

LITTLE DEWCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Little Dewchurch Parish Council, held at the
Little Dewchurch Village Hall, on Tuesday 9th September 2025 from 7.30 pm
No. LDPC/AW/109**

Present:

Cllr. Phil Williams (CPW) - Chair
Cllr. Florin Tatoi (FT)
Cllr. Jane Lisle (JL)
Cllr. Jo Hawthorne (JH)
Cllr. Roger da Cunha (RDC)
Cllr. Tom Price (TP)
Cllr. Lisa White (LW)

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright (AW) and Ward Cllr. David Davies (DD) plus two members of the public

<u>Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Allocated To</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>
	<p><u>Public Question Time.</u></p> <p>There were two members of the public present. There was a discussion about the playing field tree felling. The trees had been reduced. There were some “massive stumps”. Some throwing around of brash and pieces of timber had been thrown about. There was a suggestion that warning signs may be required to advise people not to disrupt the brash rolls. A notice would be placed on Face book to ask people not to climb on the brash or to disturb the cut pieces. The situation would be monitored.</p> <p>A water leak was still proving to be an issue in the village. The situation had been reported and it was commented that the pipe required replacement because there were regular leaks being experienced.</p> <p>The Public Question Time closed at 7.50 pm.</p>		
1.0	<p><u>Welcome to the meeting</u></p> <p>Cllr Phil Williams, in the Chair, welcomed the councillors to the September Meeting of Little Dewchurch Parish Council.</p>		
2.0	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence received.</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 8th July 2025</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were accepted a true and correct record the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th July 2025.</p>		
5.0	<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. The Ward Cllr had been involved in correspondence about the junction near the school, road closures due to the new development and construction works and concerns about the footpath. Access was awaited at the rear of the development site. Residents were waiting for this to be resolved.</p> <p>The expected road markings for highways safety around the school and junction had still not been carried out. There had been e mails sent from Bruce Evans, Barry Durkin and Scott Tompkins and the review and re-scoping of the resurfacing requirements had led to further delays in the safety markings being put into place.</p> <p>Connections to the new development needed to be completed before any resurfacing works could take place, to avoid disruption of the new surfacing.</p> <p>Surface dressing was scheduled for 2026 – 2027 meaning a further delay in marking. The Ward Cllr said that the marking would be going down, hopefully by end of October 2025, “even if they had to be sacrificial”.</p> <p>Questions were asked about the roundels, lines and signage? It was commented that the current bollard puts people “out into the path of speeding vehicles.”</p> <p>The development road closure had seen no public consultation take place? Questions were being asked. Had this been an administrative error? The parish council was raising the issue and the Ward Cllr also. The school and junction lines “needed to be done.” Church Lane also required lines to be renewed. This again was looking like being scheduled for 2026 to 2027.</p> <p>Criteria for potholes did not appear to be receiving repairs in line with expectation leading to terrible road surfacing issues for residents to negotiate. A councillor had sent in a comprehensive complaint about the road conditions.</p> <p>Full investment on the 106 expectations was required. This would be followed up at the November Parish Council Meeting.</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 Golden Valley Bulletins</u> Newsletters and information circulated when received.</p> <p>There had been an update on the tools for tacking the overgrown churchyard. One strimmer was in working order. The parish council recorded a thank you to Cllr tom Price for undertaking brush cutting and topping of the overgrowth in the churchyard which had resulted in the area being opened up so that it could be seen more clearly as to what needed to be cleared.</p> <p>The parish council did not know what was happening with the Rev Mark in terms of the clearance project action on the 13th September?</p> <p>The team were awaiting further details of the plan for the furtherance of the clearing up operation for the churchyard.</p>		
7.0	<p>7.1) Play Area - update and damage to equipment</p> <p>Cllr Tatoi advised that the play equipment that had been photographed had some minor erosion to the surface. It was “worn but was satisfactory.” It was noted that a contingency fund should be set up to finance replacements and the ongoing maintenance of the play equipment. The willow arch in the play area required putting back into shape as it was overgrown and needed adjustment. New replacement bench ends had been donated by Cllr da Cunha. The bench now needed new slat boarding and bolts. It was agreed that the parish council would reimburse Cllr Lisle for the cost of these materials to refurbish the bench.</p> <p>There had been some enquiries on the Face Book page concerning fruit from the trees planted around the village. This was “community fruit to be enjoyed.”</p>		

	<p>7.2) Roads and Footpaths The defects identified had been reported. The Chair had walked the footpaths and there was one path to be cleared (non essential). The identified defects would be going onto the Public Rights of Way form. Stiles would be fitted as required.</p> <p>7.3) Lengthsman – activities and funding The Lengthsman activities were ongoing.</p> <p>Regular bin emptying was taking place.</p> <p>Grant claims had been submitted.</p>		
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</p> <p>There was one application for consideration of comments:</p> <p>Application Number and Site Address: Planning Consultation - 252491 - The Glebe, Little Dewchurch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 6PN</p> <p>Application Type: Works to trees covered by TPO</p> <p>Description: 1: Corsican pine (Pinus nigra var. maritima) and 2: Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris). Proposed work is to fell both trees due to unbalanced crowns causing significant weight that could cause damage to surrounding area or people. Both will be felled to ground level and will replant with more suitable species - handkerchief tree and standard russet apple tree respectively. Replacement trees will be rootballed or pot grown, 1.0-1.5m high, and will be pit planted and adequately maintained to ensure successful establishment.</p> <p>The Parish Council discussed the application and resolved that they were in support of the works, covered by the consultation, in regard to trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders.</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>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 had been held. There had been a “very small amount of revenue raised for a lot of effort.”</p> <p>The Murder Mystery Evening was going ahead on 18th October. Tickets were selling well and were £10 per head with supper included.</p> <p>The Firework Display would take place on the 1st November and, as in previous years, there would not be a bonfire.</p> <p>Another Tractor Run would be forthcoming.</p>		
10.0	<p><u>Update/action re tree removal at the playing field – Summer 2025</u></p> <p>The trees had been felled and the access point restored. “Thank you” letters would be sent to the landowners who had facilitated the access and to the contractors who had carried out the works.</p> <p>In regard to replanting the site, there were a number of saplings already in situ. There was no immediate requirement to replant and it was agreed that the site needed to be left for 2 to 3 years to see what was there, and what would come through now that the trees had been removed. There was a discussion about the possible treatment of the stumps to inhibit re-growth of the Poplar shoots and the situation would be monitored as these were under the brash rolls. To be checked each year.</p>	Clerk	ASAP
11.0	<p><u>Matters for the Agenda of the next Meeting</u></p> <p>The usual items would be included, plus:</p> <p>Update on any outcomes and planting from the tree felling project.</p> <p>Consideration of the Precept Request for 2026 – 2027</p> <p>Christmas Tree for the Village 2025 (source and purchase)</p>		

	<p>Cllr White advised that she was looking at the reseeding of the bank that had been excavated at the entrance to the village near to the new development. She had bulbs and poppy seeds to help repopulate the flora.</p>	Cllr White	Planting Time
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 7th October 2025 from 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p>		
13.0	<p>Due to the confidential nature of the business of these agenda items, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of the following agenda item (13 only)</p> <p><u>To discuss implementation of 1/04/25 pay award (back dated) and increment from 1/04/25 in line with NIC correspondence</u></p> <p>The Parish Council resolved that the pay award and increment to the Clerk's pay scale point should be implemented from the 1/04/25 and the arrears be back dated.</p>		
	<p><i>The Meeting closed at 9.20 pm</i></p> <p>Signed:Chair</p> <p>Date.....</p> <p>Website link: https://www.littledewchurch.org.uk/</p>		