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APPROVED MINUTES

DYMOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on

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

Present: Cllrs Gill Kilmurray (in the Chair); N Fairburn; I Bruce.

In attendance: Rachel Freestone - Clerk

Public: 4

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence:**
   Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllrs Tony Eagle, Trevor Blandford and Becky Rose. They had also been received and accepted from County Councillor Gill Moseley. Cllr George was absent with no apologies.

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

3. **Public Participation:**
   A MofP requested the parish council contact the Parish Hall Committee to look into the Hearing Loop as it is not working as well as should. The Parish Hall Representative present at the meeting to action.

4. **Reports:**

a. County Councillor Gill Moseley: In her absence, a brief report provided (attached as Appendix 1) was read by the Clerk.

b. District Councillor Gill Kilmurray:
   The focus is on the Draft Local Plan, Planning and Glynchbrook. She hoped that those present at the Parish Meeting felt that they had enough information to be able to complete the consultation.

5. **Minutes:**

a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on the 10th February, 2026. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a correct record. They were duly signed by the Vice-Chair.

6. **Dymock policies and procedures:**

a. Accessibility Statement with proposed amendments shown in red. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the statement with amendments for 2026-27.

b. Members NOTED that Dymock Parish Council Data Controller is the Clerk/RFO.

7. **Beauchamp Arms:**

a. Members received a report from Cllr Kilmurray of the Beauchamp Arms Working Group. Recent problem with blocked drains at a neighbouring property. The sewage pipe from the property crosses the Beauchamp Arms beer garden before converging with the Parish Hall. The pub drains do not feed into it. However, the manhole cover to access the drains is situated within the Beauchamp Arms garden, below ground level and covered in soil. A request has been received to raise the manhole to ground level for easier access. Cllr Bruce informed members that Cllr Eagle had been informed and is looking for a solution.
   A member queried whether the tenant can afford to fix the floor following the removal of the wall? Cllr Eagle has told the tenant that it needs to be rectified. The floor has been adjusted to remove any trip hazards and to meet H&S standards in the meantime but does not look attractive. A member commented that the signed agreement ahead of the wall being removed was on condition of the work being fully completed properly, this was a year ago.
   Query raised on whether the pub pays Business Rates. **Action:** BAWG to confirm whether he pays Business Rates or not.

Cllr Kilmurray added that the building works still need sign off by Building Control. It is paid for. **Action:** BAWG to contact Building Control at FoDDC. *Cllr Bruce informed that it is held up due to required fire checks following removal of the wall.*

b. The FOBA representative informed members that the AGM is to be held on Tuesday 17th March, 7pm in the Beauchamp Arms.

8. Common Land/Assets:

a. Members NOTED the playground inspection for February 2026. All ok apart from embankment slide and seesaw. The new embankment slide will be fitted from the 23rd March with the seesaw being removed at the same time.

b. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the decision to instruct 'Paves Your Way' to fill the pothole in the Parish Hall carpark at a cost of £550 net, the cheapest of 3 quotes received. Members were informed that the work had been completed satisfactorily that day.

c. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the decision for Richard Dunnett to clear the Parish Hall carpark of debris twice annually at a cost of £40 per visit. Cllr Kilmurray reminded members that they had offered to help clear the car park FOC however Mr Dunnett is able to dispose of the debris easily. The Kilmurray family were thanked for their help in clearing the carpark throughout the year when needed.

9. Biodiversity:

a. The Chair of the Biodiversity Working Group, Andy Kilmurray, provided a report. They are working towards the Daffodil Weekend in conjunction with the Parish Hall Committee. FOBA have given permission to use their marquee and displays have been created. There will also be activities in the Church to which people will be directed. Cllr Bruce has completed a Risk Assessment. *A member asked whether the field opposite will be open for parking?* Yes, as long as is dry. Plan B is use of the cricket club carpark. Volunteers in Hi -Vis will be stationed at the carpark and roadside to ensure is as safe as possible. Parish Council Insurance covers activities of the Biodiversity Group as part of the parish council. Any money raised will be ringfenced for Biodiversity actions.
A member queried costs. Only printing costs so far. There have been more posts on social media for the event and the Biodiversity group are mentioned in the Parish Hall leaflet this year.
Once the daffodils are over, work will commence to remove the cultivated daffodils then plant the native bulbs. Work on the bank will continue from approx. June as don't want to damage the plants that are in situ.

10. Planning:

a. Members NOTED the Parish Meeting held to consider the Local Plan.

b. FoDDC Draft Local Plan Consultation due by the 18th March. Cllr Fairburn had sent all members a draft revised response to the Local Plan which states against Glynchbrook. *Cllr Kilmurray added that Malvern Hills Council have put in an objection to Glynchbrook which has been shared with members.* 'United Against Glynchbrook' look very organised. *A member mentioned that does not oppose the proposal for settlements but not Glynchbrook as is not in the right position.*
A MofP asked if there is any comment on the type of land they will build on in the objection? Not at the moment. There not enough brownfield sites in the FoD to meet the need.
It was RESOLVED: to approve the response to the Local Plan consultation and Clerk to submit.

c. Members considered the Planning Application for Determination by the Forest of Dean District Council:
- P0172/26/FUL Cropthorne Farm, Leddington, Dymock – demolition of existing Dutch Barn and replace with agricultural storage building. **It was RESOLVED:** SUPPORT

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

e. Members NOTED the Planning Decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
- P1134/25/ful Leadon Vale Farm, Crowfield Lane. Granted Permission.

f. Members NOTED that the FoDDC Development Committee met on the 10th March to consider P0453/25/out- outline permission for 24 dwellings on Kempley Road, Dymock. District Cllr Kilmurray confirmed that it was granted at the FoDDC Planning Committee meeting today. Cllr Fairburn commented that drainage will continue to be an issue.
He asked that members NOTE the development at Willy's Farm in Preston Cross. The parish council supported an application for an extension to agricultural storage a year ago but it looks like it is becoming more than that. To monitor and inform the planning officer as required. Duly NOTED.

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Cllr Kilmurray asked members to NOTE reports/allegations of animals being transported and slaughtered at the chicken sheds which failed at planning to become an Abattoir. It is difficult to get proof of any activity and without FoDDC planning are unable to act, they have visited and found nothing. Duly NOTED.

11. Highways/Footpaths:

a. Footpaths Officer Jackie Tweedale confirmed that she had reported problems to GCC 4 paths recently. The tree at Boyce Court has now been cleared completely. The daffodils are looking beautiful. The Severn Trent grant application has passed through the first stage.

b. Litter Pick held on the 7th March: Cllr Bruce informed members that it was very well attended. Branches in the churchyard had also been cleared. Thanks were given to everyone that attended.

c. Highways: Cllr Bruce informed that he had received responses from GCC Highways following a complaint regarding the condition of the recently resurfaced corner on the Normansland Road. GCC will review the work and if not satisfied the contractor will be requested to repair at their cost.
A MofP advised that the Brooms Green road is in a dreadful condition, it has been reported by various local residents but there has been no action. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Bruce to also report.

d. To consider any Community Speedwatch matters arising. There were none.

12. Finance:

a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statement Balances to 28th February 2026 with a total balance held of £45752.62 Cllr Kilmurray as a non-bank signatory duly checked and signed the statements, invoices and bank reconciliation as a correct record.

b. Members considered the matters arising from the Finance Working Group meeting on the 27th February:
   i. Reserves policy versus reserves statement – no action required.
   ii. Beauchamp Arms proposed carry forward reduced to £2000 to enable investment in the playground. **It was RESOLVED:** to carry forward £2000 with the balance to help pay for the playground updates.
   iii. Proposed £5000 additional earmarked reserve for the Beauchamp Arms to cover loan repayments if an income default occurs. The Clerk explained that of the forecasted income for 26/27, £5000 will be retained ahead of maintenance. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the additional earmarked reserve.

c. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:
   - Gareth Kemp £175.00
   - Red Fox Media Accessibility checks and gov.uk domain £180.00
   - Perpetua – Biodiversity printing Daffodil weekend £68.00net/£81.60gross
   - Parish Hall Hire PC and Biodiversity x 9 £180.00

d. It was NOTED that there are no payments to ratify.

e. Members NOTED the regular payments made between meetings:
   - Clerk's salary February £as per contract
   - Bank Charges £6.00

f. Members NOTED the income received:
   - Beauchamp Arms Rent - February £1890net/£2268gross
   - Donation – Biodiversity £20

g. Members NOTED the virements made between meetings:
   - Current to Instant Access 09.02.26 £1500.00

13. Training:

a. Training needs. Cllr Bruce to attend a Scribe webinar on how to meet teenagers needs in Playgrounds.

14. Members NOTED the following correspondence:

- Invitation from FoDDC to Civic Event on Friday 17th April 2026, hosted at Chamber 22, Church Street, Newent. All funds raised will be supporting the Forest of Dean Food Bank. £45 per ticket.
- Severn Rivers Trust are beginning a project around the River Leadon and its tributaries to implement watercourse buffering, natural flood management, habitat enhancement as well as river restoration. Reaching out to local farmers or landowners who may be interested in helping them restore nature in or around Dymock.

15. To consider items for the next meeting.
High House wall update.

16. To NOTED the Annual Parish Meeting as being on the 28th April and consider invitations:
A member informed that DAD's has been started again, they may be interested in attending.

17. Next meeting: Members NOTED the next meeting as being the 14th April 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed……*Tony Eagle*……. Date: 14.04.2026……
Chair

The meeting closed at 20.50

Appendix 1 – County Councillor Gill Moseley report

The public consultation deadline for the Local Government Re-organisation is 26th March. Most parish councils in this area and Gloucestershire County Council favour the one unitary model for the whole of Gloucestershire over the two different split models of East/West and Greater Gloucester/remainder of county. The government will make the decision later this year. I encourage residents to make known their views. The consultation form is much simpler than that for the Local Plan! Just search for 'Future Gloucestershire' or go to the GCC website. There are no drop-in sessions for this consultation.

The Grassroots Neighbourhood Community Fund has replaced the Build Back Better councillor fund. Bids for grants between £250 and £5K are invited for projects that promote health and well being in the community. Details on the GCC website.

My Focus newsletter is on its way to Dymock with details of these items but please get in touch for further information.