41/25-26

APPROVED MINUTES

DYMOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on

Tuesday, 10th February at 7.30pm in Dymock Parish Hall.

Present: Cllrs T Eagle (in the chair); I Bruce; B Rose; T Blandford; G Kilmurray; J George; G Kilmurray

In attendance: Rachel Freestone - Clerk
Jackie Tweedale

Public: 8

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr N Fairburn and County Councillor Gill Moseley.

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 commented that potholes are still a problem, especially on the Kempley Road by Bayfield Gardens. A member responded that 'Fix My Street' is the portal for reporting Highways issues including potholes, available to members of the public. The parish council are also only able to report problems on Fix My Street so important the public do too. Cllr Bruce added that he had walked around Dymock with our designated GCC Highways officer and discussed the problems of substandard work. Whilst repairs continue to be made with cold tar they will keep opening up.
A member of the public asked of the welfare of the horse? Cllr Eagle informed members that he had visited the owner several times. A stable at Maypole Farm had been organised but the horse will not be separated from the owner and becomes distressed. Local resident's have agreed to help get the horse shod and will help clean it up at the farm prior to this. Apart from the condition of the land, the horse is in good health. The situation is being monitored.

4. **Reports:**

a. To receive a report from County Councillor Gill Moseley: In her absence there was none.

b. To receive a report from District Councillor Gill Kilmurray: It was agreed to bring forward Agenda Item 10a. District Cllr Kilmurray raised the proposed new settlement 'Glynchbrook' which is referred to in the FoDDC Draft Local Plan (currently under Reg. 18 consultation with comments currently being requested from residents). The proposed development is positioned between Lowbands and the M50 but will impact Dymock. The FoDDC have organised a number of drop-in sessions around the district but none in Redmarley or Churcham, the two areas most affected. These sessions are scheduled during the working day. She introduced two representatives from the core group campaigning against the settlement and District Councillor Williams who represents the Redmarley area.
Key points made:
   - FoDDC vote was very close with the Chair casting the deciding vote in favour of the two settlements.
   - 3500 houses proposed, the size of Newent, almost the size of Ledbury.
   - No infrastructure included in the plans. No schools etc. No sewerage or water provisions. FoDDC have commented that infrastructure is the responsibility of GCC.
   - The area is a flood plain, currently under water.
   - Traffic. 3500 houses will have an estimated 6000 cars, each car on average completes 3 journeys a day. All feeding onto the A417 which is already at capacity.
   - Concerns for increased traffic on the local lanes.
   - Development is proposed in a Dark Skies area.
   - No improvement to the M50 junction 2 planned, will become increasingly dangerous.

   A representative from the core group against the new settlement explained that the group are self-funded and have appointed a barrister and planning consultant. They are hoping to get it stopped. They are working on a

detailed response to the consultation. Concern that the Green Party at FoDDC are moving at pace to get the Local Plan pushed through with those opposing apprehensive of level of due diligence.
The Chair asked how they want to be helped? District Cllr Kilmurray responded that would like the parish council's help in raising awareness of the proposed settlement through a Parish Meeting. Paper print outs of the consultation available for people to complete as not all have access to IT. *Cllr Eagle explained that Dymock parish council had resolved to respond in favour of the new settlements at the initial Draft Local Plan consultation as felt that the infrastructure is also not in place to support additional homes around current settlements ie. Newent. A number of questions had been raised at this time with Dymock parish council members frustrated at the lack of response.*
It was RESOLVED: to hold a Parish Meeting on Wednesday 25th February in the Parish Hall subject to availability.
The link to the latest Draft Local Plan consultation is available on the parish council website.

5. Minutes:

a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th January, 2026. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a correct record. They were duly signed by the Chair.

6. Dymock policies and procedures:

a. Risk Register – **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the updated Risk Register.

7. Beauchamp Arms:

a. Members received a report from Cllr Eagle of the Beauchamp Arms Working Group. The chimney had been inspected following the last meeting and although the hearth is at end of life it can still be used. Building control sign-off is being held up by the lack of an original floor plan, Cllr Eagle is still hoping to find it. The tenant has confirmed that he can't afford to replace the flooring missing in the back bar where the wall was removed. The BAWG will discuss options for this and report back at the next meeting. He confirmed that they still need to obtain quotes for the external painting and for the boxing in where the old boiler was. *A member of the public commented that the tenant can't afford work that should be carried out.*
b. Members received a report from the FOBA representative: In their absence Cllr Eagle informed members that they are working on the garden but not much else to report.

8. Common Land/Assets:

a. Members NOTED that the playground inspection for January 2026 was not completed.
b. Members NOTED the three quotes received (emails previously circulated) for the Embankment Slide and the additional safety information received from two. Cllr Bruce informed members that Greenfields had reached out in the last couple of days to provide a quote. It was agreed that as three quotes had already been obtained that a fourth was not required. The best quote is a cost £11725 net from Urban Recreation including the removal of the current slide. *A member of the public asked if the slide is used as replacement is a lot of money.* It is the favourite piece of equipment and the current one no longer meets safety standards. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the quote for £11725 from Urban Recreation.
c. To consider the condition of the Parish Hall Carpark: Cllr Eagle informed members that there is a large hole at the entrance of the carpark which needs addressing. The surface is also covered in winter debris. Tree root damage has made the surface uneven but that is difficult to manage. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Eagle to obtain quotes to fill the hole and report at the next meeting. The Clerk to request a quote from Greenfields to add clearing the debris twice a year into the grounds contract.

9. Biodiversity:

a. Cllr Becky Rose provided members with a report from the Biodiversity Working Group. The Biodiversity Group will have a presence at the Daffodil Weekend following a similar format to last year, working alongside the Parish Hall, arranging Heritage Walks, shuttle buses and some fundraising. They would like to request permission to have a marquee on Wintours Green. **It was RESOLVED:** to give permission for a marquee on Wintours Green.
FOBA have offered the use of their marquee and they will need additional volunteers to help over the weekend. NOTED that Cllr Bruce is helping the Biodiversity Working Group with their Risk Assessment.

10. Planning:

a. To comment on the FoDDC Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation and proposal for new settlements. Item addressed in Agenda item 4b.
b. No further comments made on Planning Applications for Determination by the Forest of Dean District Council as they are both trees managed by the parish council.
   - P0099/26/TCA: Wintours Green, Lift crown of oak tree to give 2.5m clearance from building.
   - P0098/26/TCA: Wintours Green, reduce lime tree to single trunk of 10m below mistletoe infestation to allow new canopy to regenerate.
c. Members NOTED no Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers.
d. Members NOTED the Planning Decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
   - P1348/25/FUL Engine Meadow Lodge, retention of existing dwelling. Granted Permission.
   - P1423/25/FUL Ockington Cottage, Brooms Green. Granted Permission
   - P1049/25/LD1 Riverside Nurseries. LDC Issued.
e. To consider any further planning matters arising. There was none.

11. Highways/Footpaths:

a. Members NOTED the submission of the Severn Trent grant application for the replacement footbridge.
b. Members received a report from the Footpaths Officer. She informed members that she had been out a couple of times, reporting a couple of issues and cutting back foliage. Footbridge GDY10 on Poets Path 2 needs some more steps to it as they are rotten and a gate on the same walk is stuck shut. Will Saunder from GCC is to help tackle a fallen tree at Boyce Court and walk to check the Daffodil Way. She had visited the closed footpath and put tape on the bridge entrances following reports that people are still using it. It is unsafe to cross. She thanked Cllr Fairburn and the Clerk for their help completing the Severn Trent application. The Chair thanked Jackie for all her time and help.
c. To consider any Highways matters arising to include the trees opposite Allums Farm and Hill House wall**.** **It was RESOLVED:** defer pending investigation.
d. To consider any Community Speedwatch matters arising: Cllr Bruce informed members that the latest report from our local Speedwatch Coordinator showed a marked improvement (Report attached Appendix 1). Letters last month went to first time offenders due to no persistent offenders. The cameras are having a positive effect. *A member commented that hoped the positive effect would not mean that support from the constabulary would dwindle.* No, the camera is paid for by the parish council but constabulary send the letters (they charge for postage). Confirmed the camera only takes pictures in one direction.

12. Finance:

a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statement Balances to 31st January 2026. Cllr Rose as a non-bank signatory duly checked and signed the statements, invoices and bank reconciliation as a correct record.
b. Members considered the grant application from Dymock Gardening Club for £500 (previously circulated). Cllr Eagle commented that at the last meeting in January the parish council had discussed supporting the Gardening Club for a year to give them time to attract new members. **It was RESOLVED:** to donate £500 to the Gardening Club. Members asked the Gardening Club for a progress report next year. The Gardening Club representative thanked the parish council and informed them that if they choose to fold at the end of year, any surplus from the grant will be repaid.
c. Members NOTED the VAT return for 01.11.25-31.01.26 as payment due of £297.76.
d. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:
   - Gareth Kemp £140.00
   - Scribe Accounting software 2026 £444.00net/£532.80 gross
   - GSC Official Speedwatch Letters 01.10.25-31.12.25 £16.80
   - Clerk expenses Printer Ink £23.12net/£27.75 gross
   - Jax First Aid Supplies Hi Vis jackets x 10 Biodiversity £43.89net/£52.67 gross
e. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following payments made between meetings:
   - N Thick replacement tap in public conveniences £77.00
f. Members NOTED the regular payments made between meetings:
   - Clerk's salary January £as per contract

- Water December and January DD £157.06
- Eon Quarterly DD £56.35
- Bank Charges £6.00

g. Members NOTED the income received:
- Beauchamp Arms Rent £1890net/£2268gross

h. Members NOTED no virements made between meetings

13. IT:

a. Cllr Kilmurray reported on gov.uk email addresses and her concerns over the use of them and the dangers of malware. The Clerk informed members of the changes to Audit requirements due to Assertion 10 and the dangers of using personal emails should a Freedom of Information request be received. Cllr Kilmurray commented that not all personal information is scrutinised following a FOI request. The Clerk disagreed with the impact of a request. Gov.uk addresses have been provided and currently members are able to choose whether they use them, this may change ahead of the Audit in 2027.

14. Dates for the Diary:

a. To consider a date for the Litter Pick. **It was RESOLVED:** Saturday 7th March, meet at the Beauchamp Arms, 9.30am. A notice to be put in the Windcross.

15. Training:

a**.** To receive feedback from any training undertaken and to consider any training needs. There was none.

16.Correspondence:

Members NOTED the Forest of Dean Reg 18 Consultation, Forestry England new visitor strategy for the FoD.

17. To consider items for the next meeting:

High House Wall update.

18. Next Meeting: Members NOTED the date of the next meeting as being the 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed:…*Gill Kilmurray* …….. Date:……10.03.2026 ……
Chair

The meeting closed at 21.03

Appendix 1 – Community Speedwatch

Just a note to explain the situation with our speed cameras currently.
We are seeing a marked improvement on the frequency of offenders, when we started sending information directly to Gloucestershire police and the subsequent issue of letters, It was easy to pull up 10 persistent offenders from both site.
But this month was the first time that this was not possible, and I had to use offenders which had only been caught once, this is great news showing that we are having a direct effect on persistent offenders. These are considered the perfect target for our system alongside with the enforcement support of the letter system.
We are still encountering excessive speed, but this is with individual offenders, so we will now include these individuals within our reporting procedure.
But as a overall view, I feel very positive about the effect we are having on trying to increase safety within our villages.