

Minutes of Dingley Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2026

in the Village Hall, Dingley at 7.00 pm.

Members of the Parish Council Present	Cllr S Dudson (Acting Chair) Cllr R Read Cllr R Winship
Others in Attendance	Mrs Justina Medwell (Clerk)

		Action
1582	<p>Election of Chair</p> <p>The position of Chair was open to all Councillors. There were no nominations. As a result, this position remains unfilled.</p>	
1583	<p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>The position of Vice Chair was open to all Councillors. Cllr Read nominated Cllr Dudson and was seconded by Cllr Winship. Cllr Dudson agreed to become Vice Chair and duly completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk. Cllr Dudson will continue as Acting Chair until a Chair is appointed.</p>	
1584	<p>To receive and approve apologies</p> <p>Cllr E Lomer-Wood NNC Cllrs D Howes and H Howes</p>	
1585	<p>Member's declaration of interest in items on the agenda or any changes to the Members' Register of Interest.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest in items on this agenda. There were no changes to the Members' Register of Interest.</p>	
1586	<p>To approve and sign the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th March 2026 were agreed as a true record of these meetings and were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Dudson Seconded Cllr Winship</p>	
1587	<p>Matters Arising from the last Parish Council meeting:</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
1588	<p>Open Forum and Representations from members of the public – Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council:</p> <p>There was nothing raised at this point.</p> <p>(Meeting closed to the public)</p>	
1589	<p>Planning:</p> <p>There were no planning applications to consider.</p> <p>It was noted that application 25/00912/HFUL - 8 Church Lane, Rear and Upper Floor Extension - had been withdrawn.</p>	

		Action
1590	<p>(i) Safety Review of Parish Assets:</p> <p>The Council reviewed its assets. It was noted that the noticeboard needed some attention. Cllr Dudson will ask Bruce Barnaby, who had originally supplied the noticeboard, if he would be able to re-purpose this and re-site in the bus shelter on Church Lane.</p>	SD
	<p>(ii) NNC Councillor Report:</p> <p>There was nothing to report on this item.</p>	
	<p>(iii) Friends of Dingley Park (FODP):</p> <p>Cllr Dudson advised that he had been contacted by the land agent advising of incidents of unauthorised access into Dingley Park. Residents and FODP members were urged by the Council not to use or enter the park at present in order not to jeopardise future access once the BNG scheme ends in two years.</p>	
	<p>(iv) Church Lane Conservation Designation:</p> <p>A discussion took place on the possibility of looking into a conservation designation for Dingley, particularly Church Lane and The Hall. To pursue this, the Council would need to review the historical and architectural significance of the area and assess the potential benefits and implications of Conservation Area designation, including planning controls and preservation of character. It would also need to consider any initial feedback from residents and stakeholder and commission a formal appraisal or consultation process.</p> <p>After consideration, the Parish Council resolved to undertake a preliminary assessment of Dingley with a view to possible inclusion within the Conservation Area, and to report its findings at the next meeting.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Winship Seconded Cllr Read All in favour</p>	
	<p>(v) Littering:</p> <p>The first stretch of the A427 from the Harborough roundabout up to the village was identified as a littering hotspot. The Council discussed sourcing some thought provoking signage to deter this, perhaps with a sticker on the bin in the lay-by. The Clerk undertook to source this.</p>	JM
1591	<p>Parish Highways and Rights of Way: Highways Update</p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p> <p>Proposed Cycleway (Top Section):</p> <p>The Council noted that Cllr Jones had met with the landowner in early March. No update from this meeting has been received to date.</p> <p>Cllr Dudson is awaiting the solicitor's details from Lucy Hawes so that the required legal paperwork for leasing the land can be progressed when necessary.</p> <p>A virtual "fund finder" (AI tool) is available to identify any available or relevant funding.</p>	
	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>(i) Approval of Certificate of Exemption 2025/26</p> <p>The Council noted that as its gross income or expenditure exceeded £25,000 in the year ending 31st March 2025 it could not certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.</p>	

		Action
	<p><i>On 26th April, the PCC held a meeting in the Village Hall to discuss the future of the church. One idea raised was to make greater use of the church for larger or more popular village events that the hall cannot comfortably accommodate.</i></p> <p><i>As regards the Planning Application for the derelict paddock on Braybrooke Road, comments from the planning officer have not been favourable, but a detailed and well-argued response from a concerned resident has been extremely welcome and has been shared with the developer. I would like to record our thanks to David Howes, whose support and guidance have been invaluable, and to the Council for your continued backing. This application remains a source of worry for neighbouring residents, who are keen to see a timely and conclusive outcome.</i></p>	
1595	<p>Correspondence: There was no further correspondence to discuss.</p>	
1596	<p>New items for inclusion on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting: Conservation Area Designation</p>	
1597	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 1st July 2026</p> <p>The Meeting Closed at 8.04 pm.</p>	

Signed (Chair)

Dated