

# *Dalton Parish Council*

**Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth-Anne Broad JP, LLB (Hons), MA, CiLCA**

**e-mail: [clerk@daltonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@daltonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00 pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Dalton St Michael's School, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RP.**

**Present:** Cllr Louise Howard (Chairman), Cllr Iain Pearce (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Gill Rainford, Cllr Toni Newman and three members of the public. Borough Councillor David Whittington sent apologies.

## **MINUTES**

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

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Chris Murphy.

### **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.**

One member of the public asked if the dog exercise field had got larger and it was agreed to check with Borough Councillor Katie Jukes though those present didn't think it was any different to the agreed planning permission. It was noted that fibre broadband is being installed along Long Heys Lane.

It was reported that in early March 2026, part of Long Heys Lane, by the entrance to Tew Cottage, WN8 7RT workers had scraped off the road surface and piled it in a mound and it was agreed to inform County Councillor Owens.

There was discussion about the postal address of Oak Cottage as to whether it was Long Heys or Lees Lane and it was confirmed to be Lees Lane, WN8 7RF.

It was reported that the very muddy section of Footpath - FP0807034 Higher Lane (at Pinfold) to Cobbs Brow, WN8 - across the field there is barbed wire on top of the fencing at hand-height so most dangerous to walkers who may slip in the mud and put a hand out to steady themselves. It is also a route favoured by Duke of Edinburgh candidates on expedition. It was agreed to inform PROW at LCC.

### **4. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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

### **5. Accounts:**

- **Ratification and payment of accounts**

Online Design	020226	Website costs	45	£35.40*
E A Broad	280226	Clerk's salary Jan 26	46	£319.60
Unity Trust	280226	Bank charges	47	£6.00
Agreed future payments:				
L Howard	100326	Litter picking equipment	48	108.32*
E A Broad	290326	Clerk's salary March 26	49	£319.60
HMRC	290325	Tax for three months	50	£216.60
Unity Trust	300326	Bank Charges	51	£7.00

\*contains VAT

- **Confirm asset register to ensure correct insurance cover**

The updated asset register for March 2026 has no change and was accepted as:-

		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)	£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)	£200.00	Street furniture
<b>Total: £9.095.80</b>		

- **Consider projects for Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy-  
£4,182.15 deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2030**

It was understood that WLBC and Wigan Council had an agreement in principle to transfer responsibility for Ashurst Beacon Point to WLBC. It was not known if this could be completed before the Local Government Review alters the local government structure. Some residents suggested that some of the NCIL be used at this site, perhaps clearing of the woodland. Members of the public reported that Newburgh Parish Council and Appleton Fields Trust had secured some £36,000 and perhaps the NCIL in Dalton can be used as third party contribution from funding sources such as the Whitemoss Grantscape. However, an exact scheme that can be scrutinised by the WLBC NCIL Officer is still lacking.

#### **6. To record any police issues**

No recent issues.

#### **7. Update on Community Litter-pick and Spring clean up**

The date of 21<sup>st</sup> March was advertised. The risk assessment was complete and it was agreed to purchase more disposables, such as gloves and litter bin hoops to hold them open. WLBC had provided a further five litter-pickers, 200 bags and agreed to remove the litter on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

#### **8. Any update on Ashurst Beacon Point**

No update available, other than speculation from members of the public that Wigan Council might lease the land to WLBC and Beacon Rangers take on the land management there.

#### **9. To record any highway or public rights of way issues, including**

- **Japanese Knotweed on Dungeon Lane**

It was agreed to ask LCC Highways to deal with this when the location was confirmed using What Three Words.

- **Himalayan Balsam on roadside verges**

It was agreed to ask LCC Highways to deal with this when the location was confirmed using What Three Words.

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

The grids have been cleaned and the water is no longer a problem.

**The council resolved to print in full the response from LCC Highways when it was requested that additional white-paint speed signs be painted on the carriageway.**

Dear Mrs Broad

#### **HIGHER LANE, DALTON, WN8 - SPEED LIMIT**

Thank you for contacting Lancashire County Council regarding your concerns about speed limit compliance on Higher Lane, Dalton.

While I acknowledge that satellite navigation systems rely on periodic operator updates to maintain accurate information, such systems are intended solely to provide general guidance. They do not override the legal authority of prescribed highway signage, which drivers are required to comply with at all times.

With regard to the 30 mph section of Higher Lane, our records confirm that this speed limit has been in place for a substantial period. Street-view imagery indicates that the terminal 'gateway' signage was present in 2009. Given this, it would be reasonable to expect drivers, particularly regular users, to have an awareness of the posted limit. Where this is not the case and instances of non-compliance are observed, these may be reported directly to the Police, who hold responsibility for the enforcement of speed limits, either via the non-emergency telephone number 101 or online at <https://doitonline.lancashire.police.uk/>.

With respect to your request for additional 30 mph roundel markings, whilst I am not familiar with the previously referred to agreement, the current 30 mph section is defined by the presence of a system of street lighting, which classifies the road as a 30 mph 'restricted road'. Consequently, a Traffic Regulation Order is not required, and the Department for Transport explicitly prohibits the use of additional smaller repeater signs within the extent of the limit. This restriction also applies to road-surface roundel markings, as these are classified as repeater signage under current regulations, although they are allowable as an enhancement to the terminal 'gateway' signage, as is currently the case here.

Whilst I appreciate that this may not represent the outcome you were hoping for, I trust that this explanation clarifies the regulatory requirements governing speed-limit signage and the constraints applicable where a road is designated as a restricted road with a default speed limit of 30 mph.

Kind regards

**Kevin Parkinson**  
**Engineer, Traffic & Safety**  
Highways Network Management,  
Lancashire County Council

T: 01772 530250

#### **10. To consider any planning issues or applications including**

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

#### **Reference Number: 2026/0036/FUL**

Proposal: Single storey rear extension, front porch extension, new boundary treatment, adding new vehicular and pedestrian gates.

Location: Strawberry Bank Cottage 6 Hillock Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7RJ

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council has no objection to this planning application providing all the criteria for development in the greenbelt have been met, and that it meets the guidelines in the Dalton Village Design Statement.

**Reference Number: 2024/0224/FUL**

Proposal: Conversion and alterations (including partial demolition) to the former Prince William Public House to form a single-family dwelling; erection of new detached dwelling on land formerly used as beer garden and children's play area

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

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 planning permission was refused.

### **WLBC Local Plan**

It was confirmed that the current plan is in place until 2027, but the renewal process has stalled due to lack of staff at WLBC and in the Local Government Review whereby amalgamation with other districts begins in 2028 at the latest.

The meeting discussed the implications of the Planning & Infrastructure Act 2025 in particular how central government might override local government where their Local Plan is out-of-date. New rules about 'grey-belt' and development of greenbelt where it is sustainable, leave areas like Dalton and Parbold particularly vulnerable to over-development. Previous rules such as the sequencing rule – where developers were asked to look at particular areas of housing need, before developing in green belt are no longer as strong. Likewise, the hierarchy rule, whereby development was to be focused on towns of Ormskirk & Burscough, Skelmersdale & Up Holland, before the surrounding twenty villages, is phased out in one year's time. The purposes of greenbelt have been re-written curtailing ideologies such as 'preventing urban sprawl'. The presumption being that development will be permitted where it is proposed in a sustainable location; with no fixed definition of what 'sustainable' is. There were fears over biodiversity challenges as a new 'pay to pollute' system whereby off-setting of carbon impact on the land before them, by planting somewhere else will be permitted. Ribbon development between towns is to be prevented but not between villages. A robust Local Plan gives alternative assessment of where the development ought to be, but sadly the WLBC Local Plan is close to an end (2027).

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

*Cllr Louise Howard*  
*Chairman of Dalton Parish Council*

*11<sup>th</sup> May 2026*