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DYMOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on

Tuesday, 11th February, 7.30pm in Dymock Parish Hall.

Present: Cllrs Gill Kilmurray (in the Chair), T Blandford; I Bruce; N Fairburn; J George; B Rose.

In attendance: Rachel Freestone – Clerk
Jackie Tweedale – Footpath Officer

Public: 10

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Tony Eagle. County Councillor Gill Moseley had informed the Clerk that she will be attending late due to other obligations.

2. **To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items.**
There were none

3. **Public Participation:**
A member of the public expressed concern over the broken wall on the bridge over the River Leadon, Ledbury Road**. It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Bruce to contact Highways to inform them.
A member of the public asked whether there is an update on the condition of the railway bridge? Cllr Bruce responded that Highways have stated that its condition is satisfactory and monitored annually.

4. **Reports:**

a. To receive a report from County Councillor Gill Moseley. To be deferred pending her arrival.
b. Members received a report from District Councillor Gill Kilmurray. FoDDC have held their Strategic Meeting which focussed on the forthcoming election. The County elections will be going ahead as planned in May. FoDDC budget has been set to what they think will happen as the forthcoming devolution has caused some uncertainty.

5. **Minutes:**

a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th January 2025**. It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a correct record. They were duly signed by the Chair.

6. **NDP and Community Action Plan (CAP):**
Members received a report from Cllr Nick Fairburn on the Community Action Plan meeting which took place on Saturday 8th February. The event was moderately well attended. He reminded all that the CAP is a parish council initiative not a NDP event. He gave thanks to the NDP members who attended and helped on the day. No one has signed as yet to help with Sports Facilities. The Cricket Club have provided contact details and he will attend their next Committee meeting to discuss potential options including the land behind the Cricket Club owned by GCC.
Cllr Bruce reported that two people have shown interest in the Broadband Group. He will contact the Kempley PC Chairman for guidance. He added that contractors had recently been seen laying through blue rope used to aid cabling. The contractors had informed him that they thought the cables would be drawn through in the next few months. However, there has been no official notification of this.
Cllr Rose commented on the Biodiversity Group. As this group is already established the meeting was used to discuss what has been achieved. The verge opposite the Beauchamp Arms has been a visible project so residents are already aware.
Jackie Tweedale, the Footpaths Officer added that it had been a positive meeting. Half a dozen people had come forward to get involved and take over the responsibility for certain parts of the parish therefore reducing the load for herself. The team will look at which footpaths need the most attention.

7. **Beauchamp Arms:**

a. To note the completion of the work on the wall in the Beauchamp Arms: Cllr Kilmurray informed members that the back wall has been removed. The tenant had waited for the wall to be removed before obtaining

b. quotes for the flooring. These are in progress. She added that there has been positive feedback from customers.
c. To note that FoDDC Building Control have not been contacted with regards to the removal of the wall at the Beauchamp Arms: Cllr Kilmurray reported that there is some ambiguity on this matter and she intends to speak with FoDDC Building Control to clarify. Cllr Bruce replied that the Structural Report states that it is the Building Regulations Issue. Cllr Kilmurray added that the matter is in hand and will be looked at retrospectively.
d. Cllr Kilmurray reported that the Beauchamp Arms Working Group will meet following the Health and Safety Audit scheduled for the 17th February. She added that the BAWG have discussed H&S expectations with the tenant prior to the audit taking place.
e. The FOBA representative informed that they are awaiting parish council 'sign off' on the work to remove the wall prior to their release of funding to the tenant. It is for the parish council to be satisfied. The FOBA AGM has been deferred to March 5th.

8. Common Land/Assets:

a. Members NOTED the playground inspection for January. Cllr Bruce reported that the big slide is now cordoned off with tape. He will get in touch with GPFA for advice and potential funding. Looking to the end of the year for a playground refurbishment project.
He added that he would like to look at a bus shelter by Wintours Green. A member of the public informed that this had been attempted and refused a couple of times as Planning concerned it would spoil the view of the church. **It was RESOLVED:** to approach FoDDC Planning for their advice.
b. Members considered the quote from Perpetua for two A4 Metal Di-Bond Play at Own Risks signs for the playground at £36 net. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the purchase.
c. Members considered the two quotes received for the 2025/26 Grounds Maintenance Contract. Cllr Bruce informed members that he had walked the village with the Clerk and both Greenfields and Mark Thomas. This had been a useful exercise for all. The church will now receive their own quotes/invoices for grounds maintenance for all their land and will be able to apply to the parish council for a grant if needed. Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a larger company contract versus a sole trader. Members held a vote. **It was RESOLVED:** 4:2 for the contract to be awarded to Greenfields.
d. Cllr Bruce informed members that the toilet was leaking from the cistern on the gentleman's side. John Shaw had been contacted and the leak isolated. However, quite a lot of water had been lost as the monthly reading is three times the normal monthly use. There is further work needed to the pipes but not urgent, look to complete this before next winter.
e. Members NOTED the increase in cost of the electrics cover in the phone box at Brooms Green from £47.50 to £105 with delivery as the original price quoted was the BT purchase price. Cllr Blandford confirmed that it had been fitted.
f. Members NOTED the two abandoned cars in the Winding Pool Carpark. The FoDDC Street Warden has actioned a 15 day notice on one. The Clerk informed that the police had been contacted to find the owner of the second but no response received. **It was RESOLVED:** The Clerk to contact the DVLA.
Cllr Kilmurray added that an email had been received regarding the number of residents regularly using the Winding Pool public car park. Members agreed that there is not enough parking for the homes at Winding Pool which is the larger issue.
g. Members considered FOBA's request to erect a marquee on Wintours Green during the Daffodil Weekend. **It was RESOLVED**: to give permission.
h. Members considered the Parish Halls request to erect signs on Wintours Green during the Daffodil Weekend. **It was RESOLVED**: to give permission.
Additionally, an email had been received from St Mary's Church requesting permission for signage on the Green for teas from the 1st March to 6th April. **It was RESOLVED**: to give permission.
Cllr Kilmurray added that the Beauchamp Arms tenant would like permission to hold a Wheels on the Green event on the 13th September. **It was RESOLVED**: to give permission.

9. Website and Email Addresses:

a. Cllr Fairburn shared a screenshot of a page on the current website and a diagram to show members the proposed changes to the website content. The website and some of the content is outdated and unreliable as a source of information for the public. The intention is not for the website to be used as an advertisement forum but for the public to obtain information on groups/organisations as well as council business and the local area. The website is currently hosted by Red Fox who are helpful and he recommended the council

stay with them. The proposed sections include a Council page with the required legal documents; 'About Dymock' with information for local residents; 'Visit Dymock' with information and links for visitors; Clubs and organisations with contact information, website links and Contacts with emergency and useful information and links. It is hoped to complete the updates by the summer. The new site will be publicised with a request for contact details from local groups and organisations. *A member of the public asked if annual events such as the music festival can be added?* Yes. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the development of the website and report at the next meeting.

b. Members considered the options to move to either Outlook or gov.uk Councillor DPC email addresses. Cllr Bruce reported that there is concern with the use of personal email addresses. County Council and FoDDC contacts are often not updated so ex-councillors are often included in bulk emails with email addresses visible to all. There is also a Freedom of Information implication using personal email addresses. It is likely that government will insist that personal email addresses are no longer used in the future. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the move to gov.uk addresses. The Clerk to inform Red Fox.
The Chair added that all members are responsible to read their emails.

10. Planning:

a. To comment on Planning Applications for Determination by the Forest of Dean District Council: None
b. To note Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers: None
c. Members NOTED the Planning Decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
- P1383/24/FUL Paunt House Farm CONSENT
- P1261/24/TPO Dymock Playground CONSENT

11. Environment and Conservation:

a. Cllr Rose reported on the Biodiversity Working Group. Their focus has been on the Daffodil Weekend as they want to have a presence at this. They will collaborate with FOBA, sharing their marquee, and will be talking about the Wild Daffodils and the work of the Biodiversity Group as well as selling some of the daffodils that have been dug up. There will be an exhibition on the Daffodil trade in the Village. The Daffodil Line shuttle buses will be running and Buses4us will create some publicity on our behalf. The free shuttle bus times will be advertised on the Buse4us website. *A member of the public commented that the shuttle bus didn't operate in Dymock last year as the bus service runs through every two years. A member of the public added that the toilet in the churchyard are advertised as open to the public by Buses4us. They are not and need to inform them of the public toilets.* **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Rose to inform Buses4us.
Cllr Kilmurray informed that there are clusters of snowdrops growing along the church wall on the Green side, should they be marked ahead of the daffodils being dug up. *A member of the public commented that Snowdrop bulbs will be on the surface and easy to identify.* Cllr Rose to consider options for this.

b. The date of the litter pick was confirmed for Saturday 22nd February 2025, 9.30am by the Beauchamp Arms. The Chair requested that members attend this event to help. The council own the necessary equipment and Cllr Bruce will provide a risk assessment.

12. Highways/Footpaths:

a. The Footpaths Officer commented that there is little to report as the ground is so wet and inaccessible. A tree had fallen in Leddington which got sorted by GCC very quickly. An overgrown gateway with missing signage has been reported. She has a meeting scheduled with Will Saunder (GCC Footpaths) to look at examples of the conditions dealing with and look to how can make improvements to minimise the impact of wet weather on our footpaths.

b. Members received a report from Cllr Bruce on Highways. The pot holes continue to be reported. The Speedwatch initiative continues to move forwards with 46 speeders noted in January with speeds between 35mph to 45mph. There are three persistent offenders who will be contacted by the police. Three illegal vehicles have also been picked up. 15000 vehicles travelled through the village in a month. No tractors or heavy vehicles were caught speeding. A member asked if it would be beneficial to include brief Speedwatch reports in Windcross? **It was RESOLVED:** to send periodic speedwatch reports to the magazine.
20.38 County Councillor Gill Moseley arrived.
Cllr Bruce informed members that the speed camera signs have now been installed on both sides of the village.

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13. Finance:

a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statement Balances to 31st January 2025. Cllr Kilmurray as a non-bank signatory duly checked and signed the statements, invoices and bank reconciliation as a true record.

b. Members NOTED the Parish Council Budget Versus Actuals to 31st Jan 25 and considered the defibrillator and public conveniences earmarked reserve for 24/25 due to the expenditure overspend. Members NOTED the Beauchamp Arms Reserve/carry forward at £4385.62. **It was RESOLVED**: to reflect the overspend for 2024/25 and retain the earmarked reserves.

c. Members NOTED that the Build Back Better Application for £190 for the Biodiversity Group has been authorised by CC Gill Moseley and is progressing.

d. Members NOTED the increase in Parish Hall evening upstairs and smaller room hire fees to £20 from £15 and that this increase would affect the cost of the Biodiversity Working Group meetings.

e. Members NOTED the VAT return to 31.01.25 with a £463.03 refund due.

f. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:

- PATA Jan25 – Dec25 £204.84
- Gareth Kemp Jan 25 £140
- Scribe Accounting Annual Fee £331.20net/£397.44 Gross
- Perpetua Community Action Plan Leaflets £232.00

The Clerk requested that the invoice received following the agenda for the playground inspection be considered. £150 net/£180 gross. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the invoice for payment.
Cllr Fairburn added that an invoice for CAP meeting refreshments had been received for £15.54. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the invoice for payment.

g. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the following payments made between meetings:

- Clerk Expenses BT Electrics cover £105 net/£126 gross

h. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following regular payments made between meetings. The schedule was duly checked and signed.

- Clerk Salary incl PAYE As per contract
- NEST payment As per contract
- WaterPlus DD January £30.47
- EoN DD January £54.83
- Unity Bank Monthly Charges £6

i. Members NOTED the income received:

- Beauchamp Arms Rent January £1890net/£2268gross

j. Members NOTED the virements made between meetings:

- Current to Instant Access 14.01.25 £2500
- Instant Access to Current 30.01.25 £1000

14.Training:

a**.** Members NOTED that no training had been undertaken. Cllrs Bruce and Fairburn are to attend the GAPTC online free Planning session on the 26th February.

15. Members considered the meeting schedule for 2025/26 Ordinary meeting. **It was RESOLVED:** the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on the 29th April and ordinary meetings to be held on the 2nd Tuesday in the month. 8th April, 13th May, 10th June, 8th July, 9th September, 14th October, 11th November, 13th January, 10th February and 10th March 2026.

16. Correspondence:

- Members NOTED the correspondence from Hills Ford Rally, no response required.

17. To consider items for the next meeting:

To include the GRCC Village of the Year competition.

18. Next Meeting: Members NOTED that the next meeting is to be held on the 11th March 2025.

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4b. To receive a report from County Councillor Gill Moseley:
CCllr Gill Moseley informed members that following devolution in 4 years time there will be no District Council. There will be combined authorities with elected Mayors. She had recently attended a briefing at Shire Hall, elections will be held in May as planned but will be for a 2 year term, there will then be a further full election 2 years hence. There are several versions of a Unitary Council being looked at. FODDC will be abolished, there are currently 6 District Councillors which will be reduced to 1 ½. *A member asked where a Unitary Council would be housed?* CCllr Moseley responded that Shire Hall is likely to be too small therefore District Council property would likely be used as hubs but this is still unclear. Government would like a consistent pattern of local government and the system does require reorganisation. There has been no information provided on the future of Parish and Town Councils. The white paper states that they need to be 'Wired Up' which is not clear.
In addition, she informed members that the 'Robin Bus' is now being rolled out in the Newent area from April. This is a Minibus service for rural areas.

Signed:…T Eagle …….. Date:……11.03.2025……
Chair

Meeting closed at 20.56