

DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON Tuesday 20th May 2025

7.00pm

TITHE BARN, DUNSTER

Attendees

Councillors: G Dibble (Chair), C Oliver, S Harris and P Finney

Clerk: Sarah Towells

Other: Pat Curling, Andy Fay, Ian Atkins, Susie Buck, Barbara Hoffbauer and Ruth Webber

Apologies

Councillors: C Ell

Other: David Moore, Tim Parish, Sarah Griffiths, Linda Moden (PCSO)

1. Apologies – As listed above

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd April 2024: It was resolved to approve the minutes.

3. Chairman's report: Cllr Dibble gave the following report: Once again it has been a busy year for the Parish Council and I would like to begin my report by thanking all the Councillors who work so hard on our behalf and especially our clerk Sarah who always goes the extra mile and makes sure we follow all the rules and regulations. Much like last year, 2 items have dominated our discussions, traffic and toilets! I am pleased to report that some progress is being made with the toilets, although they still make up a proportionate amount of our expenditure. They are currently being refurbished and by the summer we should have 3 reliable and pleasant unisex units. Initially these will be free to use, with donations requested, but if that doesn't work, we will instal card entry machines. The contractor has done an excellent job on them. Unfortunately, we are not so far forward with our ongoing traffic and parking issues. No matter how often and vociferously we contact Somerset County Highways they seem unwilling or unable to do anything to solve our problems. We will keep trying and to this end can I remind parishioners to keep informing the Police and Highways about any violations, preferably with photographic evidence, so that we can build our case for improvements. Other items which have been on the agenda include repairs to the bridge on the riverside path, letting the whole of the storage unit adjacent to the toilets to Homecoming, setting up a neighbourhood plan working party, commencing work on the new cemetery, investigating ownership and governance of the Memorial Hall especially in view of the exponential increase in insurance costs, installation of bollards to prevent parking on the old A39, clearing the river Aville of weed and debris and erecting a new bus shelter on the westbound A39 at Dunster Steep. Of course, of major concern is the proposed development near the Ellicombe Roundabout. As a council we strongly objected to this on environmental grounds, not to mention that it is totally unnecessary. We were supported in this by The National Park, Minehead Town Council and numerous individuals. Hopefully the County Council will see sense and refuse the application. Financially it was necessary to increase the precept again to cover costs for the new cemetery, toilets and any extra responsibilities which Somerset Council may devolve to us, as well as general inflation. We were able to agree extra grants above our regular contributions to: Dunster Church for repairs to the clock as it is an amenity for the whole village, Dunster Pre School for improvements, the Tithe Barn for urgent repairs and the Packhorse Playing field for maintenance of the equipment. Once again my thanks go to everyone who works hard to keep our village the beautiful place it is whether they be Councillors, members of the various societies and groups that enable the village to function and be a vibrant and caring community or anyone who helps in any way. Can I end by reminding everyone that Parish Council meetings are open to all and we encourage you to attend and air your views and by thanking you for attending this evening.

4. Accounts report: The Clerk gave the following report:

EXPENDITURE for 2024/25 £68,973.10

RECEIPTS for 2024/25 £52,654.11

As of 31st March 2025, the bank balance stands at £45,108.63

5. Police Report: This was sent in by Linda Modena and read out by Cllr Dibble:

Exmoor Police report

Good evening, Recently We have had thefts from Motor vehicles parked up at beauty spots this time is has been concentrated in the Dunkery Beacon area. Although not in your parish it is important to have an understanding of the incidents in the area to protect yourselves and others visiting the area. PCSOs Michelle and Myself have visited local beauty spots to ensure posters were put up stating that there had been break in's in the area and talk to the visitors of these beauty spots offering crime prevention and a leaflet they can put in their windscreen to alert any potential thieves that the person has thought about it and hasn't left anything on display. Over the years we have found a reduction in reports and hope the education has helped. Often unfortunately it appears that this happened to visitors in the area. So, we have also visited local campsites and some hotels and areas where visitors would stay to offer the leaflets at their reception. Please be aware of a scam whereas QR code stickers have been placed over parking charges QR codes to allow motorists to scan and pay at car parks these are scams and recently this has been found locally in the Watchet area. If you are unsure, please phone the number on the parking information or use coins if allowed. We also would like to remind you not to click on links on text messages and emails from suspicious sites some are very convincing such as HMRC and car tax TV licence that sort of thing stating things like you are not covered with your car tax always check with your payment source ie) the bank to see if the payments have gone through. Over Exmoor area in general we have had a few farm thefts whereas trailers and farm equipment have been taken, we are out and about in our community speaking to as many farmers as we can to make sure they are registered under the Farm watch scheme which acts like a Neighbourhood watch but for farms. We have also visited victims of crime and offered extra security advice and crime prevention as well as Selecta DNA kits free to the victims. We also did a trailer marking day of action up at Cutcombe market recently this was in conjunction with the NFU, and the Police rural unit and they managed to fund the marking kits. so along with the Police we managed to secure a lot of trailers with the security marking. In general news we have been busy with this year's Mini police which was completed at St Dubricius school Porlock after successful mini police in the combined Exford Timberscombe and Cutcombe schools Last year, this is a 9-week programme where the mini police get to learn a bit about what we do. This also included a visit to a local Farm in Horner for the children where they got to learn about farm security and how the farm operates in general. In Dunster we had the camper and cars staying overnight in the Dunster steep car park whilst it was there for a period of time as in a few weeks there was a procedure that needed to be followed to get the vehicles to move. We worked with the Somerset Council whose car park it is to offer guidance and support speaking with the occupants. Eventually it did move on from the area. Some reports to us through others suggested people were concerned about the litter and reasons for staying there, We patrolled the area and spoke to the occupants who did seem to keep the outside of the area tidy and no litter could be seen. Whilst we have obviously had the rural thefts we have to remember that we live in a very low crime area , Which can also make people be less concerned for crime prevention, but we do need to remain vigilant keep doors locked and keep items out of display and consider motion lighting outside on poorly lit area such as back garden sheds. If anyone would like any information about Farm/Horse watch and have a farm or small holding and would like to be registered this is free. Please contact one of us on the emails below.

Linda.moden@avonandsomerset.police.uk PCSO 8861

Michelle.haimes@avonandsomerset.police.uk PCSO 8913

James.calloway@avonandsomerset.police.uk Beat manager PC 1200

To report a crime please ring 101 or use the Avon and somerset website to report a crime. We have the monthly newsletter that goes out this shows a little of what we are doing each month please feel free to print off or circulate where you see the need. Please feel free to contact one of us should you need any advice and if we can't offer an answer we can signpost you to the correct person you may be able to help.

6. Somerset Council Report: It was resolved to note there was no report.

7. Dunster WI Report: Pat Curling gave the following report:

The WI at Dunster has again had a very successful and busy year. Our speakers included Minehead Free Plastic, Mary's Meals and Ghostly Happenings in Dunster. The Commonwealth War Graves had to cancel at the last minute as did our florist. We had a treasure hunt in the Village Gardens followed by a cream tea, a visit to Minehead RNLI to see the new facilities in the boathouse and attended the firework display put on

by Peter and Thea Tasker. We also played skittles at The Foresters Arms. In December we enjoyed a festive Bring and Share and for our 105th birthday at the beginning of March we visited Dunster Gin Distillery and Born Appetite, for a talk given by Spencer on making and blending your own gin and followed by tasty Asian nibbles prepared by Mia.

Throughout the year we have continued to weed and maintain our flower bed in the Memorial Gardens. We have had a monthly craft session in the Memorial Hall and at St George's we have dusted and polished, helped at times with refreshments after special services and events including the fund-raising for the Bell Tower. We have taken part in the Flower Festival, decorated the windowsills for the different times of the year, made festive swags to hang from the pews for Christmas and made posies for Mother's Day. Refreshments have been served at the Tithe Barn for the Southwest Coastal Path event, also for the Dunster Horticultural Society at its annual show. We held a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Castle Coffee House, owned by WI member Olivia Shirley, raising just over a thousand pounds. A magnificent result. Our lady bakers have excelled themselves with cakes for various fund-raising events both for the village and locally and deserve huge thanks.

We had a stall at the Dunster Village Society's Xmas Bazaar and donated festive shoe boxes to the YMCA in Minehead for their Christmas Appeal and to the Women's Refuge for Somerset we donated knitted items and toiletries. We have also continued to make oncology cushions, beanie hats for hair loss during cancer treatment and twiddle-muffs for those with dementia; this is an ongoing County project, the items being distributed at local hospitals and care homes. Plus, we have made miniature bobble hats for Innocent Smoothie bottles which have raised funds for Age Concern UK. Dunster ladies have also contributed towards the 35,000 poppies made nationwide by WI members for the 'Standing with Giants' display on show at the Normandy Memorial in France for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Throughout the year we continued our monthly Coffee and Chat meet-ups in different Dunster establishments, which were kindly organised by Judith Finney and which are always enjoyable.

We also took our turn in sending a small team to our County Headquarters in Bridgwater to pack the magazine The County News, which is sent out to every Somerset member on a monthly basis. At our Annual Meeting held in May, voting returned the following Committee Members: Angie Clark, Jackie Meakes, Caroline Moore, Christine Oliver, Wendy Perry, Beryl Priddle, along with Barbara Bryan as Treasurer, Brenda Moore as Secretary and Pat Curling as President. Due to our increasing interest in membership, our members voted unanimously to put a cap on the number of registered members as we didn't want to outgrow our meeting venue or indeed become too big that we lost the closeness and village feel of the group. This has been set at 50 members and we now have a waiting list. We keep those on the waiting list up to date with a monthly e-mail. So another fruitful year comes to an end with much camaraderie and friendship along the way. Long may we continue to be a part of the community of the beautiful village of Dunster.

8. Memorial Hall Report: Barbara Hoffbauer gave the following report:

In many respects 2024 was a very successful year for the Memorial Hall. Visitor numbers to the Museum & Doll Collection were about 30% higher than the previous year, on par with the pre-Covid year of 2019. There was a similar increase in income from sales of bric-a-brac, dolls and books etc and from visitor donations, which are now by far the main sources of income for the Hall. The team of volunteer stewards worked very well together, everyone getting on with the job in hand and helping to overcome problems and setbacks. The upstairs meeting room was well used on a weekly basis by the Knit & Natter group on Mondays and the Spinning & Weaving group on Thursdays, and they provided the paint and much of the labour to give the room a makeover during the winter. The WI, Village Society and Winter Festival committee used the room for meetings on a monthly or ad-hoc basis throughout 2024, and this year the Horticultural Society and the new Dunster Climate Action Group are joining them, though hopefully not at the same time. Behind the scenes, we made good progress with researching the lives of the WW1 servicemen listed on the memorial plaque, and over 60 of their stories are now available in the museum, as well as various other sets of records relating to Dunster house history, school admissions, trade directories and so on. During last winter we started transcribing the cemetery records, and this work will continue through the summer with the aim of being able to identify who is buried where even if there is no headstone. The snooker club is active on the top floor of the building. Membership has increased in the past year and there are now ten active members, plus a few occasional players. Regular club nights are held on Mondays and they field a team in the West Somerset league, this year finishing 8th out of 11 teams. The recent World Snooker Championships revealed that there are about 300,000 snooker clubs in China – that's one for every 5,000 people in the country. Dunster has one for a Parish of just 850 people,

so the team feel very lucky – and are on the lookout for their first world champion! So, all positive stuff, but the last year has not been without some major headaches. Our lift, which was installed as part of the building refurbishment in 2019, has been out of action for most of the last 18 months. Despite several expensive visits from lift engineers, supported by the manufacturers, we seem to be no nearer to tracing the fault, let alone resolving it. Of more pressing concern is the fact that our insurance cost has more than doubled to over £4000, and now amounts to almost half of the basic costs of running the building. So despite 2024 being a very good year income-wise, it's unclear at the moment how we can ensure a financially sustainable future. But there are some hopeful signs. I'm sure I don't need to tell you that visitor numbers in Dunster, and indeed in the district, have not been encouraging so far this season – our museum visitors numbers are over 10% down compared to the same time last year. BUT our income to date is showing a 50% increase, almost entirely due to the Book Sale room that we have set up in the old committee room. We were very fortunate to be given a lot of remaindered book stock when the Chocolate Box closed down in February, and that is producing some very useful extra income at the moment. On a more sustainable level, we think we have sorted out getting the benefit from the Gift Aid scheme again. Our ability to access that fell out during Covid, and it has taken some time to get it up and running again, but that should produce a welcome addition to funds this year and in the future. Discussions that followed the increase in insurance led to a fundamental examination of ownership of and responsibilities for the Memorial Hall (which gave me the opportunity to delve into the archives, and a fascinating journey that was!). For all practical purposes the ownership question has now been resolved, but we are very aware that the governance document for the Hall Trustees must be updated, and we will be working on that this year, in consultation at every stage with the Parish Council. As we all know, this year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2, and although the Memorial Hall was first built to honour those who served in WW1, it also commemorates the WW2 Dunster servicemen. We have put up a small exhibition in the museum entrance hall to briefly tell the stories of the eleven of them who died in service, and we hope you will find time to visit and read about them in the coming weeks.

9. Dunster Tower Report: The following was sent in by David Moore and read out by Cllr Dibble:

This year has seen us welcome our newest ringer, bringing our number up to 6 – we are also receiving great support from our neighbours at Carhampton, Minehead and Old Cleeve for both our Sunday ringing, where we regularly have all 8 bells up, and at our Thursday practice sessions. These continue at 2 per month, with the 4th Thursday as a joint practice with Old Cleeve, and most of us attend weekly practices at Carhampton, as well other sessions arranged by Dunster Branch. These sessions help us all to improve and hone our skills. Hopefully you will notice this when we ring for service on Sunday mornings! Small maintenance tasks continue, along with our regular checks. Our bells are running fairly well but are now in need of some significant investment to maintain them properly, and over the coming months we hope to start a programme of fund raising towards technical works and improvements of the bells. We are grateful to Huw and Wendy Morgan for their efforts in this regard, and to Thea Tasker for her amazing result of over £1000 donation for her walk-up Snowdon, and a generous donation of £1000 from the Luttrell family. During 2024 we hosted 3 visiting bands, rang for 1 wedding and hosted 28 bell practices, as well as ringing for service, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Holy Innocents and New Year. We also enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate Bell Sunday with a special service on May 12th. As there is no service at Dunster for Bell Sunday this year, we are holding a low-key 'Open Tower' to promote the bells and bell ringing, and if we are able to recruit more ringers so much the better! We have been very pleased to receive a good deal of positive feedback for the bells, and we are very grateful for the support we are getting from the village.

10. Exmoor National Park Report: The following report was sent in by Tim Parish and read out by Cllr Dibble:

Public Rights of Way:

On looking at our record of works carried out, almost all jobs in Dunster Parish have been clearing fallen trees. Storm Darragh, which hit Exmoor in December, caused immense damage to the rights of way network. Clearing works still hasn't finished, as there are still a handful of paths with trees down. We do not have the resources to clear every tree in these sort of major events, so do rely on landowners to carry out this work. It is ultimately the landowners legal responsibility to clear fallen trees; its just in normal times we are able to offer more than our statutory duties as we recognise the importance of rights of way within the National Park. Most landowners have been extremely quick to help; some have taken a little longer than we would hope. These sort of events are going to become more common with climate change.

All this means we do have quite a large backlog of more normal works (new gates and signs), and we will be starting on paring vegetation from the path network which will take up the majority of our resources for the next two months. As ever, we continue to do our best to maintain an excellent rights of way network for all to enjoy.

11. Marsh Playing Field: The following report was given by Ruth Webber:

We applied to the Tesco Stronger Starts program for money towards replacing the fence next to the river and getting the safety surfacing around the equipment professionally cleaned to remove the moss etc. Our application was accepted and you can vote for us with the blue tokens in store now until the 30th June. Please vote for us. We had some storm damage to some trees in the field which the committee cleared and some trees by the river were blown over which the Parish Council arranged to be chopped up. The committee have kept the grass cut, cut back hedges, mended broken benches, picked up rubbish and we continue to make sure the field and equipment is safe for all to use. Unfortunately the committee have been unable to do any fundraising partly due to the lack of help from the community even though the field is well used especially now the weather is good. Without the grant from the Parish Council we could not keep the field safe for everyone to enjoy, thank you. Our A.G.M is next Tuesday 27th May in the playing field at 7 p.m. you are all welcome to come.

12. Packhorse Playing Field: The following report was given by Andy Fay.

Overall position

The playing field continue to provide excellent safe play area for residents and visitors alike. It is maintained by a group of locally living residents. Only two residents are currently serving on the Committee – Andy Fay & David Hall. We are in desperate need of more volunteers to help with the administration of the Field. 2024 saw required repairs to several pieces of equipment which totalled just under £3k. We were very grateful to receive £2k from Dunster Village Society to mitigate most of the cost. We still ended the year £742 in deficit. Our next annual inspection is due shortly and may well result in significant expenses again. The equipment is mostly over 15 years old and is showing more signs of expensive remedial work. A longer terms view is required to minimise the ongoing costs involved and providing more fun activity. This would involve significant funding from an as yet unidentified source.

Financial position

Accounts for April 2024 show a sizeable deficit of over £740 as noted above. We are reliant upon the parish Council for its annual support grant to cover the shortfall over donations made via a donations box.

13. Report from Dunster Tithe Barn: The following report was sent in by David Moore and read out by Cllr Oliver:

The Management Committee, comprised of a team of dedicated volunteers, have worked hard over the past year to keep the Tithe Barn running on an even keel. Christine Oliver, having retired as Chair, then continued to support us until finally handing over to the new Chair, David Moore, in April. Small sub-committees have overseen Health & Safety and Compliance matters, the care and maintenance of the building, Finance, Office Administration and marketing - reporting back and seeking approval at full committee meetings held on a monthly basis. Compliance and Health and Safety Policies have been amended and updated. Our newly created Health and Safety calendar helps us to ensure that all regular checks, services and policy reviews are carried out in a timely fashion. We have 12 regular weekly classes, 3 regular monthly classes and community events run by the Dunster Village Society as well as other occasional users. The Horticultural Society held their Annual Show and Social Evening & AGM, the Yarn Market Hotel have held 3 Choral Weekends, finishing with free concerts, and we have been the venue for monthly Antiques Fairs. The first Dunster Winter Festival was unfortunately cancelled due to Storm Daragh. We have seen 5 weddings, and 2 wedding anniversaries celebrated, 2 christening celebrations, and we have hosted 4 funeral wakes. 'Take 3 Girls' have held 2 concerts, and we hosted Romantica of Devon for their new bridal photoshoot. 'Run Britannia' dropped in, using us as a refreshment hub. Steve Archer of Archer Events has been very supportive and has facilitated a number of weddings and other events; we continue to work well with him and look forward to an even stronger working relationship. We were also pleased to attend the welcome drinks for the new Farm Agent, Robert Jackson at Binham Grange. Robert has subsequently visited the barn for an inspection, and we are confident that a new channel of communication has been opened up as a result. In January 2025 we were closed for 2 weeks for essential maintenance and redecoration. The limewash treatment kept the main hall closed till the end of the month. We have also had the concrete base completed for our new storage facility – we shall stand fund-raising in

earnest for the store itself this year. We are currently seeking quotes. We have applied for the renewal of our Approved Wedding Premises Licence and have received confirmation that this is in process ready for the next 3 years. Over the coming months we shall be updating our website and on-line presence to better promote the Tithe Barn, and the amazing facilities we offer, with a view to increasing income for reinvestment into the barn, and a revised staffing structure.

14. Horticultural Society Report: it was resolved to note there was no report.

15. Buttercross Community Orchard: Steve Harris gave the following report:

The Buttercross Orchard is maintained by a team of usually 5 or 6 volunteers, every Wednesday morning. We also maintain the Riverside Walk at Dunster Marsh. Other activities, such as finances and publicising events are undertaken by the Orchard Committee, which meets as required, typically every couple of months. We have 3 public events each year: Wassailing in January, Somerset Day in May and Apple Day in October. Wassailing is an age-old tradition to encourage a good harvest and ward off evil spirits. Songs are sung by flaming braziers, shotguns are fired and mulled cider is tasted. This year we welcomed a new Lead Wassailer, Joe Mallinson, who did a great job on the night and also two mini Wassails for children earlier in the day, with songs and apple juice instead of the cider, shotguns and flames. £243 was raised in donations. Somerset Day is another orchard celebration of all apple juice, cider, apple cake and cheese. This year the weather forecast was threatening but the rain cleared in time for the sun to come out and there was a very good turnout of perhaps 60 people. It was a very convivial event supported by the Stags Head and the Foresters Arms, which both donated ciders to compare with the Buttercross product. Other contributors were Roger Gibbs and Andrew Pearce; our thanks to them and to Lis Pearce, Linda Dibble, Julia Harper and Jan Challoner who made the cakes. £218 was donated. Apple Day is more a chance to sample the freshly pressed juice from the harvest. Last year the orchard crop wasn't large and was depleted further by somebody who stole all the apples from the late cropping trees. However, we had more apples donated by villagers and the event raised £155. This year the team spent 4 weeks pruning and also took measures to deter caterpillars. The trees look beautiful and there has been plenty of blossom so we are hopeful of a good crop in the autumn. We have also invested in some replacement apple pressing and cider making hardware and rebuilt our storage shed. A new banner sign to advertise upcoming events was used for the first time for Somerset Day.

16. Village Garden Report: The following report was sent by Carol Ell and read by Cllr Dibble:

We have very good band of volunteers in the garden and the gardens are looking great with thanks to Alison and Andy, Steve and Sarah who have got together with the others doing a grand job. With covid over (we hope) weddings have now picked up there are 9 this year we work well with the barn; we had a very successful plant and tea and cake sale on the 11th of May. We are hoping with other committees and church to organise a VG day in August 17th it will be advertised as soon as we've had our meeting. We hope to be planning something later on but not sure what yet. The gardens are funded by donations and fundraising, only like everywhere the insurance is our highest cost. There is a Thursday night volunteers if anyone want to come along to help they are welcome. There is a flagpole now in the gardens which was paid for and donated by Dunster Village Society. We are having new notice board and signs and the old board just inside gate repainted. If anyone has anytime the gates need repainting get in touch with Carol Ell. Minnie hates the Hoover is playing in the gardens on 30th May and on June 22nd at 6.30 for Macmillan cancer support so bring along your picnic and chairs an join in.

17. Dunster Village Society Report: It was resolved to note there was no report.

18. Any other reports: There were additional reports:

Dunster Village News Sheet: The following report was sent in by David Moore and read by Cllr Dibble: It is thanks to the generous gift of time of our volunteer team that we can continue to publish the Dunster Village & Parish News Sheet on a monthly basis. The News Sheet is increasingly used to publicise local events and activities with little to no space being available for those further afield. Our contributors, both regular and ad-hoc, supply the editors with a headache each month as they juggle to include items! Once upon a time there were some leaner months with fewer pages, but we are now regularly filling our sixteen

sides of A5 each month. The News Sheet having been edited is sent electronically to local printers for printing - the only cost that is incurred. Once printed it is then collected, collated, and delivered to a team of distributors who deliver them free to households in Dunster. An Electronic Mailing List has received additional recipients during the past year too, with local residents opting to receive their copy electronically, some who have moved out of the area wishing to keep in touch, and a few regular visitors to Dunster wanting to know what is on when they next visit. Generous donations from both our readers, and from contributors too, help towards the printing costs of the News Sheet each month for which we say a heartfelt thank you. We should also thank the PCC for funding the shortfall.

Dunster Climate Action Group: The following report was given by Ian Atkins:
So many villages have a climate action group but strangely Dunster doesn't. Together as a village and wider community, we can do so much more than on our own. Most people recognise something has to be done. We are reaching a crossroads with predictions that climate change will be irreversible by 2030. We are a newly formed group having only met a couple of times. We meet on the 4th Saturday of each month at 11am in Dunster Memorial Hall meeting room. Our next meeting is this Saturday the 24th. Anyone is welcome to join us. Particularly members of the Parish Council so perhaps enabling us to work together on any future local climate issues. So far we have started:-
*To look at the possibility of Dunster having obviously separated public recycling bins so that it is easy for people to put their rubbish in the right section.
*Finding out about and advising residents how to recycle soft plastics.
*How to recycle medical blister packs.
*Promoting a Dunster organic produce buying group.
* Working with the National Park looking for places to create wildflower areas.
* Helped with the Village Community clean in March
*Planning a public meeting with Plastic Free Exmoor to highlight the problem of plastic waste.
We would like to thank the Parish News Sheet for covering some of the issues raised. And as I have said before we would welcome anyone with suggestions and ideas to come along to our meetings. There are many issues to look at not least, ways of fundraising to promote climate action in Dunster. For more information contact Ian Atkins ianatkins52@gmail.com Every journey starts with one step. Thank you

Dunster Winter Festival: The following report was given by Andy Fay:
DWF was formally created as a Community Interest Company a year ago. Its remit is to provide a focal event to attract visitors to the village in a quiet time of the year to benefit both residents and traders alike. It also seeks to help local community groups through various fund-raising events like the Nearly New Sale at Reeves last weekend and through joint promotion and support of events run by local community groups. Happy to work with those groups to share the use of some of its assets like Sum Up machines or clothes rails and hangers. DWF has enjoyed good support from the community. The first event was planned for December 2024 but was washed out by the arrival of Storm Darragh although a limited programme was delivered including the medieval Babes concert on the Sunday afternoon. A full programme is planned for this year, and more information will be circulated in due course. Despite its limited first year, DWF was delighted to have donated £500 to the Dunster Memorial Hall to assist with its boiler repairs and £50 to the Dunster parish Newsheet.

19. Any Other Parish Issues: There were none.

Councillor Dibble thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 7.50pm

Signed Date.....