

Dalton Parish Council

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The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00 pm on Monday 12th May 2025 at Dalton St Michael's School, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RP.

Present: Cllr Louise Howard (Chairman), Cllr Iain Pearce (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Chris Murphy, Cllr Toni Newman, Cllr Gill Rainford. Three members of the public.

ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES

1. To elect Chairman and Vice Chairman and hear declarations of acceptance of office

Cllr Louise Howard was elected Chairman and the declaration of office read out, witnessed and signed.

Cllr Iain Pearce was elected Vice-Chairman in his absence and the declaration of office will be read out, witnessed and signed at the earliest opportunity.

2. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Iain Pearce.

3. To receive declarations of interest

None declared. The register of interest forms were checked and up-to-date.

4. Public Participation: Any item raised by a member of the public will be discussed at this point.

There remain concerns that Higher Lane parcels of land are getting top soil removed and hard standing installed. As engineering work requires planning permission this is worrying some residents.

Concerns about national policy change to create a designation of grey belt without a clear definition of what this is.

There were a number of flooding and culvert issues raised that will be referred to the new County Councillor. Fly tipping, blocked ditches and PROW unofficial diversions were all creating problems and would be reported to WLBC and LCC. Another unsafe footbridge over a PROW will be reported to LCC PROW team to look at.

5. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 11th March 2025

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

6. To confirm schedule of meetings for 2024/25

The following schedule of meetings was agreed with all meetings to begin at 7pm

14th July 2025, 8th September 2025, 10th November 2025, 12th January 2026, 9th March 2026, 11th May 2026 – Annual Meeting, 13th July 2026.

7. To agree annual memberships - CPRE, LALC, SLCC

It was agreed to renew annual memberships to Campaign to Protect Rural England, Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks.

8. To amend Standing Orders where necessary and confirm policies for retention/disposal of documents, publication scheme and complaints procedures

Standing Orders and policies were affirmed, unchanged.

9. Accounts for ratification and payment and conclusion of audit to include:

LALC	220425	Annual subscription	£79.61
Online Design	220425	Website costs	£35.40*
E A Broad	280425	Clerk's salary	£309.82
Unity Trust	300435	Service charge	£6.00
Michael Rigby	130525	Grass cutting	£50.00

*contains VAT

Receipts in April 2025

HMRC VTR	040425	VAT return	£182.63
WLBC	170425	½ Precept and CTSG*	£3,007.50

(*council tax support grant)

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

The following Account balances were noted:

Current Account = £1,891.85

Reserve account = £3,011.18
Total £4,903.03

- **Receipt of Internal Auditor's Report**

The Internal Audit was complete but the report awaited and will be present at the next meeting.

- **Completion of Annual Governance & Accountability Return forms**

These forms were completed.

- **Declaration of Exempt Status and confirmation of dates for the exercise of public rights to examine the accounts**

The declaration was signed and ready for publication as required.

10. Update on Dalton signs and grass cutting maintenance

It was resolved to continue the grass cutting schedule with the same contractor as last year, having checked the price against other contractors. It was noted that WLBC still claim to be cutting the same section of grass but they were only observed doing so once last year. The contractor painting the Dalton signs will conclude this month.

11. To record any police issues

No new items raised.

12. To record any highway or public rights of way issues, including

- **Lees Lane issues**
- **Japanese Knotweed on Dungeon Lane**
- **Himalayan Balsam on roadside verges**
- **Surface water issues - ED 48706 Dungeon Lane Higher Lane junction**

The above issues are unresolved. A new worksheet of issues will be created to ask the new County Councillor to action repairs where possible.

13. To consider any planning issues or applications including

- **Empty Public Houses: Prince William and The Beacon Inn**

Application Number: 2025/0277/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from agricultural land into an enclosed private field.

Location: Land Adj To Beacon Lane Dalton Lancashire

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal.

Application Number: 2025/0249/FUL

Proposal: Single storey extension to the rear to replace an existing conservatory.

Location: Ellan Vannin Long Heys Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7RS

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal.

2025/0253/FUL | Removal of condition 2 & variation of condition 8 of planning permission 2016/0178/FUL relating to use & access. | Lees Lane Nurseries Lees Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7RB

Parish Council Response:

Dalton Parish Council original comments still stand. We have serious concerns about this site being classed as B8 Storage and Distribution without some robust conditions being in place. The site is located between two residential properties, the property adjacent to the site is a listed building. The site shares a drive with a residential property and a Public Right of Way runs the length of this drive. The access to this drive is via an unclassified road, which either side of this drive is a single carriageway. The existing B8 use (although limited by condition) is out of character for the rural and residential area. It became B8 via a retrospective application when the impact on residents of storing mobility aids was known (i.e. already occurring). Condition 2 ensured the business use would not change to cause any further impact on amenity. By removing Condition 2 this site could be used for anything within the B8 use class. There would be no restrictions on the volume, frequency or size of vehicles accessing the site. We feel robust conditions are necessary to protect the amenity of residents, not just those living at the site, but also those on the routes to site that any vehicles might take. We object to the removal of Condition 2 but would welcome an amendment to vary this condition to another specific use within the B8 Storage & Distribution class, such that any potential impacts are properly assessed and mitigated.

14. Review of Dalton Village Design Statement and any further consideration for a Neighbourhood Plan

The Dalton Village Design Statement is now visible on WLBC Planning Portal.

It was decided not to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan due to the costs and time commitment involved. Also, with changes at Borough Council level this could be counter-productive.

Concern about the footpath leading alongside (lower) Beacon Lane was raised as it could be extended through the top field.

It was noted that Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy in the approximate sum of £4,500 is likely to be paid into the Parish to meet any needs created by the new development.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.

Cllr Louise Howard
Chairman

14th July 2025