22/26-27

APPROVED MINUTES
DYMOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on
Tuesday, 8th September at 7.30pm in Dymock Parish Hall.

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

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

Public: 4

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence:**
   There was none.
   .
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 mentioned the condition of Kempley Road, she will send images to the Clerk to report as the whole strip at the side of the road needs addressing not the small areas Highways have highlighted.

   19.32 GK arrived

4. **Reports:**

a. To receive a report from County Councillor Gill Moseley: A pause in Local Government Reorganisation plans was announced today by central government. May 2027 elections now likely to be both District Council and County Council. GCC had made an appointment to oversee the transition within Gloucestershire so hope that it is not paused for too long. There are 14 councils in the same position, the pause is a result of legal action by certain councils' who were not happy with how they had been divided. Household Waste Recycling Centres - Hempsted has been closed for refurbishment which includes the introduction of a recycling shop. Coleford and Bishops Cleve are opening longer to cover. Still not permitted to use Ledbury or Ross-on-Wye centres, the petition against this is still live. Herefordshire are refusing to help and not much more can be done without govt intervention. CCllr Moseley is hoping to take the petition to Hereford Council to request a trial period. A new proposal addressing DIY waste is anticipated in 2027 to combat larger cars visiting frequently to bend the household rules. There will be a limit of 4 large yard bags of DIY waste per month. A charge would be made if exceeded. There are concerns over increased fly tipping but a study has shown it won't make much difference. Fridges and freezers are currently not being accepted.
   A member asked about the Local Roads Drop in? There is a new Highways councillor request form to track enquiries and responses but this is not working properly – she is finding it frustrating, will be an improved system when working properly.

b. To receive a report from District Councillor Gill Kilmurray: Nothing to report at this time. *A member asked when is the next full council meeting?* 22nd October.

5. **Minutes:**

a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14th July 2026**. It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.
   19.45 County Cllr Gill Moseley left the meeting.

6. **Dymock Parish Council Policies:**

a. Financial Controls and Risk Assessment. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the policy for 2026/27.

7. Beauchamp Arms:

a. Beauchamp Arms Working Group: Cllr Kilmurray informed members that they have discussed putting out an application of interest to paint the pub. Cllr Eagle informed that the render is not in good repair in places and has asked a contractor to meet to assess. No point in painting until the render is sound. The contractor will also look at the fire bricks in the chimney place. In addition, the porch also needs some attention, contractors will be asked to assess and quote.
Cllr Eagle informed that the plans still need scanning for the Building Regs., he will complete having now received guidance.
The Boiler service is being completed this week at the tenant's expense.

b. FOBA representative: The Chair informed members that the FOBA representative had stated that nothing to report at this time.

8. Common Land/Assets:

a. Members NOTED the playground inspections for August and September 2026 (previously circulated). Cllr Eagle informed members that the lock is broken on the large gate by the football posts. To keep it closed, a chain with a combination lock has been installed. Greenfields will be made aware of the code. The equipment needs cleaning as well as the benches.

b. Members considered the parishioner email concerning the drop from the embankment slide and the condition of the steps up the bank: The company that installed the slide have been contacted for options; awaiting a response. It was agreed that the handrail and steps to the embankment slide are in poor condition with a contractor engaged to assess the work needed.

c. Cllr Bruce informed members that work to all four telephone boxes has been completed and he had painted the repairs. Members need to select a phone box for the annual program of painting the telephone boxes. **It was RESOLVED:** the Hallwood Green box is most in need, the Clerk to contact the contractor. *A MofP asked if there were any plans for the spare kiosk as at one point it was being considered as a library?* It is stored on private property in the village. To be investigated.
The urinal has been repaired and the contractor will repair the drain at the Beauchamp Arms shortly.

9. Biodiversity:

a. FoDDC UNESCO Biosphere parish and town council meeting held by DPC on the 3rd Sept. 2026: Cllr Fairburn shared a written report attached as Appendix 1.

b. Biodiversity Working Group: Cllr Rose informed members that a Biodiversity meeting was held at the end of August to agree a strategy for the year ahead. It was agreed that need to plant more bulbs on the bank as there had been a disappointing return on what planted 3 years ago. The group have 2 years of fundraising in the budget so have funds. They would also like more wildflower seeds**. It was RESOLVED:** to approve spend on these items as within budget, Clerk to purchase the bulbs and seeds.
She added that they will need to get some dates in the diary to plant them. Chris Bligh has stepped back from the project. Members thanked both him and DyFra for all their support and efforts over the years.

10. Planning:

a. Members NOTED the Planning Applications for Determination by the Forest of Dean District Council.
- P0895/26/FUL Yew Tree Cottage, Greenway. Erection of self-build dwelling to replace existing dwelling. **It was RESOLVED:** to SUPPORT the application.
- P0939/26/FUL Oldfields House, Leddington. Detached carport with studio space above. Retrospective. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the letter to be sent to the planning department expressing disappointment in a further retrospective application.

b. Members NOTED the Planning Response Submitted between Meetings under Devolved Powers:
- P0733/26/OUT – Land East of Leominster Road. 7 dwellings. Cllr Fairburn provided a further update. The Parish Council have sent two formal responses thus far with a recommendation for 4 dwellings. Clarification received that do not need to include affordable housing when under 10 houses. The cut off has been delayed to the end of September, we do not know why. The applicant has put in further comments and the parish council will look to respond to these. *A MofP added that they accept that there is a reasonable request for housing in that area but object to the density of the housing planned. Access is by Maypole Farm where GCC are planning long awaited renovations a planning application is expected for this. The entrance to the road is also used as village overspill parking. The approach to the village will be spoiled by a dense and urban development. The road already struggles with speeding.* Cllr Fairburn added that the lack of a FoDDC Local Plan has exacerbated the situation. *A Mof P asked about drainage?* Nothing reported from consultants**.**

It was RESOLVED: Cllr Fairburn to speak to the planning officer and consider a further response to comments. Members were warned that should prepare for a possible appeal.

c. Members NOTED the following Planning Decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
- P1000/24/FUL Moors Farm, Four Oaks. Erection of Stable Block. CONSENT
- P0647/26/FUL Potting Shed, Old Rock Farmhouse. Conversion of existing outbuilding, retrospective. CONSENT

d. Members NOTED the response from the Planning Officer re P0248/26/out - houses off Bayfield Gardens that will only be required to go to Planning Committee if he recommends approval. Cllr Fairburn informed that an extension has been made to October 16th.

e. Members considered the two applications received following the agenda.
- P1004/26/FUL Land North of Roseland, Leominster Road.Erection of agricultural building, demolition of existing building. **It was RESOLVED:** SUPPORT
- P1013/26/FUL Normansland Farm, Dymock. Erection of 2 storey extension. **It was RESOLVED:** SUPPORT

11. Highways/Footpaths:

a. Footpaths Officer: It was too hot this summer to walk. The maize caused problems, but it has now been harvested so the affected paths are now clear. Letters were sent to six Landowners in the parish to remind them of their duties and responsibilities. No responses were received.

b. Members NOTED that Cllr Blandford has agreed to be the Snow Warden for 2026/27. No further salt supplies are needed. The Brooms Green grit bin (blue) has been flattened and needs to be put back. A further grit bin in Brooms Green would be helpful. **Action:** MofP to send a What3Words position for the clerk to include. *A MofP commented that the grit bin at Welsh House Lane is open to the elements, can we request a council one there?* **Action:** Clerk to obtain position and request.

c. Autospeedwatch scheme: Cllr Bruce informed that he had held a meeting with the Road Safety Camera Team and our PCSO. It was agreed that the Speed Camera Team will attend the village with the hand-held speed gun. He added that he had been disappointed that the meeting took 4.5 months to arrange. He felt the team were more concerned with yield (number of vehicles caught). He had shown them our data which they had not seen before due to staffing issues – very disappointing as the parish council had been accused of inaction and now acting are not being supported.

d. Members NOTED the parishioner email re concerns over the Railway Bridge and weight limit. Highways have confirmed as none in place. The bridge was inspected in March 2025 and structurally sound. A TRO is required to apply for a weight limit and even then exemptions can be put in place.

e. Members NOTED the complaint made to GCC re the condition of the footpath leading out of the village towards the Cricket Club with confirmation sent that they will send a team to clear it. Highways have cleared the path in the opposite direction. Cllr Bruce has requested that the pathways be put on the maintenance schedule.

11. Finance:

a. Members NOTED the Bank Reconciliation and total Bank Balances of £46462.47 at 21st August 2026. Cllr Kilmurray as a non-bank signatory duly checked and signed the statements, invoices and bank reconciliation as a true record.

b. Members NOTED the VAT return for the period 01.05.26-31.07.26 has been submitted with £31.15 payment due.

c. Members NOTED the insurance is due for renewal on 30.09.2026 under yr 2 of a 3yr LTA. Schedule yet to be received.

d. Members NOTED the NJC scales agreed increase of 3.3% and consider adopting and backdating this to 1st April 2026.

e. **It was RESOLVED:** To approve the following invoices for payment:
- Red Fox new media Website annual fee £300

The Clerk requested that the following invoices received following the agenda be considered for payment:
- Greenfields Grounds Maintenance £531.30net/£637.56 gross
- G Kemp Public Conveniences £175
- Police and Crime Commissioner Letters sent £31.50

It was RESOLVED: to approve payment.

f. **It was RESOLVED:** To ratify the following payments made between meetings:
- Gareth Kemp Public Conveniences £140
- Greenfields £845.35net/£1014.42gross

g. Members NOTED the regular payments made between meetings:
- Clerks Salary July incl PAYE and pension As per contract
- EoN Next Public Conveniences electricity £53.45net/£56.12 gross
- ICO – Data Protection £47.00
- WaterPlus – July £26.34
- Unity Bank Charges – July £7.00

h. Members NOTED the income received:
- Beauchamp Arms Rent – July and August £3780net/£4536gross

i. Members NOTED no Virements made between meetings.

12. Training:

a**.** To receive feedback from any training undertaken and to consider any training needs – none at this time.

13.Correspondence NOTED (previously circulated):
- FoDDC confirmation of Parish Council elections on May 6th 2027 and approximate costs. A member asked re a succession plan, to be put on the next agenda.
- To note the email of concern re the living conditions for the horse as leave the village by The Crypt. Members commented that he has been offered help and he doesn't want it. Thought he was moving on and hasn't yet. **Action:** Cllr Eagle to speak to the owner.
- To note the receipt of the FoDDC Local Plan Survey. **Agreed:** have completed once, not doing again.

14. Members considered items for the next meeting. Annual Tree Inspection is due. Succession plan for pc.

15. Members NOTED the date of the next meeting as being the Parish Council Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed:…*Tony Eagle*…… **Date:…13.10.2026**
Chair

The meeting closed at 21.06

Appendix 1 - FoDDC Biosphere Application Status meeting at Dymock Parish Hall, Thursday 3rd September 2026.

Summary:

The meeting was attended by Dymock Parish Councillors (Thank you to Gill, Becky, Ian and Trevor) with representatives from Hartpury (Rob Gregory and Mark ?), Pauntley (Andrew Robins and Paul Eastabrook), Anne Collings (Corse).

Chris McFarling (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Biosphere), Alistair Chapman (Head of Sustainability), plus Sophie ? Parish and Town Council Liaison Officer – all from FoDDC.

Newent councillors failed to attend.

Upleadon sent apologies for Tim Rickards.

No other Parish Council responded or acknowledged receipt of the invite.

Trisha Greenwood helped with refreshments – thank you.

The meeting consisted of a brief presentation from Alistair and Chris with questions from all attendees.

Topics:

- The presentation did prove useful in that 1) not all attendees had a full grasp of the background to the application and 2) some of the information was new.
- It was acknowledged that access rights and leisure use in the forest would not be affected by Biosphere status.
- The main topics of the evening centred around 1) the finances (cost of application and funding/income generation thereafter) and 2) the management structure/representation needed to meet the published goals
- The three 'pillars' of the biosphere concept as imagined by FoDDC, are Heritage, Economy and Environment.
- These pillars were designed to meet the '17 global goals' (Climate Action/Good Health and Wellbeing/Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure etc etc)
- Given these pillars and 17 Goals, it was suggested that one Biosphere Manager would be appointed.
- The structure of any governing body had not been decided but it was envisaged that the miners, verderers and commoners would have a strong voice. This was challenged.
- The sources of income generation by the Biosphere were not specifically known; increased tourism was at the top of the list but a return of £3.89 per £1 spent could not be explained in any detail.
- The meeting did acknowledge that Biosphere status would provide kudos generally and specific leverage in terms of grant applications etc.
- The three zones within the Biosphere were discussed (Core/Buffer/Transition) and there seemed to be general consensus but a few specific queries.

Summary: While the objectives and aims of the biosphere appear laudable, perhaps the grey area surrounds the 'how'. In cost of application terms, this is relatively cheap and could easily be recouped through achieving Biosphere status itself. But the bigger and long term issue remained unanswered in that there is no business plan/organisational structure recommendation/timescale to drive actions in support of the objectives.

Next Actions: The FoDDC team did thank the meeting for the comments and stated that they found the meeting useful. The draft application has been prepared, on which they asked us to comment. My reading of the room is that the FoDDC found it a 'challenging' session but that it will have given them food for thought. Visiting councillors said it was useful.