

LITTLE DEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Little Dewchurch Parish Council, held at the Little Dewchurch Village Hall, on Tuesday 7th April 2026 from 7.30 pm
No. LDPC/AW/115

Present:

Cllr. Phil Williams (CPW) - Chair
Cllr. Jo Hawthorne (JH)
Cllr. Florin Tatoi (FT)

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright (AW), Ward Cllr; David Davies (DD) from 8.28 pm

<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 March 2026 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. Jane Lisle (JL)</p> <p>Cllr. Tom Price (TP) and Cllr. Roger da Cunha (RDC) were 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 Parish Council Meeting held on March 10th 2026</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were accepted a true and correct record the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th March 2026.</p>		

<p>5.0</p>	<p><u>To receive reports from</u> 5.1)Ward Councillor</p> <p>The Ward Councillor had sent his written report.</p> <p>The Ward Cllr was present at the meeting from 8.28 pm</p> <p>The Ward Cllr advised that building of 540 new houses in the Ward was going being evaluated for access. A contractor was in place to progress the building of the Southern Relief Road and it was planned that works would commence in 2026. The rationale and business case for the building of the road was still under composition and alteration.</p> <p>There had been some comments on Face Book concerning the landslip situation at Hoarwithy. Matters were still ongoing in regard to sorting things out at the location.</p> <p>In regard to the situation with Little Dewchurch roads, there was still outstanding work on the missed section of Church Lane out to New Mills. Water was still flowing on the road and the Ward Cllr had been in communication with Welsh Water and they were scheduled to come and attend the situation in the “next few days”. The edging and road tarmac would need to be redone, in the village, where it had been broken up almost immediately after being put down. This was scheduled for later in the year. The Ward Cllr said that he would try to press for a date for this.</p> <p><u>Balfour Beatty</u> Information from Balfour Beatty had been circulated when received. The Locality Steward was Mike Gill. E mail: mike.gill@balfourbeatty.com</p> <p><u>West Mercia Police and any applicable issues</u> Newsletters and information circulated when received.</p>	<p>Ward Cllr</p>	
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<p>6.0</p>	<p><u>Finance and policies</u></p> <p>6.1) <u>Confirmation of bank balances</u> The current account balance stood at £6601.73 Actual balance with all outstanding payments made was £4373.49</p> <p>6.2) <u>To agree Invoices for payment (list of proposed payments to be provided)</u> To resolve to accept payments as per listing:</p> <p>Mrs A Wright (salary paid in accordance with contract for April) HM Revenue & Customs (Tax due on salary) £118.80 T Griffiths (lengthsman) £1104.50 Mr R Simpkins (Grass cutting) £210.00</p> <p>The payments were resolved to be paid unanimously.</p> <p>6.3) <u>To appoint internal auditor for 2025 - 2026</u> The parish council resolved to appoint C. Bull as the internal auditor for 2025 – 2026, as in previous years.</p>		
<p>7.0</p>	<p>7.1) <u>Play Area - update and actions</u> There were no further condition updates given. The bird boxes made from birch tree branches had been put up. The area near the entrance had been cleared of bramble overgrowth before the Easter Egg Hunt. The possible asset transfer paperwork for the play area, and potential costs, would require careful consideration and input from the full council. It was agreed to discuss further with more councillors present. A councillor reported that there had been some unfortunate exchanges on the play area and that logs had been thrown over fences. Arguments and noise, with shouting and inappropriate language had been noted. The police were involved and had been in attendance at the playing field. It was hoped that the antisocial activity would be brought under control, and some parents were on board with trying to manage the situation also. There had been some damage to a gate in the dog area and this had been reinstated. A bench had been moved and then replaced. There had been some reports of children disturbing local livestock. The police had been advised of all matters.</p>		

	<p>7.2) Roads and Footpaths The defects, as identified, were still awaiting resolution. Welsh Water was on the case of the continuing water leaks. The Ward Cllr was in communication with Welsh Water and a call out to look at the ongoing problems was imminent. Church Road still required works to repair the surface and the Carey Road was in an “appalling” state with numerous potholes, the road having almost collapsed in places. It was noted that updates were required about the Hoarwithy road collapse, even if nothing was happening, due to extensive public interest.</p> <p>7.3) Lengthsman – activities and funding The Lengthsman was undertaking the scheduled bin emptying and any identified works. The Chair would liaise regarding any other works as needed. The Lengthsman Contract would be signed and returned for 2026 – 2027. Any projects for drainage would be looked at for possible grant funding applications.</p>	Ward Cllr	ASAP
8.0	<p><u>Planning Matters and Neighbourhood Development Plan</u></p> <p>8.1) To consider response to Planning Applications, as notified, and then determined by Herefordshire Council and any update re NDP status There were no applications for consideration of comments at the April Meeting.</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood Development Plan.</u> No further information, at the present time, in regard to the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</p>	Clerk Chair	ASAP

<p>9.0</p>	<p>Information Sheet/Correspondence</p> <p>9.1) To note contents and correspondence Herefordshire Council: Talk Community bulletins</p> <p><u>PKF Littlejohn – External Auditor</u> Internal Audit Papers for 2025 – 2026 received.</p> <p><u>Little Dewchurch Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2026</u> May 12th, June 9th, July 7th, No meeting in August, September 8th, October 13th, November 10th, No meeting in December.</p> <p>9.2) To receive any updates from the Little Dewchurch Social Committee re events etc. A further LDSC Meeting would be held in the week following the parish council meeting. Cllr Hawthorne advised that about 30 children had attended the egg hunt and a good time had been enjoyed. Up coming events included; the Fireworks in November, the Charity Tractor Run and a further Murder Mystery (to be arranged).</p> <p>9.3) To update on correspondence regarding allotments and any actions The allotment request, and enquiries made, had not brought forward any information on viable land to be used via any potential parish council involvement. The prospective allotment holder would be advised to contact any landowner direct. Cllr Lisle to communicate back to the resident.</p>	<p>JL</p>	<p>After Meeting</p>
<p>10.0</p>	<p><u>Welsh Water – local flooding and pipe work – update/actions as applicable</u></p> <p>The flooding and water issues in the village were still ongoing. The Ward Cllr detailed the situation during his report update. The source of the water and damaged tarmac would need to be resolved and the Ward Cllr would be pushing for a resolution timeframe.</p>	<p>Ward Cllr</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>11.0</p>	<p><u>Matters for the Agenda of the next Meeting</u> All the usual items. Co-option of councillor and review of possible asset transfer documents for the play area.</p>		

<p>12.0</p>	<p><u>Confirmation of date of next Parish Council Meetings</u> The next Parish Council Meetings, the Annual Parish and the Annual Statutory, would be held, consecutively, on Tuesday 12th May 2026 from 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p>		
	<p><i>The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm</i></p> <p>Signed:Chair</p> <p>Date.....</p> <p>Website link: https://www.littledewchurch.org.uk/</p>		