

# *Dalton Parish Council*

**Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth-Anne Broad JP, LLB (Hons), MA, CiLCA**  
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**The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00 pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Dalton St Michael's School, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RP.**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr Louise Howard (Chairman), Cllr Iain Pearce (Vice Chairman), Cllr Toni Newman, Cllr Gill Rainford.

**In Attendance:** Borough Councillor David Whittington, County Councillor Rob Bailey, and four members of the public.

### **1. To record apologies for absence**

None, all present.

### **2. To receive declarations of interest**

None declared.

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

County Councillor Rob Bailey raised the recent flooding problems issue, asking residents to fill in the online form at Lancashire County Council to make sure that if they were affected, it is properly logged. Also, to use the Love Clean Streets app to report highway issues.

The Chairman agreed to email him a list of Highways issues, of which some were problems of flooding.

A resident raised the problem of flooding between Mount Farm and Ivy Cottage that has been exacerbated by the filling of the ditches alongside the road with spoil and cuttings after tree maintenance work was carried out by United Utilities. Various residents have been in touch with United Utilities, who deny responsibility. The culvert that goes under Higher Lane is also blocked.

Cllr Bailey said the Love Clean Streets App has helped identify where issues are but there was a significant backlog on highway gullies and drainage, though work is now catching up.

Where culverts go under the road, repairs require expensive excavation. This type of repair goes onto a priority list. Parish Councillors asked, as Dalton is rural with fewer vehicles than many other areas, how do we reach the top of the list and get the repairs done?

Lees Lane has a number of outstanding issues; blocked or collapsed gullies, and erosion of the surface at the edges due to water. This road was on the priority list and gravel put down which has since washed away. Residents claim they were told £38,000 had been spent on that section of road and were horrified that it meant the grit and gravel which has just washed away.

County Councillor Rob Bailey also asked residents to report any issues with smart meters as his work in Parbold revealed a problem of ‘radio shadow’ where the smart meters will not connect to the network.

He gave an update on Ashurst Beacon Monument, Wigan Council owned, though discussions had begun to transfer ownership to the local council, WLBC struggle with budget and future of the Beacon Rangers has slowed the process.

Dingle Quarry application will be heard by the LCC Development Committee on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The Officer is recommending refusal and residents and Parish Councillors will be attending to speak against the application. Round O Quarry is also a listed item on this agenda.

#### **4. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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

#### **5. Accounts for ratification and payment**

Bernard Keyworth	251124	Repairs to signs	£210.00
E A Broad	281124	Clerk’s salary Nov 2024	£385.18
		Inc back pay	
Unity Trust	301124	Monthly banking fee	£6.00
E A Broad	271224	Clerk’s salary Dec 2024	£309.82
HMRC	271224	Tax for three months	£225.40
Unity Trust	311224	Monthly banking fee	£6.00
CPA Gates	030125	Repairs to bench	£383.97
CPRE	030125	Annual subscription	£36.00

\*contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment and the balances of accounts noted as follows.

Balances as at 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Current Account	£1,656.40
Reserve Account	£1,799.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,456.04</b>

#### **6. To conclude budget process for 2025/26**

Following the budget figures set out in October and updated for this meeting, it was resolved to request £6,000.00 as precept for 2025/26. This equates to £28.23 for a Band D property, compared with £24.29 last year, an increase of £3.94.

**7. To consider Ashurst Beacon Point, ownership, maintenance responsibilities**

An update was given in the public section of the meeting.

**8. Update on maintenance of Dalton signs**

The signs have all been checked, repaired and painted, except one because poor weather hampered the work. This will be completed once the weather allows.

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

It was noticed that the Dalton Village Design Statement has ‘dropped of’ the list of supplementary planning guidance on the WLBC Website. The Clerk was instructed to contact WLBC Planning to ask why.

The document was produced in 1999 but it has not been rescinded and was adopted at the last Local Plan. The Local Plan for West Lancashire appears not to have been reviewed and runs until 2027.

A Neighbourhood Plan is the modern version of the village design statement and may be a useful exercise for Dalton in view of many changes ahead. However, it is time-consuming and expensive to do. The Clerk was instructed to find funding and possibly consultants to undertake a new plan.

**10. To record any police issues**

No items raised.

**11. 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 outstanding. It was agreed that the spreadsheet of road issues will be forwarded by email to Contact County Councillor Bailey.

**12. To consider any planning issues or applications including:**

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

No information available.

- **Application 2024/0321/FUL – slurry store off Lees Lane**

This matter is for decision at the WLBC Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 with an officer's recommendation for approval. The Clerk and a number of residents will speak against the application, on the grounds that it is too close to housing, will lead to increased large tractor traffic along this narrow country lane and the information about the structure and design is missing from the application.

- **Application Number 2024/1007/PNP. Application for Determination as to Whether Prior Approval is required for details – erection of track for maintenance/machine storage at Land adjacent to Beacon Lane, Dalton**

Application Noted.

- **Application Number 2024/0947/FUL Proposed replacement dwelling at Crisp Cottage including demolition of existing garage. Three bedroom bungalow to replace four bedroom cottage at Crisp Cottage, Crow Lane, WN8 7RX**

Parish Council Response:- Crisp cottage is a historic and characterful cottage in Dalton - We object to its demolition and support WLBC's suggestion that it ought to be considered a non-designated heritage asset - Crisp Cottage was previously Grade III listed, and has been locally listed in the Dalton Design Statement since 1999 as a building of local importance. Please see attached photographs. - The justification for demolition is insufficient for the harm caused by removing all original fabric, and there is no public benefit. - Crisp Cottage has a group value in Dalton as an example of the traditional, rural construction methods used here, which today contribute to the identity of the village. The proposed new build bungalow is a pastiche of the original design, lacking authenticity and the same character. - We request that the application is considered by an experienced and qualified heritage consultant.

This meeting noted that the Growth Lancashire – external consultants, working for the Borough Council are not supportive of protecting the cottage, making it clear that it is not designated. Growth Lancashire appears to have consultants who were formerly WLBC planning officers.

It was also noticed that the list of Supplementary Planning Guidance on the WLBC no longer includes the Dalton Village Design Statement. As it was included in the last published Local Plan it is not at all clear when WLBC removed it from the list.

As a similar application for Stone Hall Cottage was refused it is inconsistent for this one, directly across the road, to be granted.

**13. To note progress on County Application for Quarry restoration at Dingle Quarry: Lancashire Committee date 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Reference: LCC/2024/0024**

Noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm.

*Cllr Louise Howard*  
*Chairman*

*10<sup>th</sup> March 2025*