

Dalton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00 pm on Monday 13th May 2024 at Dalton St Michael's School, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RP.

Present: Cllr Louise Howard, Cllr Iain Pearce, Cllr Gill Rainford.

Also in attendance: Borough Councillors David Whittington, Katie Jukes & County Councillor Rob Bailey and two 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. Declaration of acceptance of officer was read out, witnessed and duly signed.

Cllr Iain Pearce was elected Vice-Chairman. Declaration of acceptance of officer was read out, witnessed and duly signed.

2. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Chris Murphy and Cllr Toni Newman.

3. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

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

Long Heys Lane resident reported that the water pipe suffered high pressure, then there was a leak outside Pinewood and it has been like that for weeks. The road erosion is already bad enough. United Utilities are aware of the issue.

The Chairman wants thanks recorded to Borough Councillors David Whittington and Kate Jukes for always taking up issues when asked to do so on behalf of the residents.

5. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 11th March 2024

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

6. To confirm schedule of meetings for 2024/25

The following dates were chosen: 8th July 2024, 9th September 2024, 11th November 2024, 13th January 2025, 10th March 2025, 12th May 2025 (Annual Meeting), 14th July 2025.

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

It was resolved to continue membership of the organisations as follows Campaign to Protect Rural England = £36, Society of Local Council Clerks = iro £40 (due November). Lancashire Association of Local Councils = £ 80.84

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

The following policy documents were updated with revisions accepted.

Standing Orders & Financial Regulations, Freedom of Information & Publication Scheme, Document Retention Policy and Complaints Procedure.

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

Whitehills Ltd	220424	Lectern for map	£790.80*
M Rigby	220424	Install lectern	£75.00
LALC	220424	Annual membership fee	£80.84
E A Broad	290424	Clerk's salary April 2024	£299.18
M Rigby	130524	Grass cutting	£50.00
Zurich Municipal	160524	Insurance renewal	£167.44
ICO	190524	Data Protection registration	£35.00

*contains VAT

Income received:

WLBC	120424	Capital grant (map)	£71.25
WLBC	170424	Capital grant (map)	£494.25
WLBC	010524	1 st precept + Council Tax Support	£2,571.25
WLBC	080524	Second half precept	£2,500.00

Account Balances as at 090524

Savings account	=	£5,114.47
Current account	=	£2,602.79
Total:	=	£7,717.26

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

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

The Internal Audit was still progressing, a number of questions had been raised and answered and the report is expected within a few days.

It was resolved to circulate the report on receipt by email and consider the recommendations administratively.

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

The forms were presented to the Council, accepted and signed by the Chairman. The Council timetable and deadlines being tight it was agreed to sign the documentation that had been considered and the internal audit will be circulated by email when received and presented at the next meeting.

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

With expenditure and income being below the £25,000 threshold, the Council is declared exempt and the dates for the exercise of public rights to examine the accounts were set at those recommended by the External Auditor: Monday 3rd June – Friday 13th July 2024. The Declaration of Exemption to be emailed to the external auditor following this meeting.

- **Update the Asset Register for 2024**

The following Fixed Asset Register (actual cost of item or it’s repair and not depreciated) was accepted. A different list is kept for insurance purposes.

		Custodian
Jubilee bench – bought in 2003	£772	Street furniture
Oak notice board – bought in 2007	£1,463	Street furniture
“Dalton” – cast iron signposts x 4	£500	Street furniture
Bench on corner of Lees Lane/Higher Lane (acquired 2017 - costing £300 to repaint in 2016)	£300	Street furniture

Lenovo laptop (2018) projector (2008)	£700	Clerk
Interpretation Boards £1,070 each at Beacon Point & Church footpath (2018)	£2,140	Street furniture
Kissing Gate (2021)	£750	Street furniture
Roadside bollards (2021)	£1,480	Street furniture
Dalton Parish Map lectern (2024)	£790.80	Street furniture
Fingerpost (renovation 2024)	£200	Street furniture
Total: £9,095.80		

- **Confirm financial risk assessment documentation**

Updated financial risk assessment documentation was accepted.

10. Update on Dalton signs and grass cutting maintenance

The Clerk was instructed to request confirmation of which verges WLBC cut and at what frequency. Any further cuts can be met using concurrent funding. Borough Councillor Bailey commented that WLBC usually do 12 to 14 cuts a year.

Two of the black and white Dalton signs require repainting and will be completed in the coming months as the work is weather dependent.

11. Conclusion of Capital Grant assisted project for an artistic map of the parish

This two-year project to provide an artistic map of the parish is now complete.

12. To record any police issues

Off road bikes are still a problem in the area.

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

- **Lees Lane issues**

LCC Highways confirmed that the work on Lees Lane is planned to finish work within 3 months, but as it is a quiet road it is not a priority. Three years ago work was about to commence and it was stopped due to lack of materials. Despite many emails, that planned work has never been done.

- **Coronation Bridge - FP080740**

LCC agreed that this bridge would be repaired. However, the only work seen on the ground was a sign closing the route. That sign has since deteriorated and disappeared. There is no service agreement in place for Dalton Parish Council to do any public rights of way work,

because there is no ground worker employed by the parish, so the matter remains the responsibility of Lancashire County Council, Public rights of way department.

- **Japanese Knotweed on Dungeon Lane**
- **Himalayan Balsam on roadside verges**

The two issues above are of concern because, again, the land is County Council owned and reporting the issue on Love Clean Streets, did not result in work being done to eradicate these weeds.

- **Surface water issues - ED 48706 Dungeon Lane Higher Lane junction**

Continuing issues with surface water, that remain the responsibility of LCC Highways.

At Rock Haven the road narrows dangerously. It is understood that LCC Highways are looking at what, if anything, they can do to improve the signage.

14. To consider any planning issues or applications including

- **Progress of development under Application 2022/1210/FUL - land adjacent to Old School House, Higher Lane, Dalton.**

Ongoing issues here with loose building materials still visible from the road.

- **Update on Enforcement action to remove shipping container from the land west of Woodvale, Higher Lane.**

It is understood that time to comply with the order has been granted.

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

Borough Councillor Jukes confirmed that the Fire & Rescue Service are aware of these properties and has them on an at-risk register. There is a planning application in respect of the Prince William with no information on The Beacon Inn.

Application Number 2024/0224/FUL

Proposal: Conversion and restoration of the former Prince William public house to form a single dwelling. Demolition of existing structures and re-use of volume to form a single detached dwelling

Location: Prince William Inn Beacon Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7RU

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council have no objection to the renovation or change of use to residential of the former Prince William Public House.

Providing all the criteria for development in the greenbelt, and the Dalton Village Design Statement have been met, then we also have no objection to the new build residential property.

The owner of this site also owns the adjacent land that Dalton Cricket Club is on. However, Dalton Cricket Club were unaware of the proposal for them to use part of the car park. They also have only three years left on their lease, and have had no indication whether the lease will be renewed.

Given the above, if planning permission is given, we would ask that a condition is attached to ensure that the remaining car park and new entrance is solely for the use of Dalton Cricket Club, and if their lease is not renewed then this section of car park and entrance is changed to grass, as is proposed for the remainder of the current car park.

Application Number: 2024/0321/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a slurry store (Resubmission of 2022/1204/FUL)

Location: Land Off Lees Lane Dalton Lancashire

Parish Council Response: We have serious concerns about this application, both in terms of impact not only on the health of the public, but also on the environment, and there is still a lack of detail around many aspects.

Gas - whilst we acknowledge the structure will have a roof on it, this will not stop the potentially high levels of Hydrogen Sulphide, Ammonia, Methane and Carbon Dioxide that will be emitted during storage and especially when the slurry is agitated. This is especially concerning given that the older and younger residents who live nearby are more sensitive and vulnerable to harm from these gases. In the Environmental Health report from the previous application, it stated 'Gas monitoring and detection equipment should also be used for added protection from exposure to slurry gases'.

There is no information with this application on that subject. Water run off/flooding/water contamination - Lees Lane floods, along the section at the northern edge of this field, caused by surface water run-off from this field (there is a flood sign there year round). There are two boreholes below the slurry store, water is constantly running from a spring and a water course through this field.

On the opposite side of the road there's a stream running through a wooded area, all this ultimately ends up in the River Douglas. There is obviously a high risk of slurry pollution not only immediately around the site, but also into the River Douglas. Visual Impact - even with the structure being semi-sunk into the ground it will still be visible in an otherwise open raised field. There is obviously going to be a significant visual impact of the structure and we believe it will need to have a perimeter fence around it for security/safety.

The exact impact on the visual amenity of residents and the greenbelt is hard to judge, given the lack of detail/plans provided, especially as there is no plan showing a street scene. There is also mention of landscaping, but no details or plans.

Noise - with no data given, it is hard to know how many tractor/vehicle movements there will be to the site, and to therefore gauge the impact in terms of both amount of noise that nearby residents will hear and with what frequency, especially given farming is a seven day a week business. Suffice to say it will be a lot more than they currently experience.

Traffic - the existing slurry stores are near the cattle, so there are few tractor movements associated with those, and whilst this being sited where it is may reduce the movement of tractors spreading the slurry, the output from the cattle exceeds the amount of slurry being spread, hence the whole reason for having storage for it, therefore tractor movements are going to increase to the site rather than be reduced, as the slurry is going to have to be moved from the cattle to this site. Very little has changed since the previous application, other than the addition of the Air Quality report.

There is still very little detail, no landscape plans/information, no street scene drawings. One of the reasons the previous application was refused is due to the fact there was insufficient information especially with regards to gas monitoring, and there is still very little information with this application. We acknowledge the need for increased slurry storage capacity, 100 metres away from houses, is not the right the location for storing almost 300,000 gallons of slurry, with everything else that entails....smell, gas production, traffic, noise, impact on visual amenity, impact on people's health, pollution risk and the impact on the wider environment/water courses. For all the reasons above, this application should be refused.

The following decision was noted:

Application Number: 2024/0268/LDP

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness (PROPOSED) Erection of single storey side extensions, a two storey rear extension and detached garage outbuilding to a detached dwelling complying with permitted development.

Location: Stone Hall Cottage Crow Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7RY

Conclusion: The proposed side extension to the south elevation and the two-storey rear extension are considered to be permitted development under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A subject to the following condition: The materials used in any exterior work (other than materials used in the construction of a conservatory) shall be of a similar appearance to those used in the construction of the exterior of the existing dwellinghouse. 2. The detached garage outbuilding is considered to be permitted development under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), Schedule 2, Part 1, Class E

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.41pm

Cllr Louise Howard
Chairman to Dalton Parish Council

8th July 2024