48/24-25

DYMOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on

Tuesday, 11th March at 7.30pm in Dymock Parish Hall.

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

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

Public: 6

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence.**
There were none. County Cllr Gill Moseley had informed the Clerk that she would be late and her Agenda item was postponed until her arrival.

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 asked who is responsible for the triangular piece of land near the Cricket Ground as it is a potential area to plant daffodils. Highways are responsible. A member of public commented that the land used for parking opposite the Beauchamp Arms was locked that day which made parking more difficult for visitors to the Daffodils and who is responsible? The pub landlord holds a key and a member would pass this comment on.

4. **Reports:**
a. To receive a report from County Councillor Gill Moseley: Delayed to 20.44 following her arrival.
The Robin bookable bus service is hoping to launch in April. It will be bookable in advance by phone or App and will stop at any recognisable destination. It is able to transport one wheelchair user. Still unsure whether it will travel into Herefordshire. She passed to members a copy of the Highways Winter Operations Brochure which includes a current gritting map.
b. To receive a report from District Councillor Gill Kilmurray:
Nothing currently to report.

5. **Minutes:**
a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th February 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:**
Members received an update from Cllr Fairburn. He advised members that the NDP needs to be checked to ensure is compliant against the new Government targets. He had attended the Cricket Club committee meeting on behalf of the CAP Sports Facilities Working Group. They are open to a sporting facility being housed either on their grounds behind the clubhouse subject to archaeological reports or to support the lease of the two fields which border the grounds owned by GCC (current lease expires in 2033). Cllr Fairburn asked members if he can contact GCC re the lease on these fields and also the school with regards to their grounds**. It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Fairburn to continue with enquiries on potential plots for sporting facilities. Cllr Bruce informed members that he had spoken with Cllr Brocklehurst of Kempley PC with regards to Broadband. This will be an ongoing project with much to ascertain.

7. **Beauchamp Arms:**
a. Cllr Kilmurray confirmed that the Health and Safety Audit was completed. The BAWG had met with the tenant to run through the 28 actions listed of which 6 have been completed. Cllr Kilmurray suggested that the focus be on high and medium priority items of which there are 4 and all are the tenant's responsibility. The audit found the Fire Alarm to be non-compliant as A&E had removed some of the fire alarms and hadn't replaced them. They have now been replaced but the system is showing a warning light scheduled to

be looked at by Greenman. They will move to the lower risk items on completion. Members NOTED that the tenant was complemented in the audit for some of the actions he has completed.

b. Cllr Kilmurray confirmed that the Building Control documents have been submitted to FoDDC and are yet to receive a response.

c. Cllr Kilmurray informed members that the audit had mentioned the chimney stack and had highlighted where the pointing is wearing. This may be where some of the damp comes in? Members to consider whether the chimney stack should be removed as the chimney is not used. It was agreed that three quotes will be needed for the work to remove it.
The Oil Tank remains an issue but is covered currently so protected. Members need to obtain three quotes for consideration once the drawings are completed. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Eagle to arrange the drawings.
There is some clarification required regarding the position of the bins as the audit and fire risk assessment provide different requirements. This requires further investigation.
Cllr George is still to complete the internal inspection of the Beauchamp Arms and will report at the next meeting.

d. Trish Greenwood reported to members that following the recent FOBA AGM she had been appointed as joint chair alongside Paul Summers. They have started to plan for the forthcoming year.

8. Common Land/Assets:

a. Cllr Bruce reported that the bank slide is still out of action and taped off. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Eagle to address the handles of the slide. Members were informed that the equipment is being cleaned on the 31st March.

b. Members NOTED and approved the cost of £2.50 to DVLA to locate owner of abandoned car in Winding Pool car park. Members NOTED that the second abandoned car had been removed.

c. **It was RESOLVED:** to appoint Cllr Eagle Councillor to complete regular assessments of the tree in the Parish Hall Car Park as per the Risk Assessment and to report at ordinary meetings. *A member of the public raised the condition of the surface of the Parish Hall carpark.* There is a hole that needs filling. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to advise members of the pot hole product demonstrated to HALC. It was suggested that a meter strip of smooth surface would improve access to the Hall.

d. Members considered applying for the GRCC Village of the Year competition. **It was RESOLVED:** the form would require involvement from the whole community and is due end of April. To defer to 2026 to apply.
Cllr Bruce raised the deteriorating condition of the wall on the main stretch of road by Hill House. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to contact Two Rivers.

9. Website and Email Addresses:

a. Members NOTED the new individual Councillor gov.uk email addresses (with some still to action) and the change of the website address to dymockparishcouncil.gov.uk. Cllr new email addresses can be found at the end of these minutes.
Cllr Fairburn added that it is hoped that a sample website page will be available for the APM.

10. Planning:

a. Members NOTED that there were no Planning Applications for Determination by the Forest of Dean District Council.

b. Members NOTED that no Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers.

c. Members NOTED the Planning Decision made by Forest of Dean District Council:

- P0546/24/FUL Yew Tree Cottage CONSENT

11. Environment and Conservation:

a. Cllr Rose provided a report from the Biodiversity Working Group (full report attached). The Chair thanked her on behalf of members for all her hard work at the Daffodil weekend.
Cllr Rose thanked FOBA for their generous support with the marquee and all their help over the weekend. The marquee became an information point for many visitors. Thanks were given to Terry Ball for his donation of a number of birdboxes which were sold to raise funds for future work. Thanks given to the volunteers who ran tours which were well received by visitors and helped in the marquee.

A member of the public asked if a temporary sign could be placed near the field to show where the public toilets are?

Cllr Fairburn observed that the Parish Hall committee are averse to other organisations participating as they are the organisers of the Daffodil Weekend but demand for food and drink exceeded supply. Cllr Bruce added that Community involvement will be important for a GRCC Village of the Year application, he suggested a joint meeting with the Parish Hall, church and other groups near September to enable the Daffodil Weekend to become more unified.

Cllr Rose added that the Biodiversity Groups presence at the weekend was to improve visibility and to not cause offence.

b. Cllr Bruce reported that only 6 volunteers participated in the community Litter Pick but they cleared a lot of rubbish.

c. Members considered the bin at Western Way by the carpark which is regularly overflowing with dog waste as reported by a resident. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to contact the Forest of Dean to check if the bin is their responsibility and if so request a bigger bin.

Cllr Kilmurray added that discarded needles have been found in that area. Two Rivers have removed them but needs policing well.

12. Highways/Footpaths:

a. Jackie Tweedale commented that she has now been in the role for a year. She had been out walking with another volunteer and reported three paths. She had also walked Daffodil Walk 1 prior to the Daffodil Weekend, a downed tree was reported and removed before the weekend. There are now 12 volunteers to help walk the footpaths, members were asked permission for a Whatsapp Group to be formed. This was agreed.

20.32 County Cllr Gill Moseley arrived.

b. Cllr Bruce reported on the email received with regards to the parking kerbside at Western Way and emergency vehicle access where the road narrows by the hump. He added that parking is also a problem on the corner as enter Western Way. A member suggested 'do not park signs' although difficult to affix.

20.36 a member of the public left.

It was RESOLVED: To investigate possibility of double yellow lines and report at the next meeting.

c. Cllr Bruce reported that the Bridge at Preston Brook is eroding, it was reported on Fix My Street which shows the job as completed and it hasn't.

A member of the public added that contractors fixed one pot hole and the job subsequently showed as completed on Fix my Street with many around it still requiring attention.

County Cllr Moseley added that farmers too are adding to the problems with the conditions of the verges and ditches. A member responded that the lanes are too narrow for the farm vehicles, what should they do?

County Cllr Moseley informed members that GCC are exploring long term solutions for flood relief and its funding.

A member asked why it is always wet outside St Mary's Close? Cllr Bruce responded that this is a Severn Trent issue.

20.44 County Cllr Moseley provided her report. See Agenda item 4a.

13. Finance:

a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statement Balances to 28th February 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 Reserves statement with no comments.

c. Members NOTED the Beauchamps Arms income and expenditure report with no comments.

d. Members NOTED the Finance Meeting Working Group report.

e. Members NOTED the updated Risk Schedule with no comments.

f. Members NOTED the Greenfields Wintours Green overcharge 2024/25. Net £266.75 credit to be taken from first invoice of 25/26.

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

- Clerk expenses – colour printer ink £26.16net/£31.39 gross
- John Shaw – public conveniences water leak £25 net/£30gross
- Greenman – Emergency Doors Beauchamp Arms £830.93net/£997.11 gross

- Gareth Kemp – Public Conveniences Cleaning £140
- Perpetua Community Playground signs £36 net/£43.20 gross
- Perpetua Daffodil Weekend Signs £152/£158.80 gross amended
  A member queried the invoice for the Daffodil Weekend signs as the parish council are not mentioned. Should the pub and the Parish Hall share the cost? The Clerk informed that the invoice had been amended to £99.80gr as reprint costs removed. It was agreed to pay in full but need to improve dialogue between groups net year.
- Dymock Parish Hall – Hall Hire to end of year £215.00
- Autospeedwatch Annual Data Charge Brooms Green £179 net/£214.80 gross (to be paid first week of April)
  The Clerk requested that an expenses request from Cllr Rose for £25 be considered. The invoice is for the Biodiversity Group Heritage leaflets. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the invoice. Cllr Rose added that there will be income to be paid in from the stall and some additional invoices to pay from takings from the event. It was agreed that all income to be paid in and expenses to come from main account.

h. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following payments made between meetings:
- All Safety Matters – Health and Safety Audit £450 net/£540 gross

i. Members NOTED the regular payments made between meetings and Cllr Kilmurray checked and signed the schedule:
- Clerk Salary incl PAYE As per contract
- NEST payment As per contract
- WaterPlus DD February £97.58
- Unity Bank Monthly Charges £6

j. Members NOTED the income received:
- Beauchamp Arms Rent February £1890net/£2268gross
- VAT refund £463.03

k. Members NOTED that no virements made between meetings.

14.Training:

a**.** No formal training had been undertaken and Clerk to continue to send GAPTC training courses available to members.

15. Correspondence:

- Hills Ford Rally open information sessions 5th April The Royal Oak Much Marcle and 6th April Newent Memorial Hall. Both 2pm - 4pm and 5pm – 7pm.
- Cllr Bruce informed members of the GAPTC EGM as they are changing their name and constitution. One councillor to vote which can be completed online, he is happy to attend and vote on our behalf on the 18th March. **It was RESOLVED:** to vote in favour.

16. Members considered the Clerks request for annual leave the weeks commencing the 19th and 26th May and 1st September 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the annual leave.

17. To consider items for the next meeting.

VE Day 80, Internal inspection of the pub.

18. Next Meeting: Members NOTED that the next meeting is to be held on the 8th April 2025 and the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 29th April at 7.30pm

Signed:……*Tony Eagle* …….. Date:……8th April 2025 ……
Chair

The meeting closed at 21.00.

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Daffodil Weekend Biodiversity Group Report – Cllr Becky Rose

Introduction:
Following a decision made by the Biodiversity Group prior to Christmas, the group participated in the village's Daffodil Weekend with the aim of showcasing the ongoing bank renovation project, promoting our wild daffodil and wildflower planting and our biodiversity activity in general.

Activities and Displays:

- **Marquee Displays:** The group, with the generous support of FOBA and their volunteers giving up time, was able to establish a marquee display on the Green. There was a display detailing the biodiversity group's aims, the progress of the bank renovation, and the work already undertaken by our community volunteers over the past year.
- **Historical Exhibits:** To broaden the appeal of the stand, displays were created focusing on the history of the local daffodil trade and historic village pubs, providing engaging content for visitors.
- **Fundraising Stall:** A trading stall was implemented to raise funds for the group's activities. This included the sale of 10 handmade bird boxes, kindly donated by Terry Ball. All sold raising £200.
- **RSPB Presence:** Mr. Swift from the RSPB joined the group on Saturday, providing expert advice on nesting birds and information to visitors. Freebies for children.
- **Guided Heritage Tours and Talks:** Myself, Ali Williams, and Paul Pearson conducted guided heritage tours, offering insights into the local area and the history of the daffodil trade here in Dymock. These were well attended as was Chris Bligh's informative talk on challenges to biodiversity.
- **Public Information:** The marquee also acted as a focal point on the Green and as such became a public information point, answering queries regarding the event, including toilets, the location of the parish hall, bus information and local walks. I believe this greatly enhanced the visitor experience in Dymock on the day, providing valuable information from a central hub contributed to the event's success. I'd like to thank the team of volunteers from the biodiversity group for their hard work in handling the large number public enquiries that came through the marquee. I think the community need to consider if this should continue for future events.

Weekend Observations and Outcomes:

- **PR promotion and widening the tourism proposition:** The Daffodil Weekend was busy, attributed in part to the favourable weather conditions. This was the first time that Dymock had arranged sponsorship** of the free shuttle bus service, organised in liaison with Clare Stone of the The Daffodil Line bus. It proved popular in transporting visitors and bringing extra people to the centre of the village. This was a direct result of our involvement in the Weekend, that the shuttle bus was briefed and routed, providing a sustainable way to identify the best daffodil sites in Dymock Ward. We also collaborated on the editorial and content in the March 1st Down the Line quarterly magazine.

· **Forest of Dean District Council support for Dymock Daffodil Weekend**

The thriving communities Cabinet Member of the Forest of Dean District Council, Jackie Dale, generously authorised a grant of £1000 to support our Dymock Daffodil event publicity. The funding came via the Buses4Us Community Interest Company. The funds were for raising awareness of our projects centred on landscape restoration, and to effect liaison between the various village sectors of Church, Hall and Pub and heritage groups.

Our PR strategy to promote the Golden triangle opening event, rolling on to the Oxenhall and Kempley weekends, highlighted the year-round attention that the Biodiversity Group brings to natural habitat renovation, and proved very successful with local newspapers.For three weeks The Forester, Ledbury Reporter, Ross Gazette and Forest Review, along with our regular Posts to the 'socials', confidently benefited the public interest to visit the Golden Triangle, not just to the Weekends.
Both Jackie Dale, the FoDean Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities, and Jackie Fraser Cabinet Member for Biodiversity Emergency & Nature Recovery attended Dymock, and were very impressed by the breadth of involvement of village groups in the Marquee exhibition. Their personal comments to members of the Parish Council helpfully informs the Recommendations and Future Plans below.On record we would like to thank them both, and of course our own district councillor Gill Kilmurray for engineering this donation.

- **Public Engagement:** The group engaged with numerous visitors and locals, effectively communicating the project's goals and the group's mission.
- **Enhanced Visitor Experience:** The Biodiversity Group's presence significantly enhanced the overall visitor experience for the Dymock Daffodil weekend.
- **Parish Hall Success:** The Parish Hall reported record-breaking turnover on their social media page, suggesting the weekend was a highly successful fundraising event for this important community facility.

Recommendations and Future Plans:

- **Evaluation Meeting:** A comprehensive evaluation meeting will be scheduled to reflect on the Daffodil Weekend, discuss lessons learned, and plan future direction and our role in future daffodil seasons.
- **Strategic Planning:** We also need to engage in strategic planning which should include a broader discussion on the group's future direction, focusing on biodiversity projects within the parish.
- **Building on Success:** The group's dedicated team has demonstrated its ability to make positive contributions to our community. We should be thoroughly heartened by our achievements and build on this success and continue to pursue impactful projects that benefit our community and nature.