

LITTLE DEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Little Dewchurch Parish Council, held at the
Little Dewchurch Village Hall, on Tuesday 10th June 2025 from 7.30 pm
No. LDPC/AW/107**

Present:

Cllr. Phil Williams (CPW) - Chair
Cllr. Lisa White (LW)
Cllr. Florin Tatoi (FT)
Cllr. Jane Lisle (JL)
Cllr. Roger da Cunha (RDC)

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright (AW) and Reverend Mark Johnson plus PC Martin Gillett
from West Mercia Police

<u>Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Allocated To</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>
	<p><u>Public Question Time.</u></p> <p>There were no members of the public present.</p> <p>The Public Question Time closed at 7.31 pm.</p>		
1.0	<p><u>Welcome to the meeting</u></p> <p>Cllr Phil Williams, in the Chair, welcomed the councillors to the June Meeting of Little Dewchurch Parish Council.</p>		
2.0	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>There were apologies for absence received from Cllr. Jo Hawthorne (JH) and Ward Cllr. David Davies (DD). Cllr Tom Price (TP) was not present.</p>		
3.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest recorded this time.</p>		
4.0	<p><u>To receive, adopt and sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Statutory Meeting held on 13th May 2025</u></p>		

	The minutes of the meetings were accepted true and correct records the Parish Council Meetings held on the 13 th May 2025.		
5.0	<p><u>To receive reports from</u> 5.1) Ward Councillor</p> <p>The Ward Councillor had sent his apologies. He was convalescing after being injured in a motorcycle accident.</p> <p><u>Balfour Beatty</u> Information from Balfour Beatty had been circulated when received.</p> <p><u>Reverend Mark Johnson</u> The Rev. Mark was present at the meeting. He had come to the meeting to update on the future of St David's Church in Little Dewchurch. He gave a resume on the benefice churches under his stewardship and there were seven open churches in his portfolio. There was only an average congregation of four people at Little Dewchurch and he explained that the option of closing the church was "not really on", however some changes would need to be made. The Church was still a part of village life and performing functions. The idea being proposed was to turn St David's Little Dewchurch into a "festival" church. This would mean a minimum of six services a year around festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Llanwarne Church was already operating on this model. Little Dewchurch and Dinedor have a joint Parochial Church Council (PCC). The joint PCC would put forward a request formally to become a festival church from early 2026.</p> <p>A conversation followed, with the parish council, about the condition of the churchyard. There were differing views on how the churchyard looked currently. It was felt that it was not as tidy as it could be and suggestions were made about working parties coming out, perhaps twice yearly, to return it to a good state? The digging of a trench on the land was commented and this should not have taken place and permission should have been sought. There were ideas to encourage ecumenical use of the church possibly by other faiths? I was also suggested that a working party should be set up to tidy up the headstones, cut overgrowth from around the graves and keep the churchyard tidy. Rev. Mark would liaise with interested groups to arrange working party dates. A map of the churchyard could be referred to so that the maintenance tasks could be rotated. Rev. Mark said that he would keep the parish council informed of developments.</p>		

	<p><u>West Mercia Police and Golden Valley Bulletins</u></p> <p>Newsletters and information circulated when received.</p> <p>PC Martin Gillett was present at the parish council meeting. PC Gillett advised that there was nothing to report, specifically, this month. There had been some accidents and speeding was still an issue. There would be traffic calming measures implemented in the village in the next few months, hopefully. It was commented that drugs were being passed over in the church car park. PC Gillett said that he would look into this situation. He explained about the monitoring of “racing” in the ASDA car park in Hereford. The police were awaiting a letter from ASDA about their car park policy.</p> <p>Both PC Gillett and Rev. Mark left the meeting at 8.05 pm.</p>		
6.0	<p><u>Finance and policies</u></p> <p><u>6.1) Confirmation of bank balances</u></p> <p>The current account balance stood at £14294.55. Actual balance with all outstanding payments made was £12058.23</p> <p><u>6.2) To agree Invoices for payment (list of proposed payments to be provided)</u></p> <p>To resolve to accept payments as per listing:</p> <p>Mrs A Wright (salary paid in accordance with contract for June) HM Revenue & Customs (Tax due on salary) £90.00 T Griffiths (Lengthsman) £43.34 Miss C Bull (Internal Audit 2024 – 2025) £40.00 Mr R Simpkins (grass cutting) £165.00</p> <p>The payments were resolved to be paid unanimously.</p>		

	<p>6.3) To sign Exemption Certificate for accounts 2024 – 2025</p> <p>The Exemption Certificate for accounts 2024 – 2025 was approved by the council and signed by the chair</p> <p>6.4) To sign and approve Annual Governance Statement 2024 – 2025</p> <p>The Annual Governance Statement 2024 – 2025 was approved by the council and signed by the chair</p> <p>6.5) To sign and approve Accounting Statement 2024 - 2025</p> <p>The Accounting Statement 2024 – 2025 was approved by the council and signed by the chair</p>		
7.0	<p>7.1) Play Area - update</p> <p>Cllr Tatoiu advised that the playing field grass required cutting again. Cllr Tatoiu advised that he had removed the broken bench from the field, as had been agreed at the May Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Hawthorne had looked into a possible grant opportunity for a new bench and had reported that there was no availability identified, as at the date of the meeting. The parish council discussed the provision of a new bench(es) and Cllr da Cunha had some bench ends that may be suitable. He would send pictures of the ends to Cllr Lisle to see if suitable slats could be machined to suit the ends and create a new bench(es).</p> <p>7.2) Roads and Footpaths</p> <p>The road near to The Crickets was full of potholes and awaiting repairs. Church Lane potholes had been marked up for repair but had not been filled as at the date of the meeting.</p> <p>7.3) Lengthsman – activities and funding</p> <p>The Lengthsman was not present at the meeting. The Chair would be speaking to the Lengthsman about tasks that were outstanding and about new work. The dog zone required strimming.</p>		

8.0	<p><u>Planning Matters</u></p> <p>8.1) To consider response to Planning Applications, as notified, and then determined by Herefordshire Council</p> <p>There were no further applications for consideration of comments.</p>		
9.0	<p>Information Sheet/Correspondence</p> <p>9.1) To note contents and correspondence</p> <p>Herefordshire Council: Talk Community bulletins</p> <p>Future Meeting dates for 2025</p> <p>July 8th, no meeting in August, September 9th, October 7th, November 11th and no meeting in December.</p> <p>9.2) To receive any updates from the Little Dewchurch Social Committee re events etc.</p> <p>The Fun Day was pending.</p>		
10.0	<p><u>Update/action re tree removal at the playing field – Summer 2025</u></p> <p>Cllr Lisle would speak to the contractor about dates for the felling operation and would check out regarding any requirement for a bird nesting survey update.</p>		
11.0	<p><u>Matters for the Agenda of the next Meeting</u></p> <p>The usual items would be included.</p>		

12.0	<p><u>Confirmation of date of next Parish Council Meetings</u></p> <p>The next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday 8th July 2025 from 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p> <p><i>The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm</i></p> <p>Signed:Chair</p> <p>Date.....</p> <p>Website link: https://www.littledewchurch.org.uk/</p>		
------	---	--	--