13/26-27

MINUTES
DYMOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on
Tuesday, 9th June at 7.30pm in Dymock Parish Hall.

Present: Cllrs G Kilmurray (in the Chair); N Fairburn; T Blandford; B Rose; I Bruce

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

Public: 1

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence:**
Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Tony Eagle (Chairman) and Cllr John George. In his absence, it was agreed that the Vice-Chair, Cllr Gill Kilmurray would Chair the meeting.

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

3. **Public Participation:**
There were none.

4. **Reports:**

a. County Councillor Gill Moseley report: Should have the Central Government Devolution decision by July 16th. She informed that government have done a u-turn in Norfolk with regards to population requirements from 500k to 300k. If they follow suit with Gloucestershire then one of the split models offered could be favoured. They could also put forward their own preferred model. It needs to be the most efficient and cost effective. If we have a unitary, the County Council structure is already in place. It will be difficult to split all the services run by GCC.
There is disappointment with the devolution of GCC Highways. There is now no Highways local budget and County Councillors had been led to believe that would have more input at ground level. However, recent meetings have not reflected that understanding.
A40 Over Bridge roadworks will be in place for 9 months and will cause mayhem. The slip road is being used as a compound. The work will commence following the school exams as they realise there will be delays. County Cllr Moseley is looking at options to alleviate the problem including the possibility of a temporary park and ride service from Newent. The public were given short notice of the work.

b. District Councillor Gill Kilmurray report: There have been two main votes. The first being the Biosphere to be addressed at Agenda item 9a. The second was at a closed cabinet briefing to discuss the Local Plan Reg 18 consultation which includes the proposal for houses at Glynchbrook. There is to be a further Extra meeting on the 24th June to propose a withdrawal from the plan and to start again. This would be a further 30 month process, finishing Autumn 2028, after the devolution. FoDDC have failed to meet government housing targets anyway in the latest version. County Cllr Moseley added that any new work will follow the 'Gateway system' which examines the processes much earlier on. High level evidence has been provided against Glynchbrook and FoDDC have realised that can't take it further. The proposed large development at Churcham will also not be feasible without a railway station and there not enough numbers/houses to support one. She added that FoDDC now have a Working Group in place to look at pushing back at Central govt to show number of houses required is not feasible with no investment in the area.

5. **Minutes:**

a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12th May 2026**. It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Dymock Parish Council Policy and Procedure:

a. Members NOTED that the Internal Audit had been started by GALC that day. The Clerk suggested that an extra meeting be held on the 23rd June. **It was RESOLVED:** to arrange the meeting for the 23rd June.

7. Beauchamp Arms:

a. Beauchamp Arms Working Group: Cllr Kilmurray informed members that the Working Group had not met and nothing to report at that time.

b. FOBA representative: In her absence there was none.

8. Common Land/Assets:

a. Members NOTED the playground inspection for May and June 2026. No actions required.

b. Cllr Bruce informed members that signage had been ordered from Perpetua for the Winding Pool carpark with the posts being donated by M Boon. The signs will help address the problem of abandoned/SORN cars along with a procedure to deal with offenders now in place. Two signs will be placed at the entrance stating who the car park belongs to. Two further signs in the carpark saying abandoned/SORN vehicles not allowed and also no maintenance. Thanks were given to Marcus Boon for generous contribution.

c. Members NOTED the pollarding of the lime tree by the Beauchamp Arms. It has been reduced significantly but there have been no negative messages received. Work was required to cut out all the mistletoe.

d. Members NOTED that the adult defibrillator pads have been removed from the Brooms Green telephone box with no communication that it was officially used. The cabinet does not have a lock, this is the defib that is at end of life and pads are no longer manufactured. **It was RESOLVED:** defer to the next meeting to look at costs and options.
Cllr Bruce asked whether a response has been received from the letter sent to the owners of the broken fence bordering the alleyway. The Clerk confirmed not as yet.

9. Biodiversity:

a. FoDDC UNESCO Biosphere proposal: Cllr Fairburn informed members that he had attended the FoDDC meeting which resulted in a vote to delay action to allow for further six month consultation. He informed members that the process had been unanimously voted for by FoDDC in March 2025 with them writing to every PC in Nov 2025 informing what they are going as to the biased to the benefits. He has recently asked for likely costs but still awaiting a response. He has queried why a UNESCO site and not an AONB?
County Cllr Moseley added that it is a label which could bring in additional investment. A leaflet was sent to all households with the council tax demand.
Cllr Fairburn presented a draft letter (previously circulated with members) on behalf of Dymock PC calling for FoDDC to hold a proper unbiased public consultation and for a public vote. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to send the letter to Chris McFarling and cc the CEO; Nigel Brinn.

b. Biodiversity matters arising: There was none.

10. Planning:

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

b. Members NOTED that no Planning Responses were submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers.

c. Members NOTED the Planning Decision made by Forest of Dean District Council:
- P0172/26/FUL Cropthorne Farm, Leddington. Demolition of Dutch Barn, erection of agricultural building. Granted Permission.

d. Items arising: Cllr Fairburn commented that the application for the 4 houses at Bayfield Gardens was not on the recent planning committee agenda. *District Cllr Kilmurray confirmed that she had made the formal request for them to look at it.* He informed members that he had spoken with the planning officer in regard to the S106 figures in relation to the 24 houses on Kempley Road. The parish council did not add to the original application response the areas felt would be deserving of monies. A large proportion of the allocation is going to the Newent Leisure Centre and Community School. The 24 houses should have their own play area so can't support the current playground. *County Cllr Moseley explained that S106 can only be used to mitigate potential harm.*
Cllr Fairburn informed members that the enforcement team are now involved with Old Rock Farm but with no officer appointed as yet.

11. Highways/Footpaths:

a. Footpaths Officer report: They have been very busy. 21 stiles and 4 footbridges have been cleared of vegetation in the last month. There are a further 4/5 to report, one bridge is not safe and there is a stone bridge which is falling apart. It is a continuing, ongoing battle as everything is overgrown. Big thank you to the volunteers as would not be able to manage alone. There is still an issue with paths not being reinstated. Frustrating when people are travelling to the area to walk the historic paths and can't get access. The PROW officer at GCC knows the owners and if write to them they are given 14 days to reinstate, unfortunately they haven't been and it is then another letter (unsure on where goes from there). The PROW has huge area to cover and it is arduous to keep chasing landowners. **It was RESOLVED:** Cllr Blandford and the Clerk to meet with the footpath officer to send letters to landowners reminding them of their duty.

b. Highways matters arising: Cllr Bruce informed members that he has been in contact with Highways with regards to the badly resurfaced area by the duck pond which was resurfaced less than a year ago. He was told to contact Local Highways and has done but feels not going anywhere and very frustrating. GCC are not listening to people on the ground.

c. Community Speedwatch matters arising: Cllr Bruce informed that he has been in touch with the police to request a road safety camera in the village as there is still an issue with speeding through the village. Awaiting a response.
County Cllr Moseley added that Highways are working to update the brown signs in the area which still direct to the Birds of Prey Centre which closed 3 years ago. She clarified that brown signs have to be paid for by the organisations and to qualify they have to meet a minimum number of visitors. Some potholes are being filled but the quality of work by Ringway is very poor.

12. Finance:

a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and total Bank Balances of £48911.08 at 31st May 2026. Cllr Kilmurray as a non-bank signatory duly checked and signed the statements, invoices and bank reconciliation as a true record.

b. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:
- Adrian Hope Lime Tree Wintours Green £2550.00net/£3060.00gross
- GSC Official Speedwatch Letters Jan-March £31.50gross

The Clerk requested that the following invoices which had arrived that day be considered:
- Greenfields £579.70net/£695.64gross
- G Kemp £175

It was RESOLVED: to approve payment.

c. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the payments made between meetings:
- Richard Dunnett – Parish Hall clear up £40
- GALC – Devolution training £125.00
- Gloucestershire Playing Field Assoc £50
- Imperative training paediatric pads £100.95net/£121.14gross

d. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the regular payments made between meetings:
- Clerk's salary April £as per contract
- Bank Charges April £7.00
- PWLB – Beauchamp Arms Loan £2108.22

e. Members NOTED the income received:
- Beauchamp Arms Rent – May £1890net/£2268gross
- VAT refund £1567.92

f. Members NOTED the virements made between meetings:
- Current to instant access – precept 06.05.26 £17000.00
- Instant Access to current – 18.05.26 £2000.00

13. Training:

a. To receive feedback from any training undertaken and to consider any training needs.

14.Correspondence:

- St Mary's Church – clarification on who has ownership of the wall between the church and Wintours Green. Members commented that it must belong to the church as part of Lytch Gate.
- FoDDC HomeseekerPlus Allocation Scheme Consultation. Cllr Bruce explained. There was no interest shown in completing the consultation.
- Two Rivers confirmation that Neighbourhood Team will look at broken fence. No comment from them re the tree.

15. It was RESOLVED: To approve the Clerks request for holiday 26th August to 4th September 26.

16. To consider items for the next meeting. Amounts outstanding on PWLB loans, Defibrillator.

17. Members NOTED the date of the next ordinary meeting as being on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.30pm. 23rd June, 2026 at 7.30pm was confirmed for an Extra meeting to complete the audit.

Signed: *Tony Eagle*…… Date:…14.07.2026…….
Chair

The meeting closed at 8.45pm