09/26-27

MINUTES
DYMOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on
Tuesday, 12th May at 7.30pm in Dymock Parish Hall.

Present: Cllrs Tony Eagle (in the Chair); N Fairburn; I Bruce; B Rose; J George; T Blandford;
In attendance: Rachel Freestone – the Clerk
Public: 0

1. **To elect the Chairman of the Council for 2026/27 and to receive Chairman's signature on the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form.**
   Cllr Tony Eagle opened the meeting and requested nominations for the position of Chair for the forthcoming year. Cllr Anthony Eagle (Tony) was proposed, seconded and duly elected. Cllr Eagle signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. **To receive and accept apologies for absence.**
   Apologies had been received and accepted from County Cllr Gill Moseley as is Staunton Annual Parish Meeting and Footpaths Officer Jackie Tweedale.

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

4. **To elect the Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2026/27.**
   Cllr Gill Kilmurray was proposed, seconded and duly elected.

5. **To adopt the General Power of Competence as meet criteria of 2/3 elected councillors and CiLCA qualified clerk.**
   Members considered the criteria of 2/3 elected councillors and CiLCA qualified clerk. **It was RESOLVED:** to adopt the General Power of Competence for 2026-27.

6. **Minutes:** Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14th April 2026**. It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

7. **Public Participation:** There was none.

8. **Reports:**

a. To receive a report from County Councillor Gill Moseley: In her absence there was none. Cllr Bruce added that County Cllr Moseley has requested that he contact her so that she can understand which highways improvements should be prioritised in Dymock parish.
b. To receive a report from District Councillor Gill Kilmurray: There are no further developments, the next full cabinet meeting is on the 21st May which she is unable to attend.

9. **To review the following policies for Dymock Parish Council:**

a. Code of Conduct. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Code of Conduct for 2026/27
b. Financial Regulations. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Financial Regulations for 2026/27.
c. Standing Orders. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Standing Orders for 2026/27.
d. Risk Register. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Risk Register for 2026/27.
e. Risk Management Policy. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Risk Management Policy for 2026/27.
f. Reserves Policy. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the Reserves Policy for 2026/27.
g. **It was RESOLVED:** to agree to comply with the transparency code.
h. The Clerk reminded councillors of the self-disqualification law.

10. **To appoint Members to serve on Working Groups:**
    It was RESOLVED: to appoint Councillors as follows:

a. Finance and Compliance – Cllrs Bruce; Blandford; Eagle with the Clerk.
b. Beauchamp Arms – Cllrs Kilmurray, Eagle and George
c. Community Action Plan/NDP. **It was RESOLVED:** no longer required at present Cllr Fairburn to remain lead contact for any queries on the NDP.
d. Planning – Cllrs Fairburn and Blandford.
e. Highways – Cllr Bruce
f. Play Areas and Public Conveniences (Other Assets) – Cllrs Bruce and Eagle.
g. Biodiversity – Cllrs Rose; Eagle and Kilmurray.
h. Communications, Media and IT – Cllr Fairburn.
i. Staffing – Cllr Bruce

11. To Appoint Representatives to Outside Bodies:
It was RESOLVED: to appoint Councillors as follows:
a. FOBA – Cllr Eagle
b. Murzell and Wintours Charity - To nominate two trustees who need not be councillors. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve as trustees Andrew Perry and Dorothy Brookes.

12. Beauchamp Arms:
a. Maintenance issues arising from the meeting held on the 14th April. Cllr Eagle informed members that they are chasing quotes from Newent carpets and confirmed the tenant will pay. The gas bottles have now been disposed of. *A member commented that it is frustrating that Cllrs are having to step in to help*. Cllr Eagle confirmed that he will chase the decorator for the quote to paint the exterior. The tenant has planted the outside tubs. Cllr Eagle is still to submit the plans to building control.
b. No further additional matters arising.

13. Common Land/Assets:
a. Asset Register for 2026/27. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve once the embankment slide is added.
b. Members considered the inspection plan for all Parish Council Assets: The quotes to repair the telephone boxes are outstanding. Defer to the next meeting.
c. Members considered the Playground Inspection for May 2026 with the removal of the litter bin still outstanding. Cllr Eagle informed members that he had met Urban Recreation on site when they came to check the slide. They had considered the observation that children are unable to see those getting off from the top. Little can be done to solve this problem but there is visibility from the side. *Cllr Bruce added that on removal the old embankment slide was rusted through, confirming its removal as a necessary action*. The school have come back with the results from the questionnaire which will give us ideas on what equipment they would like to see.
d. Members NOTED the two trees on Wintours Green cut back in April with the lime tree scheduled to be pollarded on the 1st June.
e. Members considered Windcross Dairies maintenance of the Public Conveniences for 2026/27. **It was RESOLVED:** to confirm the appointment. He has informed us that a urinal sensor is required and need to consider flooring options as the painted surface did not last. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Bruce to source a sensor. Look at options for flooring and bring to the next full meeting.
Cllr Kilmurray asked for an update on the Parish Hall car park? Cllr Eagle confirmed it had been cleared that day with the contractor having to spend much longer than anticipated on the job. All bags of debris will be removed by the contractor.

14. Planning:
a. **It was RESOLVED:** To confirm the clerk's delegated authority to respond to planning queries between meetings.
b. To note NO Planning Applications for Determination by the Forest of Dean District Council.
c. To note NO Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers.
d. To note NO planning decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council.
e. To consider any other Planning actions arising. Cllr Fairburn informed members of a couple of updates. Rock Farm development. The building in question is not the one that did not get planning consent.

Enforcement have responded that received but not been allocated an officer as yet as they are short staffed. Confirmed that there is no planning application for the current building work.
The draft S106 document for the 24 houses has been queried and an initial response received from FoDDC planning. There is a high proportion of the allocated funds being awarded to the Newent Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool. Cllr Fairburn to contact them to further question.
FoDDC – Biosphere. Cllr Fairburn had read the FoDDC proposal and the Commoners Association argument against it. It is clear that insufficient public consultation has taken place. *Cllr Kilmurray confirmed that the item is to be addressed at the FoDDC full council meeting on the 21st May with a motion to pause action to allow for further public consultation. A member asked how long a pause would be?* A few months. Cllr Fairburn added that many questions have not been answered, including who will run it. *A member added that it would also bring many positives.* Cllr Fairburn informed that will attend the 21st May meeting. *Cllr Kilmurray added that will be interesting as the Local Plan/Glynchbrook will also be on the agenda.*

15. Biodiversity:

a. Annual Parish Meeting on replacement of cultivated daffodils with native bulbs on Wintours Green: There is concern that whilst the native bulbs are establishing there will be no colour. *A member asked whether it could be done in clumps?* There was also concern re snowdrops when removing. **It was RESOLVED:** as Dymock is famous for its native daffodils the action should occur. Plant native daffodil bulbs in the autumn 2026.
b. Biodiversity Working Group: Cllr Rose reported that the bank has been mowed. They were going to be planting wildflower plug plants the following weekend but they are not established enough. They will seek further guidance from Chris Bligh on how to look after the plants. They would have liked some extra colour but it is too late to sow wildflower seed.

16. Highways/Footpaths:

a. To appoint the Footpaths Officer for 2026/27. **It was RESOLVED:** to appoint Jackie Tweedale. She was thanked for all her work for the parish.
b. Footpaths Officer report: In her absence the Clerk read a report she had provided to be found at Appendix 1. In addition, she had requested permission to put an article in the Windcross to update parishioners**. It was RESOLVED:** to approve. She requested that the parish council write to landowners in the Leddington area to remind them of their duty re public footpaths. The clerk to meet with Cllr Blandford to ascertain who they are.
c. Highways Working Group: No further comments, addressed Agenda item 8a.
d. Community Speedwatch: Cllr Bruce informed members that the Advocacy meeting was held 3 weeks ago. He had written to our PCSO to request a speed camera with as yet no reply. Speeding is a problem through Dymock. Thanks were given to Dave Keep and to all those that verify.

17. Finance

a. Members NOTED the 2025-26 EOY Bank Reconciliation and total Bank Balances of £45698.64.
b. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and total Bank Balances of £50112.54 for 30th April 2026. Cllr as a non-bank signatory duly checked and signed the statements, invoices and bank reconciliation as a true record.
c. Members considered the record of regular payments for 2026-27. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve.
d. Members NOTED the PWLB loans statement for 2026/27.
e. Members NOTED the Clerk's submission of the 25-26 internal audit to GALC with no response received as yet. It was NOTED that an extra meeting may be required in June to approve the AGAR.
f. Members NOTED the Notice of Public Rights period 3rd June to 14th July inclusive are published on the noticeboard and on the website.
g. Members considered a competent internal auditor external to the council for 2026-27. **It was RESOLVED:** GALC to be appointed.
h. To consider and approve the use of SCRIBE accounting and the "payments and receipts" accounting method for 2026-27. **It was RESOLVED:** to appoint Scribe and use payments and receipts method.
i. To consider and approve the Unity Bank signatories. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllrs Bruce; Fairburn and Blandford.

j. Members NOTED the insurance provision for 2026-27 is due for renewal in September.

k. **It was RESOLVED:** To confirm the appointment of PATA payroll services for 2026-27.

l. **It was RESOLVED:** To confirm the clerk's delegated authority to make payments between meetings as necessary.

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

• Greenfields	Grounds Maintenance	£531.30net/£637.56gross
• Gareth Kemp	Public Conveniences	£140.00
• Adrian Hope Tree Services	2 x trees Wintours Green	£855net/£1026gross
• Quedgeley Computer Solutions	NDP website closure	£51.11

n. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify payments made between meetings:

• Clerk expenses	Printer ink	£50.42net/£60.51gross
• Urban Recreation	embankment slide	£11725net/£14070gross
• Clerk expenses	Biodiversity weedwiper	£54.14net/£64.97gross
• Volunteer expenses	Daffodil weekend printing	£9.50

o. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify regular payments made between meetings:

• Water plus DD	£29.13
• EoN Next DD	£54.87
• Clerk salary	As per contract
• Bank monthly service fee April	£7

p. Members NOTED income received:

• Beauchamp Arms April Rent	£1890/2268 gross
• Precept	£18200.00
• Biodiversity cash received Daffodil Weekend	£493.55

q. Members NOTED virements made between Unity Accounts:

• Instant Access to Current 16.04.26	£14000
• Instant Access to Current 24.04.26	£493.55

18. To note any training undertaken or consider any training needs including a First responder for the parish. Cllr Bruce informed members that he had attended GALC Devolution training alongside Cllr Kilmurray and the Clerk and had felt that nothing was achieved. We had been informed that it was important training but it just repeated previous dialogue as there are still uncertainties until central govt. announce the preferred option. Interestingly, they informed that it is likely training will be mandatory and councillors will have to be active members. He added that they gave the impression that more responsibility will be pushed down. *A member added that the parish council will need to prepare parishioners ahead of the May 2027 elections to take the place of current Cllrs.* FoDDC position in the Devolution actions will be clearer after the summer. GALC had commented that the current instability in central government may mean it gets passed over. First Responder to be deferred to the next meeting.

19. It was RESOLVED: To approve 'Wheels on the Green' on Wintours Green on 12th September 2026. Cllr Bruce added that we have received a response from our insurer confirming that Third party events must have their own Public Liability insurance. The parish council are liable for the condition of the surface.

20. Correspondence: Nothing further.

21. To consider items for the next meeting – no discussion.
Biosphere, S106, First Responders, telephone boxes, public conveniences floor.

22. Members NOTED the date of the next meeting as being Tuesday 9th June, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Signed: …*Gill Kilmurray*…… Date:..09.06.2026…

Chair

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Appendix 1 - Footpath Officer Report

7 of us, myself and 6 volunteers ventured out to Hallwood Green to check the footpaths. There have been issues here in the last with missing signs and stiles. A missing sign had already been replaced earlier in the week after a report from a local resident.
GDY 85 issues with accessibility of the stile as there is no step. Reported
GDY 7 no signage on the gate to show which direction walkers need to go. There 2 routes, one to the left and one bearing straight ahead. We added waymark signs to the posts. Cleared the footbridge of overhanging branches and long grass and weeds Reported
GDY 9 couldn't find the stile that should have been in the hedge in the corner of the field. Had to climb through an opening further up and avoid the barbed wire. Reported
GDY7 GDY 5 it clear where to go where GDY 7 and GDY 5 meet. No signage on the no stile. This should have been in the hedge line. There is new fencing and a kissing gate in the other side of the fence which doesn't follow the definitive map. Not aware of any diversion having happened. Query it with Will Saunder. No signage at end of footbridge. We didn't add any way mark signs until I check with Will what's going in here . Reported
GDY 4 stile overgrown and in a poor state, planks are rotten. Cleared the stile and the approach to it of weeds, brambles and overhanging vegetation. Reported

Would it be possible for the parish council to write to landowners in Leddington to remind them of their responsibilities in keeping footpaths clear please. Also, could I put a piece in the parish magazine about the footpaths, what we've done with the paths and reporting and checking?