01/25-26

DYMOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on
Tuesday, 8th April at 7.30pm in Dymock Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Tony Eagle (in the Chair); N Fairburn; T Blandford; J George; B Rose; G Kilmurray
In attendance: Rachel Freestone – Clerk
Gill Moseley – County Councillor
Public: 11

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Ian Bruce. Apologies were also received and accepted from Jackie Tweedale the Footpaths Officer.

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

3. **Public Participation:**
A member of the public commented that behaviour between council members at the last parish council ordinary meeting had been unacceptable. A robust conversation ensued between members with public involvement. The Clerk brought the item to a close and thanked the member of public for their comment. It was suggested that members meet privately to work to resolve and repair internal dialogue and problems.
A member of the public commented on the continued poor state of the road (B4215), the ongoing issues with potholes and a water leak opposite the garage present for several weeks and getting worse. GCC Highways have been contacted but it is not road drainage. CCllr Gill Moseley offered to help if able.
It was RESOLVED: The clerk to contact Severn Trent and GCC Highways. To add to the agenda and inform Cllr Bruce when he returns.

4. **Reports:**
a. County Councillor Gill Moseley informed members that there has been no GCC meeting since the last parish council meeting. She commented on the work taking place to unify the County Council with the six District Councils. Options are being discussed with final plans to be submitted to government by the end of November. There are many views with pros and cons to each proposal. No consultations have taken place to date and there is still a long way to go. Her latest Newsletter will be available soon.
b. District Councillor Gill Kilmurray informed members that FoDDC have voted to apply for the Forest of Dean to be submitted for consideration as a Unesco Biosphere Reserve. She added that the proposed new leisure facilities at Five Acres are moving ahead.

5. **Minutes:**
a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th March 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:**
a. Cllr Fairburn updated members on the Community Action Plan. He has contacted the Land Management Asset team with regards to the sub-letting of the fields by the Cricket Club but the current tenancy agreement runs to 2033. The Cricket Club are open to discussions with regards to the land at their site.

7. **Beauchamp Arms:**
a. Cllr Kilmurray informed members that the Building Control submission to FoDDC is still in progress. She has been informed that there is a backlog. FOBA are holding the funds until the building control is received however, due to the delays they are looking to release them earlier. *The FOBA representative added that the tenant is waiting for the invoice from the contractor to enable payment.*
b. Cllr George reported that the internal inspection was completed that day. The tenant is happy with the condition but Cllr George noticed old damp stains in one of the bedrooms which need addressing.

c. Cllr Kilmurray informed members that all four high priority items from the H&S report have been addressed. There are a further 15 medium priority items with most being the parish council's responsibility. A BAWG meeting will be arranged to run through the outstanding items. **It was RESOLVED:** Defer and report at the next meeting. Cllr Eagle added that he is in the process of drawing up plans for the oil tank. Cllr Kilmurray commented that she has spoken with All Safety Matters with regards to securing the bins. It was confirmed that a chain is sufficient and this has been completed.

d. The FOBA representative reported that a meeting has been held to discuss forthcoming events. They are hoping to hold a dog show prior to Proms on the Green and an event in October. The FOBA committee would like to raise funds for garden improvements and possibly outdoor heating from their fundraising efforts. They recently held a successful quiz and the Easter draw is currently running.

8. Common Land/Assets:

a. Cllr Eagle informed members that a playground inspection was not completed in March. **Action:** The Clerk to check with Cllr Bruce and an inspection to be completed. A member added that trees had been recently cut down by a contractor from Cotswold District Council, tools left and picked up by children. Additionally, logs had been left on the premises and a complaint received that they were in a dangerous location. The Clerk confirmed that a complaint had been raised with the contractor and that the logs had been removed.

b. Cllr Eagle updated members on the playground slide. The tape has gone and needs putting back, he confirmed that it has not been mended as yet. **It was RESOLVED:** Defer to the next meeting.

c. Members NOTED that the work on the village telephone box to be completed by May has been started.

d. Members NOTED the response from High House that the repair of the wall is in hand with quotes being obtained.
A member added that the trees planted at Greenway are still in situ and Highways have been informed. A query had been received regarding overhanging trees at Hallwood Green, this had been sent to the Clerk to investigate.

9. Planning:

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

b. Members NOTED the application P1264/24/FUL dropped curb at The Crypt is to be appealed with notice to withdraw any previous representations by 16th April. **It was RESOLVED:** previous comments stand.

c. Members NOTED the following Planning Response Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers:
- P0243/25/FUL 1 Elmbridge Villas, Ryton Road. Erection of new double garage. SUPPORT

d. Members NOTED the Planning Decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
- P1297/24/FUL The Old Piggery. Single storey side extension CONSENT

A member added that the illegal access has not been planted, the FoDDC planning department have confirmed that it will be completed by Spring, it is being monitored.

11. Environment and Conservation:

a. Members received a report from Cllr Rose on behalf of the Biodiversity Working Group. Report attached. The working group met recently to discuss new possibilities and how improvements can be made. A working party will be tending the bank on Friday 11th April. An Action Plan is being put together to be shared once completed. The next meeting of the Biodiversity Group is on May 6th at 7pm in the Parish Hall. DyFRA will be covering the cost of Hall Hire for the Biodiversity meetings currently. DyFRA were thanked.

b. The group are working with the Clerk to create a Terms of Reference. **It was RESOLVED:** defer Terms of Reference to the next meeting.

Members NOTED that FoDDC have confirmed the bin at Western Way is not their responsibility. The Clerk added that Two Rivers have confirmed it is theirs and will visit the site to review it.

12. Highways/Footpaths:

a. In the Footpath Officers absence, the Clerk read a brief report:
'I'm having my meeting with 13 volunteers on the 10th April to look at the role of helping look after the paths and what we can and can't do. Hopefully, we also get some volunteers for the Windcross Paths Group committee. I've also heard from Will Saunder that 2 metal gates have been installed to replace the stiles at

Timberhill Farm. This was going to happen just before Suzanne Hopes left but got delayed. It means that the Daffodil Way is now free of stiles and so much more accessible for walkers. I've no other issues to report on the paths at the moment.'

b. Members NOTED the response from GCC Highways re the parking kerbside at Western Way and emergency vehicle access as raised by a resident. The Chair shared the comments with members and the public.

c. To receive a report from the Highways Working Group. In Cllr Bruce's absence there was no report. Cllr Kilmurray informed members that an email has been received from a concerned resident regarding the condition of the B4215 and a possible public petition. County Cllr Gill Moseley was asked how to approach a petition? *A petition gets handed in by the County Cllr at a GCC full meeting for consideration (after the May elections).* The Clerk confirmed that she has contacted GCC Highways to find out if the B4215 is being considered and yet to receive a response. *A member added that years of substandard repairs have left the village road in a very poor condition all the way through*.

13. Finance:

a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statement Balances to 31st March 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 End of Year figures and RFO's report and considered the Biodiversity budget figures. **It was RESOLVED:** carry forward the full Biodiversity income received in 24/25 to be earmarked for 25/26.

c. Members NOTED the End of Year Reserves statement and consider the unspent balance for play area, insurance funds received and trees be moved to earmarked and £150 to be moved to IT earmarked for 24-25. **It was RESOLVED:** to move the unspent balances to the earmarked reserve and add the insurance funds received to the playground. Trees to be carried forward and also move £150 to IT for 24/25.

d. Members considered the grant request from St Mary's Church for a contribution to their mowing contract. Cllr Eagle informed members that the cost was put into the budget as the first Greenfields quote included this. **It was RESOLVED:** Defer to the next meeting.

e. Members considered the annual subscription to GAPTC services for 2025-26. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the annual subscription for 25/26.

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

- Clerk expenses – printer ink and chair £51.41 net/£61.69 gross
- Greenfields (includes 24-25 credit) £297.21net/356.65gross
- GAPTC £368.56
- Gareth Kemp – Public Conveniences Cleaning £175

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

- Windcross Paths Group Leaflets £50

h. 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 March £54.03
- Unity Bank Monthly Charge £6

i. Members NOTED the income received:

- Beauchamp Arms Rent March £1890net/£2268gross
- Bank Interest £238.41
- Biodiversity Donations £410.86
- VAT refund £463.03

j. Members NOTED that no virements made between meetings.

14.Training:

a**.** Members NOTED no training undertaken. The GAPTC schedule has been shared for members to consider any training needs.

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15. Events:

a. Members considered an event/lighting of the Beacon to mark VE Day 80 on 8th May 2025. **It was RESOLVED:** The Beacon to be lit at 9.30pm. Cllr George to obtain the canon.

16. Correspondence:

- Members NOTED the County Elections on the 1st May and the requirement for photo ID.
- Email received from a member of the public commenting on the spraying of the GCC owned field by the cricket club. Cllr Eagle confirmed that two fields by the Cricket Club had been sprayed with weed killer ahead of maize being planted. County Cllr Moseley added that any new tenants are to act regeneratively. A member replied that regenerative is not organic. A member of the public added that the maize is planted over the footpaths unable to access them. **It was RESOLVED:** to inform the footpaths officer to keep an eye on it.

17. To consider items for the next meeting:

Playground slide, Biodiversity Working Group Terms of Reference, Grant request, BAWG actions from H&S report.

18. Next Meeting: Members NOTED that the next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 29th April at 7.30pm and the Parish Council Annual Meeting on Tuesday 13th May, 7.30pm.

Signed:…… *Tony Eagle*…… Date:……*13.05.25*……
Chair

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Approved Minutes - Meeting of the Parish Council Tuesday 8th April 2025

Biodiversity Group Meeting Report - Parish Council Meeting 8th April 2025

Daffodil Weekend Feedback:

The Biodiversity group met to feedback on the presence at the daffodil weekend. The general feeling was that we were very happy with our contribution to the weekend in terms of adding extra interest for visitors, important fundraising and raising the profile of our activities. In terms of the future, we are aware of new possibilities opening up and felt that we held a mirror up to how the weekend visitor experience could be improved and group members have valuable ideas about this, based on their experience volunteering on the 2 days. As a group we felt we wanted to continue with our presence but didn't want to over extend our involvement as a small group, so going forward it remains to be seen how this will eventually pan out in collaboration with the Parish Hall. However we are quite happy to park this for now and move on with other projects for the time being.

Group Identity and Goals:

We're working with the clerk to create a "Terms of Reference" document. This will help us have a clearer idea of who we are and what we want to achieve.

We really enjoy doing hands-on projects where we can volunteer and help nature. These projects are also a great way to get the local community involved, which is an added benefit. We're planning to come up with more of these activities and will share our progress soon.

The Bank Project:

We're still keeping a close eye on our "Bank Project,". Our team are working to keep the nettles and brambles under control.

We will remove any hybrids that are still popping up. We would like to try and collect the seed pods. We are also planning to plant more wildflower seeds. The bank will not be mowed until 1st July.