family.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr J Clarke and Cllr R Fellows (Vice Chairman).

1.2 Resignation:

The Chairman confirmed receipt of the resignation of Cllr J Stirling-Brown. This has been acknowledged and accepted by email. The Clerk has notified the Election Officer and the vacancy is now advertised on the noticeboard and website. If no election is called, the Parish Council may co-opt at the October meeting.

1.2.1 PPC Representative : Deferred until May 2027.

1.2.2 Parish Council Planning Officer : Cllr P Preston offered to take on this role.

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. Open Session:

3.1. Village Tidy Group

Mrs Sonia Freemantle reported on the successful “Love Our Village” tidy-up held on 18–19th July, thanking volunteers for their efforts. Significant clearance work was completed in and around the village green. Thanks were extended to the Lewis family (The Haven) for removing large quantities of rubbish and to Michael Symonds for repairing the millennium stone.

The next volunteer session will be held on 10th October - focusing on painting benches and noticeboards and planting donated bulbs. Last year, 2,000 bulbs were planted. During the summer, the group also planted and maintained the tubs outside The Crown.

Mrs Freemantle outlined a forthcoming Dilwynner article seeking community views on space, nature, and the environment, feeding into a potential “Love Your Neighbourhood” campaign for 2028.

A discussion followed regarding forming a working party (including the Tidy Up Group) to address the overgrown Play Park and damaged equipment. Fundraising for new equipment was suggested and Cllr P Preston generously donated £2,000 towards this initiative. The Clerk and Cllr D Barron will meet with Dave Tristan (Herefordshire Council).

School involvement in designing a memorial garden for Peter Kyles was proposed with Cllr E Jordan offering to liaise as School Governor.

It was noted that the Village Tidy Group and the Dilwyn Green Action Group are separate groups with similar aims.

3.1.2 Laurel Tree:

The Laurel has already been significantly pruned. It was agreed (by majority) to remove the remaining branches to ground level to expose the Rowan tree and create space for bulb planting.

3.2 Painting Lampposts:

Dilwyn Young Farmers will paint three lampposts in October, starting at Townsend Corner. Gareth Jenkins will purchase paint and invoice the Council.

3.3 Dilwyn Green Action Group:

3.3.1 Edible Hedge Proposal:

Concerns had been raised by residents regarding planting an edible hedge on the Village Green. An alternative location around the Play Park received positive feedback. School involvement was encouraged. The Group will write a piece for the Dilwynner seeking community views. Deferred to November.

3.3.2 Biodiversity / Nature Recovery:

The Council continues to support Herefordshire Council's Nature Recovery initiative. Item to remain on the agenda.

3.4 Close Open Session:

4. Highways and Environmental Matters:

4.1 Jetting Village Drains:

The Clerk reported that two jetting requests had been submitted to Herefordshire Council. One had been inspected and subsequently cancelled. Concerns were raised about the lack of feedback on whether works had been completed or why the request had been cancelled. Ward Cllr Mason will follow up.

4.2 Drainage Grant Update

Extensive discussion took place regarding flooding issues within and around the village.

Funding is in place for the West View project and Gareth Jenkins will commence work by the end of September. Cllr P Preston will liaise with the landowner.

Once work is completed, a letter will be sent to neighbouring residents requesting that they do not dispose of grass cuttings into the ditch.

Work on the two smaller drainage projects (also funded) will be deferred until October.

Concerns were raised about serious flooding issues linked to the new building site. Only two houses are currently built with three yet to be completed. It is, therefore, assumed that the flood-prevention measures promised at a recent meeting are not yet fully installed. Ward Cllr Mason will contact the contractors to establish current and future drainage arrangements.

Dilwyn has a major problem with water aggregating in the low-sitting centre. A large proportion of this water comes down Venmore Road, from the east.

From the centre, it eventually is taken away (by systems the PC are still trying to understand) to the “moat”, and then the pond which through the pipe (which was funded last year) it feeds into the large ditch that leads to the brook to the east.

The problem is that we are effectively not allowed to desilt the moat, so the water from the village has to be pushed through it. In storms, the system backs up, threatening a number of houses around the village green.

The suggestion from Ray Jenkins is to try and divert the water coming into the village before it gets there. The landowner would almost certainly require it to be a pipe, rather than a ditch across the field.

The Ward Councillor will liaise with the Floodrisk Team explaining the current situation and provide supporting maps.

4.3 Weed-Spraying Training

It was agreed not to part-fund training for Glen White, as Gareth Jenkins already holds the required licence.

4.4. Underpass

Fly-tipping of tyres on the underpass had been reported on Facebook. By the time Glen White arrived, the tyres had been removed. The possibility of installing cameras was discussed but deferred for the time being.

5. Footpaths

5.1 DW7 Gates

Three gates have been installed; one remains outstanding and is on order.

5.2 Footpath Asset Register

Mr Ray Jenkins confirmed he has walked all footpaths and completed the asset register with GPS and What3Words references. He will now prepare the spreadsheet for submission to the PRow Team and provide the Clerk with a paper copy.

5.3 Plank Bridges DW17 and DW19 plank bridges, along with the self-closing gate, are on order.

6. Ward Councillor Report

Ward Cllr Mason reported that Welsh Water will shortly begin relining works on the pipe leading to the pumping station and partially onwards to the treatment plant.

He advised of several road closures in Weobley in October relating to repairs and traffic-calming measures. These will be disruptive, but scheduling has been planned around half-term to minimise impact.

Herefordshire Council continues to “work” the contract with M Group. Although there are teething problems, this approach aims to ensure value for money for council tax payers.

Residents have raised concerns about visibility at the eastern exit of the village; the locality steward will visit the following morning.

He highlighted the People’s Panel for adult social care as an example of improved customer-focused engagement. He also noted national discussions around localism and devolution, including the potential introduction of tourist taxes in metro mayor areas, which may disadvantage rural regions.

Ward Cllr Mason concluded by stating he will continue to advocate for Herefordshire’s integrity as an entity, regardless of future partnerships. He looks forward to showing the new Chief Executive around the ward in November.

7. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th July 2026 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.

8. Finance

8.1 Payments

Payment of outstanding invoices for September 2026 was agreed.

8.2 Annual Accounts

The Clerk confirmed that the External Auditor had completed the final accounts for 2025–2026. No recommendations were made other than that Bond monies should now be recorded as an asset rather than a bank account entry. Cllr Towler will adjust the Asset Register.

The Public Rights Notice is being displayed.

8.3 Clerk's Pay

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk's annual increment and pay rise be backdated to April 2026.

9. The Crown

9.1 Cellar Head

The replacement cellar head has been completed.

9.2 Carpet Replacement

Following discussion, the Parish Council raised no objection to replacing the carpet. However, FoTC should first liaise with the tenant regarding preferred floor covering and bring ideas/samples to the Parish Council before a final decision is made.

10. Play Park

10.1 Update

Deferred until the next meeting, when a working party will be formed – the 28th September was suggested as a possible date to meet at the Cedar Hall at 7.00p.m.. Fundraising options to be explored in the meantime.

11.00 Risk Register – nothing reported.

11.1 Asset Register – a copy of the final register had been circulated. After discussion, this register was unanimously adopted. The Chairman thanked Cllr Towler for all his hard work in creating this up to date register. Ongoing asset matters to be followed up in that the Clerk asked Cllr Towler if he would look into moving the Bond monies from the banking system into the Register as requested by external auditor.

12. Police Report – PCSO Felix Rawlinson

12.1 An update report has been circulated :

Since 2021 West Mercia Police has sought to strengthen the commitment to our communities by recognising the importance of listening to the voices of our town and parish councils in line with our Local Policing Community Charter.

A part of our Charter commitment outlines the importance we place on understanding the specific needs of all of our parishes. We reflect these in three local priorities, which are recorded quarterly and which Police will work on throughout the period.

We constantly review crime and incident data down to a very localised area and carry out surveys with communities to understand their needs. Based on this information we would propose the priorities identified below but would invite you to make any

suggestions of amendments to us by reply of email. There is no need to contact us if you have no amendments to suggest; we will continue to focus on the areas identified, that our data and community intelligence suggest are most appropriate for your parish.

Priority 1 Road Safety We will: - Conduct speed enforcement on high-risk routes within the safer neighbourhood area and other areas identified by residents as a concern. - Inform and educate road users in respect of legislation governing the roads, using pop-up events, social media and Neighbourhood Matters. - Target individuals suspected of committing offences using the road networks and take positive action to address this.

Priority 2 Anti-social behaviour We will: - Deal robustly with people committing anti-social behaviour, making use of available legislation and civil orders. - Ensure officers are visible in areas identified as of heightened concern to divert offenders and prevent harm. - Educate members of the public around anti-social behaviour, using pop-up events, social media and Neighbourhood Matters.

Priority 3 Rural crime We will: - Provide a wrap-around service for all rural burglary victims within the safer neighbourhood area, providing crime prevention advice and resources. - Deal robustly with poaching offences and wildlife crime offenders making use of all legislation available. - Educate and inform members of the public around aspects of rural crime via pop-up events, social media and Neighbourhood Matters.

12.2 School parking. The Clerk reported that the police have been contacted with regard to the parking outside the school particularly during morning and afternoon pick up time. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr E Jordan (as a governor) would approach the school with regard to sending out a reminder letter to parents and asking them to park up in the village and so help alleviate the current chaos outside the school gates. Which, if not addressed quickly, is sadly heading towards a preventable accident.

13. Planning

13.1 Application No: 262221 – Sunnyside, Dilwyn

Removal of conservatory and deck; construction of side extension. Following a site visit, no objection was raised.

13.2 Application no: 233493 – Land North of Byways Cottage

Re-consultation on proposed dwelling and associated works. After reviewing the Welsh Water report, it was agreed that the Parish Council's previous response (January 2024) should stand. Available on Herefordshire Planning portal.

13.3 Application no: 262473 – Sollers Cottage

Variation of condition 2 (permission 194120). Cllr P Preston will visit the site and report findings.

13.4 Application no: 262431 – Stocking Farm

Erection of agricultural manure storage building. Cllr Towler visited the site and met the applicant. The proposal will reduce nutrient loss and diffuse pollution. No objection raised.

14. Items for Next Agenda

Church Christmas display; Carols on the Green; Date for Budget/Precept setting meeting.

Cllr D Stirling-Brown requested remote attendance due to work commitments. The Chairman will arrange a Zoom link.

15. Date of Next Meeting : Monday 12th October 2026.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Date: