

# *Dalton Parish Council*

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**Minutes of the meeting of Dalton Parish Council at 7:00 pm on Monday 3rd December 2018 in St Michael's C E Primary School.**

**Present: Cllr Iain Pearce, Cllr Gill Rainford, Cllr Chris Murphy**

**1 To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Howard. Cllr Pearce took the Chair.

**2 To receive declarations of interests**

None declared.

**3 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 22nd October 2018**

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

**4 To hear matters introduced by members of the public (Time Limit – 10 Minutes)**

No items raised.

**5 To consider any policing issues**

The meeting thanked PC Stewart, Divisional Wildlife and Rural Crime Officer for conducting dedicated tasking in the Dalton area following a slight increase in rural crime in the area. A number of vehicles had been stopped, drug crimes reported and warnings given to nuisance drivers. The reporting of suspicious vehicles by members of the public was of great help in policing the area.

Separately police had detained seven burglary suspects in the Wrightington and Parbold areas. Residents are urged to remain vigilant, particularly over the Christmas period and report anything unusual or any suspect vehicles.

**6 To consider any road and footpath (public rights of way) issues**

There were a number of complaints from residents on Higher Lane about professional looking adverts added to the lamp posts on Higher Lane, Dalton, These included several advertising Skelmersdale Plumbing at Ashurst. WLBC and LCC Trading Standards were contacted and Officers reported back that they had instructed the companies concerned to remove the advertisements.

It was noted that (lower) Beacon Lane had more litter than normal, probably due to Keepmoat Homes development. Keepmoat Homes had been asked to organise a litter pick and Newburgh Parish Council had also been informed.

Also noted that the Not Suitable for HGVs and repeater signs requested from LCC are unlikely to be consider a priority.

**7 To consider next action on Local Plan Preferred Options paper, including supporting other parishes in obtaining a demographic study**

It was resolved to accept the drafted response prepared by Troy Planning consultancy and agree that it be submitted without amendment.

It was resolved to pay £100 to Campaign to Protect Rural England to join with other West Lancashire Parish Councils in conducting a demographic survey to support alternatives to the plan.

A leaflet informing residents how to comment on the plan had been distributed to all homes in the parish.

**8 To consider LCC response to complaint about Household Waste Recycling Centre - reduction in service**

The following response was received when the Parish Council objected to proposed closure of the HWRC at Skelmersdale for two days a week:

Thank you for your correspondence on the suggested changes to the opening hours for Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) in the county.

It is the ambition of Lancashire County Council, reflected in the draft Minerals and Waste Plan, to increase recycling and re-use. We can therefore see how this proposal may seem counter-intuitive, in particular raising concerns over the potential impact on fly tipping.

Earlier this year traffic counting loops were fitted at all sites to measure HWRC vehicle movements. What was clear from the data produced from all sites, including the two in West Lancashire, was the low numbers of residents accessing HWRCs in the first and last few hours of opening. It would appear that the public do not dispose of waste or recyclable items, unsuitable for doorstep collection, on their way too or from work. It is the hours between eleven am and two pm that are by far the most busy.

In recognition that each site needs a full staff complement throughout the working day, this was clearly an inefficient use of resources. A service was being provided that was not built around the primary needs of its customers. The suggested solution is to invest effort in making the sites open when demand is the highest and to maximise their efficiency during these times.

Regarding fly tipping, this is indeed a worry and your concerns are sympathetically noted. Earlier this year the Lancashire Waste Partnership wrote to the Chief Constable seeking assurances that finding and prosecuting fly-tippers remained a Police priority. This was a direct response to cross-county concerns that regular and organised fly tipping by criminals was on the increase; and that it's cost and environmental impact was not to be underestimated.

It was also noted that the type of rogue operator responsible for this crime would not be allowed access to any HWRC, regardless of its opening hours. Where members of the public fly tip, one could also ask if a small reduction in hours would be responsible for their thoughtless and criminal choice to dispose of household items by fly tipping them.

This is not an attempt by the County Council to sidestep its important waste disposal responsibilities. Since bringing the HWRCs back in house earlier this year, nearly a million pounds has been invested in the HWRC network. This has been done to improve sites and facilitate a better experience for the visiting public. Additional charges were discounted as they would be a direct barrier to the public. HWRCs are now collecting additional materials, such as plastic pots tubs and trays, in direct response to concerns around plastic recycling.

Overall the proposed changes provide best use of officer time, respect the most popular visiting times of the public and are coupled with ongoing improvements to the HWRCs to increase recycling and to manage as much non-doorstep collected material as possible.

For West Lancashire sites in particular, Merseyside and Wigan authorities have been approached. This has been to ensure that best practice between neighbouring authorities is understood and replicated and that cross-border waste movements managed.

Finally, Lancashire County Council has considered through its scrutiny committee, what are in affect only policy suggestions. It would need agreement of cabinet, and possibly full council to progress. Due to its potential impact on the public, beyond formal approval it would be subject to extensive and open consultation. At this stage the concerns that you have expressed would be explored in more detail and contribute towards amending whatever is finally agreed.

We therefore thank you again for your quick response. We hope that you reflect on the reasons why this is being suggested and participate in the full consultation should the scrutiny committees suggestions become a formal proposal.

Regards, CC Albert Atkinson

## **9 Accounts for ratification and payment**

John Stewart	221018	Verge cutting - September	0427	£90.00
John Stewart	22101	Verge cutting - October	0428	£90.00
E A Broad	271018	Salary - October 2018	s.o.	£ 194.25
Society of Local Council Clerks (Total = £147, split between 3 councils, £81.10 Parbold, £40.55 Lathom South)	031118	Annual subscription	0429	£25.35
E A Broad	271118	Salary - November 2018	s.o.	£ 194.25
CPRE	031218	Donation for demographic study	0430	£100.00
Troy Planning	031218	Report for Local Plan	0431	£834.00*

\*contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

**10 To discuss any planning issues**

The following application to test if development was within the permitted range was noted:

Application Number: 2018/0119/LDP

Oak Cottage, Lees Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RF

Certificate of Lawfulness - Proposed construction of a detached double garage and extension to existing driveway.

Enforcement:

The meeting was advised that following a visit from the Planning Enforcement Officer the development at Martins Farm (013/0527/FUL) was found to be in breach of Condition 9 of their planning permission. The land owner was now given the opportunity to submit a further application for the development as built before 30th November 2018.

**11 To decide whether to apply for a WLBC Capital Grant for 2019/2020**

It was resolved not to apply for Capital Funding for the next year, unless a project arises in the New Year. The Capital Grant agreed for this financial year for the purchases of interpretation board casings was progressing.

**12 To consider draft budget and level of precept for 2018/2020**

The budget was accepted and level of precept will remain the same, at approximately £4,000 including the Council Tax Support Grant (WLBC not yet released the figure for CTSG but it will be in the region of £15).

**13 Matters introduced by Members for inclusion on a future agenda**

Councillors will email any issues before the next meeting.

The Peter Lathom Charity met recently and some funding was awarded to Dalton School PTFA.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

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*January 2019*

*Chairman - Cllr Louise Howard*