

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 October 2025 from 7.30 pm
No. LDPC/AW/110**

Present:

Cllr. Phil Williams (CPW) - Chair
Cllr. Florin Tatoi (FT)
Cllr. Jane Lisle (JL)
Cllr. Jo Hawthorne (JH)
Cllr. Tom Price (TP)

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright (AW) and two members of the public

<u>Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Allocated To</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>
	<u>Public Question Time.</u> There were two members of the public present. There was a discussion about the playing field tree re-planting plans. Some hazel, holly, field maple and field oak specimens were already in situ as saplings. It was planned to leave the area to settle, after the poplar tree felling, for a period of two to three years and to see what would come to the fore now that the large trees had been felled from above. It would be important to monitor the poplar stumps and try to hold back any re-growth. A resident advised that they were keeping an eye on the saplings where they were. It was agreed that the councillors would look at the possibilities for a wild flower area and wildlife corridor. There were some grants available and Cllr Hawthorne would look at this with Cllrs Price and Williams. There may be the possibility of extra items such as hedgehog boxes etc. The Public Question Time closed at 7.45 pm.	TP JH PW	In Grant timeline
1.0	<u>Welcome to the meeting</u> Cllr Phil Williams, in the Chair, welcomed the councillors to the October Meeting of Little Dewchurch Parish Council.		
2.0	<u>Apologies for absence</u> There were apologies for absence received from Cllr. Roger da Cunha (RDC) and Cllr. Lisa White (LW) both due to work commitments. The Ward Cllr David Davies (DD) had also sent his apologies to due another appointment.		

3.0	<u>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations</u> There were no declarations of interest recorded this time.		
4.0	<u>To receive, adopt and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th September 2025</u> The minutes of the meeting were accepted a true and correct record the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th September 2025.		
5.0	<u>To receive reports from</u> <u>5.1)Ward Councillor</u> The Ward Councillor had sent his written report. The Ward Cllr had sent his apologies for the meeting. <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 <u>West Mercia Police and and correspondence re churchyard clear up</u> Newsletters and information circulated when received. There had been an exchange of e mails following the partial churchyard clearance initiative at Little Dewchurch Church. It appeared to have been difficult to obtain responses from the Rev Mark about the clearance day. Some works had been achieved. A message had been received from PC Martin Gillett and the Clerk would send an apology to him for the apparent confusion, about the clearance time and date, and a note of appreciation for the offer of help from the police team. It was hoped that the churchyard would be subject to a regular upkeep routine, going forward and also that further working parties could be arranged in the future. These would need to be co-ordinated by the Rev Mark via a Church Management route. The Rev Mark would be copied into the e mail to PC Martin Gillett.	Clerk	ASAP

6.0	<u>Finance and policies</u> <u>6.1) Confirmation of bank balances</u> The current account balance stood at £9108.15 Actual balance with all outstanding payments made was £725.02 plus the September Precept Tranche and grant reimbursement for the Lengthsman. <u>6.2) To agree Invoices for payment (list of proposed payments to be provided)</u> To resolve to accept payments as per listing: Mrs A Wright (salary paid in accordance with contract for October) HM Revenue & Customs (Tax due on salary) £125.40 Employers National Insurance due £63.04 Mr R Simpkins (grass cutting) £330.00 The payments were resolved to be paid unanimously. Grant reimbursement had been received for Lengthsman works in the sum of £1352.00. Precept second tranche due in bank late September £8212.00. <u>6.3) To discuss and determine action on the Precept request for 2026 - 2027</u> It was agreed that this topic would be placed on the agenda for the November Meeting to enable all parties to consider and discuss. <u>6.4) To discuss and approve purchase of the village Christmas tree</u> Options for the tree were discussed. It was agreed that a 16 to 17 foot tall tree would be desirable and a cut tree of this proportion could be obtained from a grower in Ledbury for between £50.00 and £70.00. The tree would need to be collected as a cut specimen. Cllr Lisle would look at the available specimens and arrange for the invoice to be presented at the November Parish Council Meeting for payment. Collection of the tree would also be arranged with a suitable mode of transport.	Cllr Lisle	Nov PC Meeting
-----	---	------------	----------------

7.0	7.1) Play Area - update and actions Cllr Lisle advised that the replacement bench had had the ends painted and that the boards and bolts were ready for the bench to be assembled. Anchoring the bench to the ground to prevent it from being moved would need to be evaluated and undertaken when fitting the bench in the new position. The appropriate concrete fixative would need to be obtained and the parish council would reimburse the cost of the fixing materials. The refurbishment costs for the bench had been met by an anonymous benefactor. There was a discussion about whether signage was required for the playing field. Warning about equipment usage? Wildlife corridor? Some research into this would take place with a view to establishing if any signage was to be placed at the play area. 7.2) Roads and Footpaths The defects as identified had been reported. There was a discussion about the level of dissatisfaction with the quality of repairs, length of time to respond, no answers to e mails. It was agreed that two letters would be sent: 1) Reply to Ed Bradford and copied to the same list of officers etc. as Cllr Tom Price's original letter expressing the total dissatisfaction about the state of the named parish roads and risk to health and safety etc. Pot holes were not being filled properly. E mails were not being answered and short and non-informative responses were being sent to complainants. 2) Letter to Bruce Evans, Scott Tompkins etc. about the ongoing expectations around the deliverables of the 106 Highway Safety measures of the parish. The parish was still waiting for measures from eight years previously. Both these draft letters would be circulated to the parish council for their input and approval before sending. There was a report of pigs escaping into a field where a footpath crossed. This would be checked out on a footpath walk. 7.3) Lengthsman – activities and funding The Lengthsman activities were to be as instructed. Regular bin emptying was taking place. Grant claims had been submitted and repaid.	Cllr Tatoi ALL Clerk Clerk	ASAP Next Meeting ASAP ASAP
-----	--	--	---

8.0	<u>Planning Matters and Neighbourhood Development Plan</u> 8.1) To consider response to Planning Applications, as notified, and then determined by Herefordshire Council There were no further applications for consideration of comments at the October Meeting. No further information, at the present time, in regard to the Neighbourhood Development Plan		
9.0	Information Sheet/Correspondence 9.1) To note contents and correspondence Herefordshire Council: Talk Community bulletins The Village Face book page had contained reports of possible poaching activity and local property thefts. Three men in an X Trail Vehicle had been seen looking around buildings and a badger that had, allegedly, been shot had been observed at one location. These matters had been reported to PC James Cook of the West Mercia Police. It was urged that all incidents of concern should be reported to the police. It was appearing that two separate gangs were operational around the area. There was a discussion about “Faraday Pouches” which can help protect against the theft of data, using RFID, from cards etc. Future Meeting dates for 2025 November 11th and no meeting in December. 9.2) To receive any updates from the Little Dewchurch Social Committee re events etc. The Murder Mystery Evening was going ahead on 18th October. Tickets were sold out and were £10 per head with supper included. The Firework Display would take place on the 8th November and, as in previous years, there would not be a bonfire. Another Tractor Run would be forthcoming on 6th December and there would be mulled wine and mince pies served, with people congregating on the Village Green.		
10.0	<u>Update/action re tree removal at the playing field</u> This topic was discussed and updated at the Open Session. Please see the notes of this section of the meeting for further details.		

11.0	<u>Matters for the Agenda of the next Meeting</u> The usual items would be included, plus: Update on any outcomes from highways and 106 letters Consideration of the Precept Request for 2026 – 2027 Christmas Tree for the Village 2025 (purchase invoice) Crime update Look at defibrillator battery and pads requirements.		
12.0	<u>Confirmation of date of next Parish Council Meetings</u> The next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday 11th November 2025 from 7.30pm in the Village Hall.		
	<i>The Meeting closed at 9.03 pm</i> Signed:Chair Date..... Website link: https://www.littledewchurch.org.uk/		