

Didmarton Parish Council

Didmarton Parish Council Meeting

7.30pm on Tuesday 5th November 2024 at Didmarton Village Hall.

Meeting commenced at 7.40pm

Present: Councillors, H. White (Chairman), J. Hammond, S. Hardy, Clerk Mr. S. Hale

MINUTES

- 24.71 No members of the public were present
- 24.72 Apologies received from Cllrs. H. Turner, S. Hewlett, A. Darbyshire. County Cllr, T. Slater. Absent - Cllr. Rogers.
- 24.73 No declarations of interests were made.
- 24.74 Council resolved to approve the minutes from 3rd September 2024
- 24.75 No report from County Councillor Hirst.
- 24.76 October's report was received from District Councillor Slater.

Finance

- 24.77 Council noted that Cllr. Hewlett has been added as a Lloyds payment authoriser.
- 24.78 Council noted that Lloyds plan to convert our Treasurers Account into a Community Account as from January 2025, and resolved to remain with Lloyds at this time. Clerk has delegated authority to pay any necessary bank charges.
- 24.79 From matters arising at the last meeting, the clerk wrote to DVHCC to inform them that the parish council expects other grant application opportunities to be exploited before reverting to applying for grants from the parish council. A number of grant application opportunities were passed at the same time.
- 24.80 Councillors considered and resolved to approve a 2025/26 grant application from the PCC for £750 for grass cutting.
- 24.81 Council considered the village grass cutting and maintenance contract for 2025 / 2026. Clerk to circulate current contract to members and carry over this agenda item to the next meeting. Clerk to ask contractor about Chapel Walk weed control, and cleaning the village gateway signs
- 24.82 Council resolved to approve the 2024 / 2025 pay award.
- 24.83 Council resolved to approve 50% pro-rata payment of £91.50 towards £183.00 annual Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) subscription for the clerk.
- 24.84 Council considered options and resolved to appoint Mrs. Irena Litton as the internal auditor for the current financial year. Mrs. Litton is competent and independent of the council. She holds a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA), and Principles of Internal Auditing Local Councils (PIALC). Her fixed fee of £200 was approved for payment.
- 24.85 Council noted a successful insurance claim for theft of benches and after the £250 excess was deducted, a payment of £675.00 has been received.
- 24.86 Council resolved to authorise a reimbursement of an erroneous payment of £421.00 by Zurich Insurance if and when requested to do so by Zurich. The clerk has notified Zurich of the erroneous payment.

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24.87 Council noted the bank reconciliation and internal controls completed by the Clerk and Cllr. Darbyshire. Prior to the meeting, all councillors had opportunity to view the online finance folder.

	Date of Reconciliation	30th October 2024	
01/04/2024	OPENING BALANCE		£20,192.91
	INCOME TO DATE		£14,435.77
	LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURE TO DATE		£12,805.01
30/10/2024	FUND BALANCE		£21,823.67
	REPRESENTED BY:		
	LLOYDS TREASURERS ACCOUNT		£9,725.58
	LLOYDS SAVINGS ACCOUNT		£12,098.09
	LLOYDS ACCOUNTS BALANCE		£21,823.67

24.88 Councillors ratified the following payments and noted receipts.

Date	Receipts	Amount
09/08/2024	Gross interest	£11.93
09/09/2024	Gross interest	£10.26
19/09/2024	Second precept instalment	£3,208.00
09/10/2024	Gross interest	£9.94
10/10/2024	Zurich insurance payment for bench thefts	£675.00
	Eroneous Zurich Payment - to be reimbursed	£421.00

Date	Payments	Net	VAT	Gross
02/09/2024	Hathaway Groundcare - inv 563	£116.25	£23.25	£139.50
	Keith Harrison salt bins relocations	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
20/09/2024	2 benches - Hailey Wood Saw Mill	£684.00	£0.00	£684.00
01/10/2024	Hathaway Groundcare - inv 589	£116.25	£23.25	£139.50
	PATA Payroll	£16.85	£0.00	£16.85
	Clerk's pay for Q2			
	Amazon - Noticeboard backing boards	£11.07	£2.22	£13.29
07/10/2024	HMRC PAYE Q2			

24.89 As only 3 members were present at the meeting, council resolved to carry over the mid-year expenditure review to the next meeting.

24.90 As only 3 members were present at the meeting, council resolved to carry over the considering the proposed budget for 2025 / 2026 to the next meeting.

24.91 As only 3 members were present at the meeting, council resolved to carry over the precept deliberations for financial year 2025 / 2026 to the next meeting.



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Planning Matters – Council considered all applications as listed below.

- 24.92 Reference 24/03189/TCONR
Application Validated Wed 23 Oct 2024
Didmarton House 39 The Street Didmarton Badminton GL9 1DT
T1 & T2 - Silver Birch trees that have grown too big and are pushing over a very large stone wall, to be felled
Status Awaiting decision
- 24.93 Reference 24/02582/TCONR
Application Validated Tue 03 Sep 2024
Fox Cottage 37 The Street Didmarton Badminton Gloucestershire GL9 1DT
Sycamore (T1) To be reduced by roughly 3m height and 2m lateral to allow the oak tree situated behind to be less suppressed.
Oak (T2) To be inner crown thinned by 20% to remove and rubbing decayed branches
Status – Decided, no objection
- 24.94 Reference 24/02494/LBC
Application Validated Tue 10 Sep 2024
Kingsmead House The Street Didmarton Badminton Gloucestershire GL9 1DT
Change of use of ancillary games room to staff accommodation
Status - Awaiting decision
- 24.95 Reference 24/02493/FUL
Application Validated Tue 10 Sep 2024
Kingsmead House The Street Didmarton Badminton Gloucestershire GL9 1DT
Change of use of ancillary games room to staff accommodation
Status - Awaiting decision
- 24.96 Reference 24/02200/TCONR
Application Validated Mon 29 Jul 2024
Tithe Barn. The Street, Didmarton. GL9 1DT
T1 - Six tall stems of Western Red Cedar to be reduced in height by half to allow more light into planting area
T2 - a group of three Leyland Cypress to be removed to ground level to allow other more specimen trees beside to flourish
T3 - Oak tree to be removed to ground level to allow Beech tree beside to flourish
T4 - Larch tree that is engulfed in Ivy and leaning to be felled at ground level
T5 - Large Oak tree to be crown lifted by approx. two meters all round
Status – Decided, no objection
- 24.97 Reference 24/02249/FUL
Application Validated Tue 13 Aug 2024
West End House. The Street. Didmarton. GL9 1DT
Erection of one self-build dwelling and garage along with the reconfiguration of an existing access, associated car parking, landscaping, and drainage

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Status - Decision, application permitted

24.98 Reference 24/02188/LBC
Application Validated Mon 12 Aug 2024
Fox Cottage, 37 The Street, Didmarton, GL9 1DT
External and internal renovation works: includes alterations to internal layout, installation of windows, rooflights, doors, wood burners and entrance gate, erection of pergola

Status - Decision, application permitted

Assets

24.99 Joyce's Pool – update. Awaiting action from Highways and Badminton Estate. However, the council is a clear position as to what assets it has responsibility for. Clerk to progress.

24.100 Benches – new benches have been concreted into the ground at Joyces Pool and are engraved across the top back support with DIDMARTON PARISH COUNCIL.

24.101 Defibrillator – Update. The PC defibrillator is faulty and has been sent for warranty repair. The clerk has secured a load defibrillator in its place. Council resolved to approve relocating the cabinet to inside the bus shelter to protect it from inclement weather. A budget of £400 was approved and the clerk was given delegated authority to arrange for the relocation of the cabinet.

24.102 Results of Asset Checks.

- Joyces Pool plaque, benches & plinths; bus shelter; noticeboard; defibrillator and cabinet; salt bins; bus-stop sign and milestone have all been checked by the clerk. All are in order with the exception of the defibrillator and cabinet.
- Dog poo bins, Creephole gate, war memorial – Cllr Turner notified the clerk on 1st November that all these assets are in order.
- Planters – Cllr. White. confirmed they are in order although an unknown person has been moving them. Council resolved to consider planting options at a later date.

Highways

24.103 Council considered parking concerns in the lay-by adjacent to the planters. Council accepted that it was not a matter for which the council has authority to act. Cllr. White will contact the complainant with advice to contact CDC if double yellow lines are being contravened or the police if their driveway is obstructed or the parked vehicle is left in a dangerous position.

Training

24.104 Council noted that the clerk is 2/3 of the way through the CiLCA qualification.

Other Matters

24.105 Two crimes were mentioned at the last meeting. The clerk has researched the crime map and thankfully, crime remains extremely low in the parish. An average of between one and two per month. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are poorly represented in the village; however, it is a matter for each road / easily defined neighbourhood area

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to identify a need, and set up a scheme local to that area. Crime prevention advice has been circulated as a NEWS item from the PC website.

Matters Arising – no spending decisions can be made.

24.106 War memorial – A new wooden plaque, from an unknown source, has appeared at the site with the details of the fallen. Names on the actual memorial have badly weathered. Council agreed there is a firm moral obligation that the memorial should be fit for purpose. Clerk to undertake some initial research on options, and add as an agenda item for consideration at the next meeting.

24.107 **Date of next meeting** - Tuesday 7th January 2025

Meeting concluded 8.35pm

