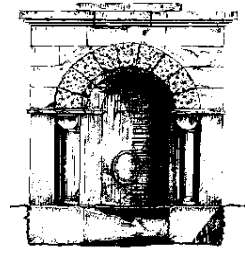


Dowdeswell Parish Council



**The Full Meeting of Dowdeswell Parish Council held on the 21st April
2026 at 18.30 at Dowdeswell Village Hall**

Present:

K. Graves – Chairman - Parish Council

C. Smyth - Councillor

P. Evans – Councillor

N. Jones – Councillor

Sue Green (Clerk)

Parishioners present: 1 member of the public.

Apologies for absence –

P. Banyard – Councillor

P. Hodgkinson - County Councillor

J. Theyer – District Councillor

Declaration of interest on items on the agenda – None

1. Minutes from the last full meetings

Cllr Graves signed the minutes dated 20th January 2026.

2. Matters Arising from the minutes –

Kilkeney Pub - Action 1 28/11/2025 Cllr Graves will draft some information for the village website. Note: planning appeal by Redhouse Taverns has superseded this action. (this was discussed further under planning) **Closed**

Action 3 28/11/2025 for Cllr Graves to scan in the leaflet (Cotswold together newsletter) from CDC and post it in the village What's app group. **Outstanding**

Action 2 – 20/01/2026 Cllr Graves - To speak to the Police and review monthly crime statistics. This was actioned through a special meeting that was held. **Closed**

Action 3 - 20/01/2026 Cllr Graves to speak to Head of Security at Lower Dowdeswell Court. This meeting has taken place the village are now in a better place with regards to communications with the security at Lower Dowdeswell Court. **Closed**

Signed by

Date

3. County Councillor update – on County Council issues

Cllr Hodgkinson sent an e-mail update, which the clerk read out. She sent him an e-mail with the next date of the Parish Council meeting for his information.

Local Govt Reorganisation

We await the decision of the Government (due June) on which of the options for a unitary council it is going to choose for Gloucestershire. The timetable is still for elections to the unitary council next year and for CDC and GCC to be abolished from April 2028.

Speed Limit reductions

The new administration at Shire Hall (GCC) voted through a budget allocating an extra £2m to cutting speed limits where communities want that. You are at the front of the queue as the cut to 20mph was already in train. You should have received an email outlining where the speed limits will start/end and where signage is proposed. Please do respond to that and copy me in.

An extra £15m was allocated to roads in the recent GCC budget, reflecting the need to tackle the curse of potholes.

4. Parish planning and related matters

The Kilkeney Inn – Planning was not approved for 3 dwellings. However, a Planning appeal has been lodged and overtaken the planning application. This was discussed and it was agreed that although the original comments made will be passed onto the appeal process it would be good to repeat the Parish Council's concerns, adding to them the behaviour of the brewery to advertise the property discreetly on one estate agents website, and that there is no for sale sign visible at the pub.

Action 1 21/04/2026 Cllr Graves will put something on the website to ask villagers to submit their comments. Closed after the 15th May 2026. Cllr Graves will draft some words from the Parish Council to add to their comments and send them onto the appeal.

20 mile an hour - Dowdeswell

An e-mail has been received from Anne Johns Highways regarding the proposed speed limit changes in Dowdeswell this was discussed at length. There was consensus that more of the roads within Dowdeswell should be included and making all of the roads 20 miles per hour.

Action 2 21/04/2026 e-mail received from Gloucestershire County Council Highways - for Cllr Graves to respond to the e-mail with the following comments, the Parish Council are very supportive of the proposal, but concerns have been raised about the short stretch of road the proposal will include. Signs and repeaters were raised as the village do not want unnecessary signage. The stretch of land not included is too narrow and should be extended due to the amount of horse traffic using the narrow roads and also since there have been road closures vehicles have found it a short cut into Cheltenham and increased traffic using the narrow roads.

Nothing else on the planning website to update on.

5. Dowdeswell Website – updates

The Clerk requested that recent documents (minutes and AGAR information) is updated onto the website before the Parish Council are Audited. This was agreed.

6. Finance, Current Position and cheque signing.

The Parish Council had agreed the Clerks hours at previous meetings but due to personal issues the payroll provider tax elements had been estimated. It was agreed at the last meeting that the last two payrolls will be process at once, bringing them up to date by year end.

This was generated but also included a payment of employers NIC of £26.75. Payslips have been generated until the end of January 2026 and the P30 has been sent to HMRC. Cheques have been produced and balanced year to date. The hours owed for February and March will need a separate payslip and will be submitted into the 26/27 financial year. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

The Andoversford burial ground invoice has not been received this was discussed. The clerk will ask the Clerk for Andoversford if they can raise an invoice for the outstanding donation and would they like to have a meeting to discuss this further.

Action 3 21/04/2026 If no response is received from Andoversford, Cllr Graves will contact the Chair of Andoversford Parish Council.

Action 4 21/04/2026 for the Clerk to find the documents relating to the original agreement for the burial ground so that he can read its contents.

7. Security incidents / Policing / Emergency Response – a placeholder for any matters arising.

Cllr Graves updated on a recent village meeting held with the Police, this was following concerns raised early last year through informal, word of mouth reports of increased burglaries and rural crime. As some Councillors could not make the meeting Cllr Graves gave an update. He said that around 30 villages attended the meeting.

PC Tylor and PCSO John attended the meeting and offered free Home Security reviews.

Dowdeswell Court provided the refreshments, and Cllr Graves would like to pass on his thanks for them. The Lower Dowdeswell Court security team have joined the village what's-app group and they have communicated their heightened security measures, since then Cllr Graves has spoken frequently with them and they are all now in a better place in terms of communication. Some residents voiced concerns about some of the security vehicles driving on verges and the noise from their drones. The Parish Council will continue to monitor villagers' concerns.

8. Dates for next meeting

June 2026 – 18.30

4th August 2026 – 18.30

The meeting closed at 19.45

Signed by

Date