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Dymock Parish Council

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on

Tuesday 29th April 2025, 7.30pm

The Parish Hall, Dymock

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

In attendance: Rachel Freestone – Clerk
Jackie Tweedale – Footpaths Officer
Gill Moseley – County Councillor

Public: approx. 14

1. **Chairman's Welcome:**
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, commenting that nice to see everyone here.

2. **Apologies:**
Apologies were received and accepted by Cllr Gill Kilmurray.

3. **Members considered the minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting: It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a correct record. The Chair duly signed them.

4. **Dymock Parish Council, Chairman's Report:**
The Chair referred firstly to the outline planning application received for up to 24 houses in the field over the bridge, an Extraordinary meeting has been arranged for the 8th May at 7.30pm in Dymock Parish Hall to discuss this. The Developers will be invited with their attendance yet to be confirmed. The beacon for VE Day is being lit at 9.30pm that evening. *A member of the public commented that the Canal Trust were going to reinstate the canal and when they did the playground was going to be relocated to that field so need to look into this. A member of the public had looked at FoDDC planning website, it mentions a consultation period with a date, but this is not stated? Is there a formal consultation?* Cllr Fairburn responded that Planning are happy to extend the Parish Council's response until June if needed. All other questions to be raised at the Extra meeting.
The Chair thanked County Cllr Gill Moseley for all her help over the last year and to District Cllr Gill Kilmurray who helps keep us informed on District matters. Thanks were given to Andrew Perry for all his help with the NDP and to Cllr Fairburn, Cllr Bruce and John and Dee Chamberlain for all their hard work getting it passed through. He added that Matt Hill remains the tenant of the Beauchamp Arms and is working hard to hold various events to attract all members of the community. The Chair commented that he would like to see an ongoing annual maintenance program of the pub with a proportion of the rental income (suggested 60%) going towards maintenance. The play area is used a lot and is well supported. He thanked Cllr Fairburn for all his work with planning applications and for his help towards updating the website. Biodiversity is a new focus for the parish council. The verge has been

planted and with wildflowers, thank you to Cllr Becky Rose for leading this initiative. Cllr Ian Bruce has completed a lot of work with Highways, the ongoing pot holes but also the Community Speedwatch cameras to be found in Brooms Green and in the Village. Jackie Tweedale, our Footpath Officer does a great job looking after our footpaths and is a huge asset to the community. Finally, he thanked the Clerk for her work.

5. **Two Rivers Housing Association Report:** Sally Howell (Interim Head of Income) reported. The Chair thanked Sally for attending. Two Rivers look after 4500 properties across 6 local authorities. There are 49 properties in the Dymock area. They have in the past run Adult Education courses in the Western Way premises which are open to anyone in the community on low income. They are hoping to start these up again as well as Community events alongside partner agencies. There has been a recent restructure at Two Rivers, they are moving from 4 Housing Officers to 8. Ellie-May is currently responsible for Dymock but this may change. There is a Community Engagement team of three with Anthea being the contact for Dymock, she will provide the Clerk with her details. *The Chair asked what is the future of Western Way?* It is remaining as is at the moment, there are no plans to change the use of it. *The Chair added that Western Way is remote for those living there.* Sally Howell responded that Two Rivers have constraints with allocation, if they put in restrictions this then feeds to the Local Authority which can cause problems. She believes that the anti- social behaviour has improved. Two Rivers are aware that they have work to do. *A member of the public asked if courses are held there could they be advertised in the parish magazine?* Yes, once they up and running she will contact the Clerk. They do have access to food banks also.

6. **Community Action Plan**: Cllr Nick Fairburn reported. There were to two things that came out of the NDP; sports and broadband. He is looking at sports and had spoken to the Cricket Club. The fields adjacent to the Cricket Club were considered as were lying fallow but are now being planted and under lease with GCC for a number of years. The cricket club are open to further discussions. Cllr Ian Bruce has been looking at broadband. He reported that BT Open Reach have commented that fibre should be in Dymock Parish by 2026. There are people out completing surveys and hope that we are heading in the right direction. *A member of the pubic asked about the County Council funding for broadband in rural areas and being as classed as a rural area had any of the money been seen in this parish?* 4G routers had been provided, better but not great. County Cllr Gill Moseley added that the 4G Digital Installation Grant doesn't work everywhere. Gigabit have taken over from Fastershire and GCC are responsible with administering the grant. There is a long way to go.

7. **Biodiversity Working Group:** Cllr Becky Rose reported. The Biodiversity Group was set up over a year ago. They have started with renovating the verges, with the bank opposite the pub being the first area. They have worked to engage with the local community with this initiative, including the seed guardian project with volunteers nurturing seeds. There have been several working parties to clear the area, pruning etc. They dug up the hybrid daffodils and replanted with native. The volunteers have given a lot of time to create the optimum conditions for wild flowers. The Biodiversity Group were present at the Daffodil weekend, marketing the initiative and held guided walks.

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8. **Website:** Cllr Nick Fairburn. It was pointed out that the Council clerk was responsible for the website and that the minimum obligation of the site was to allow access to all information pertinent to the workings of the Parish Council. However, Cllr Fairburn also explained that more information could be incorporated to provide a broader image of the wider parish. The new navigation of the site was presented (About your Parish Council, About Dymock, Visit Dymock etc…) showing that visitors to the site would be directed to either the respective websites or Facebook pages (via hyperlinks) of those organisations, working groups etc, where more up to date and more detailed information would be available.
It was agreed that the site be developed on this basis and that a draft of the site would be put before the Parish Council for their approval.

9. **Beauchamp Arms**: The tenant, Matt Hill spoke. There have been a few significant changes since last year. Last May they opened a shop selling local produce in the lounge area, in situ on a Friday and Saturday. The Post office also attend on a Friday and it has become a hub with people coming in to shop and have a coffee. Last year, they spearheaded the Wheels on the Green event with a 100 plus vehicles attending. This raised £900 shared between St Michaels Hospice and the Air Ambulance, some funds were held to make 10 Christmas hampers given to families/couples in need in the Parish. Wheels on the Green will be held again on the 13th September and will involve other local organisations and FOBA. The New Years Eve celebration was great, locals were warned of the fireworks. The wall in the back bar has been removed with thanks to FOBA for their support and financing. The back bar is now used by the younger demographic in the village and he has held a couple of events for them. The pool team is doing well. A 'pop up' is brought in once a month with different cuisine offerings. Have held an Open Mic event and will hold more. Now open on Tuesdays until 9pm and pool is free. There will be a Proms on the Green night in July.

10. **FOBA:** Tricia Greenwood reported. Last year FOBA made a profit of £3500 under the Chairmanship of Paul Boon. They have held a variety of charity events including virtual balloon races, bingo, race nights. FOBA agreed to support and finance the removal of the back wall in the pub. It has made a tremendous difference and made the room a better space. The younger generation are heading there which is positive. A number of changes this year. Paul Boon, Andy Downing and Marcus Boon have all stepped down and everyone is very grateful for all they have achieved. They are planning a Dog Show in July with a fete followed by Proms on the Green. The Chair thanked FOBA for all their support.

11. **Forest Neighbourhood Police Team**: they did not attend or provide a report.

12. **Footpaths Officer**: Jackie Tweedale reported adding that Dymock has a massive amount of paths compared to other parishes. Please see Appendix 1 for the full report.

13. **Ann Cam C of E Primary School:** Headmistress Sarah Smith reported. In the last year they have had an Ofsted inspection, a really positive experience with the school awarded Good in all areas with the inspectors being impressed with the direction of development. Last year, they developed the preshool/nursery so the school is now age 2 – 11yrs. She explained that the preschool/nursery was situated in a separate room

slightly away from the school. A spare classroom has been repurposed and now the preschool/nursery is within the main body of the school. The school has benefitted from new windows and floors and the outdoor spaces have been improved. This time last year, they were just in the process of rebuilding the school pool, they raised a lot of money for the pool with thanks to the community and will be swimming after May half term every day. Swimming is very important as a life skill and the pool is a great resource in the village. There a lots of trips and residentials scheduled. SATS are taking place at the moment. Numbers are good and the reception intake for September is full. The Chair thanked her for attending and her report.

14. **Canal Trust:** The Chairman of the Canal Trust, Ralph Barber spoke. The pond has now been filled for 9 years and they have recently employed a contractor to keep the paths clear by spraying. The Canal Trust continues to develop the Canal at Malswick. They will be putting in a planning application early next year for the Newent part of the canal (Oxenhall to Newent Station). There will be an information session on June 14th, 10am-3pm in Newent Memorial Hall.

15. **St Mary's Parochial Church Dymock:** A report provided by the Church was read by the Clerk. Please see Appendix 2 for the full report.

16. **Wintour and Murrell Dymock Charities:** Andrew Perry reported that it is a small charity which this year donated £1500 to the school swimming pool. The charity was originally set up as a coat (bluecoat) charity to donate coats to children in need in the community. The charity needs to build a balance before can make anymore donations. Caroline Dunnett has stepped in as a trustee. The accounts are to be finalised and presented to the Charity Commission.

17. **Dymock Parish Hall:** A report provided by the Parish Hall was read by Cllr John George. They are also running a 100 Club if anyone would like to join. Please see Appendix 3 for the full report.

18. **Gardening Club:** Andrew Perry spoke on behalf of the Gardening Club. The Club relocated to Brooms Green Village Hall as they found the Parish Hall cold and uncomfortable. The club is running down the bank balance as many of the older members are now lost. Speakers are costly and it is difficult to get good speakers. They hope to attract more members but without may not be able to continue.

19. **Windcross Magazine:** A report provided by the Windcross Magazine was presented by the Clerk. See Appendix 4 for the full report.

20. **Dymock Cricket Club:** A report provided by the Cricket Club was read by Cllr Eagle as President of the Cricket Club. Please see Appendix 5 for the full report.

21. **Comments and Questions from any Elector of Dymock Parish.**
There were none.

The Chair thanked all for attending.

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Signed:……Tony Eagle…….. Date:…28.04.2026…….
Chair

The meeting closed at 20.48

Appendix 1
Footpath Officer's Report
I've been a volunteer in this role for just over a year. Over 40 issues on our paths have been reported and include signs missing from the metal posts, poor signage along paths, overgrown stiles and gates, footbridges, stiles in poor condition, trees fallen across paths and paths not reinstated after fields ploughed or crops grown across the PROW. I've been able to clear stiles and gates with help from a couple of volunteers.
The footpaths officers for the county council have been hugely helpful in responding to the problems and they have dealt with things very quickly. Suzanne Hopes has been replaced by Will Saunder and he has been very proactive in solving path issues. He encouraged me to set up a team of volunteers which we now have. There is a team of 13 at present and we have met to discuss the role they can play in monitoring the paths, the do's and don'ts of looking after the paths and how we can best tackle the huge number of paths we have in the parish. We have formed a Whatsapp Group as an easy way of staying in contact.
This means we can walk individually or in a group to check the paths. Any issues can be reported using the group chat. Recording involves including the path number, a grid reference or what3word. A photo of the issues and a brief description means that I can report it on Fix My Street or sort the issue myself or with help. I'm going to get some more definitive maps for folk, and they can also use the footpaths map online to identify path numbers. We are also getting more secateurs for the group to use.
Will Saunder would also like us to set up a working party at some point to help with more structural work – putting up gates, footbridges, new signs and repair stiles. This is something to think about later in the year as the group is still very new.
Finally, the WPG still needs a new chair. It's not an onerous role and most of the tasks are split up amongst the committee. You don't have to be on the committee to take on a role. The WPG was set up in the 1980's, please don't let it disappear.
I just want to thank the parish council for their support and in particular Rachel for her expertise and help.

Appendix 2
St Mary's Church – overview report from the Churchwarden
Unfortunately, Tony Eagle resigned last year after 36 years as Churchwarden. We only have one Churchwarden at present and that is Mrs Christine May.
In October 2024, Rev Kat Mepham departed from the Leadonvale Benefice. Fortunately Rev David Bowers came out of early retirement and generously stepped up as Interim Team Leader, supported by our two excellent Curates: Rev Molly Boot and Rev Caroline Dunnett. We are also most fortunate to have a number of outstanding retired clergy: Rev Andrew Perry, Canon Richard Franklin and Canon Barbara Messham.

During the year we have had an average attendance of 25 with some children attending special services or when Sparks, the young children's group is taking place during the service. The Services at Festivals have been particularly well attended and seasonal concerts and events have been well supported by the community.

Outreach

Ann Cam have experienced Open the Book with Rev. Molly and Judith Bowers. End of term services for school are held in the church and parents are invited. Reboot, a Youth group run by Sportily for 11-18 year olds happens fortnightly in our church and in Redmarley. Ydson Belony is the popular leader with the youngsters and additional helpers from Dymock to assist Chris would be particularly welcome.

Fund raising

Various fund-raising events throughout the year have raised more than £10,000. This year, the Daffodil teas and Monday Musical Lunches have been particularly successful raising over £6000 thanks to help from a significant number of willing volunteers. Fund raising for charities has provided donations to GHCT, Combat Stress, Water Aid, Gloucestershire Young Carers, Dymock Parish Council for the clock in the Church Tower, and Emmaus.

The restoration of the six historic church bells has been a major project during the past eighteen months and it is now a great pleasure to hear them ringing regularly once again. Training for new ringers is available and there are plans to start a handbell choir for beginners.

Appendix 3

DYMOCK PARISH HALL

The hall continues to be very well used and is a popular venue for children's parties as the ceiling being so high makes it ideal for bouncy castles! Although we have put up the price of hiring the small rooms in the evening to coincide with the price of the main hall,the hiring fees still remain very reasonable and the hall remains one of the cheapest to hire in the county.

Eileen has been dog training in the hall for 20 plus years and continues to do so on a Saturday morning. We do wonder where all the dogs come from!

Soon ,the lower walls in the main hall will be back to normal again as they are being sanded at the moment prior to their

being decorated again. Problems occurred when oil and water based paints would not mix.

We have had 2 new heaters installed recently which can give out a boost. Hopefully, further improvements will be made this year.

Appendix 4

Windcross Magazine

Originally called the Dymock Parish Magazine and sold at three half pence in 1880, this monthly publication has covered a fascinating taste of life in and around Dymock in good and challenging days. It is clear by dipping in to copies of this era that there is a long established sense of community and activity.

In the 1970's the magazine became known as the Windcross incorporating the Parishes of Donnington, Kempley and Preston and with the formation of a new Benefice incorporating the Redmarley group of churches 2005 combining all nine Parishes.

Today, the magazine has a circulation of around 650 and provides a valuable voice that reaches out across our communities. Contributions that inform and reflect upon activities and organisations in our parishes are welcomed each month to the editor as printed at the front of magazine. A 12 month subscription costs £10 or individual copies at £1 are available in Dymock shop and the church. Additionally, there is a useful and varied range of local advertisers who find the Windcross a useful outreach and helps to sustain the modest monthly price of £1 per issue.
A flavour of the current topics periodically on the agenda of the Dymock Parish Council is naturally welcome and has been effective in recent topics such as the biodiversity initiative that has drawn attention of regional press.
Bob May
Editor

Appendix 5
Dymock Cricket Club report for Dymock Parish Council AGM April 2025
The completion of the new pavilion in June 2016 left us with a number of significant loans, including £50,000 from the ECB, which should have been paid off after 7 years. However, due to COVID 19 and 2 years of payment holidays, it wasn't until February 2025 that we finally paid the last instalment. It feels great to be free of the burden of the debt. (There is still an unsecured loan from a community member for 5k which could be repaid on demand). We have achieved this partly through the support of the community in our fundraising efforts, especially through the music festivals and half-marathons, so we would like to thank everyone in the parish who contributed.
We will continue with these annual events. The half-marathon has had the addition of a 5-mile race and this year's music festival sees the headline act of Supernova, "the most authentic Oasis tribute band", so if you didn't manage to get tickets to see the Gallagher brothers, perhaps you would like to join us on Sunday 25th May for Sounds at The Pound 2025. As in most previous years, we hope to be able to make donations to other community causes such as Ann Cam School and FOBA.
The club has been fortunate to receive financial support from Dymock Parish Council in previous years and we were grateful for £800 in 2023 to purchase a new boundary rope.
Our January AGM saw a change of Chairperson at the club, with Martin Fowke stepping aside after more than 20years – a fantastic effort for a voluntary role! He remains very much involved with the club as Vice Chair and also coordinated our women's team in the new winter indoor competition, finishing 5th out of 8 teams. We continue to offer junior cricket from age 5 and have strong links with Ann Cam school to host their after school cricket club.
The senior leagues start again this weekend and we are always keen to recruit new players, volunteers to help with the ground and social members, so please come down any Saturday afternoon, the bar will be open!
Helen Senior - Chair, Dymock Cricket Club