

Dalton Parish Council

**Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth-Anne Broad JP, LLB (Hons), MA, CiLCA
1 Pinewood, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UZ
Tel: 01695 557678 Mob: 07973 340254
e-mail: daltonpc.clerk@yahoo.com**

**Minutes of the meeting of Dalton Parish Council at 7:00 pm on Monday 21st May 2018
in St Michael's C E Primary School.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

1 To elect Chairman and hear declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Louise Howard was elected as Chairman. Declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

2 To elect Vice Chairman and hear declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Iain Pearce was elected as Vice Chairman. Declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

3 To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Chris Murphy.

4 To receive declarations of interests

None declared.

5 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 16th April 2018

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

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

No items raised.

7 To consider current Standing Orders to ensure they are updated if required

Some alterations were made, in particular that two signatories on the bank mandate must sign cheques and bank instructions and that meetings of the Council generally start at 7pm. Alterations were agreed and Standing Orders completed.

8 To consider any policing issues

There was a brief update on recent activities. Residents are appreciative that police surveillance in the village continues.

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

Recent resurfacing work has entailed ramps and this has slowed cars down considerably, leading Councillors to believe that traffic calming measures would be effective if employed here.

Potholes, on Beacon Lane and (lower) Beacon Lane area causing drivers to use the centre of the road and it is hazardous for oncoming vehicles. It is understood that some have been fixed but some remain.

The series of emails from Lancashire County Council recording that complaints have been logged were not instigated by the parish council. They appear to have taken comments made in the emailed letter to LCC as complaints rather than as suggestions for improvements that the Parish Council offered to financially contribute towards. The Clerk was asked to clarify this point with the County Council. To reiterate the parish council has asked:

Dalton Parish Council remains highly concerned about speeding throughout the village and note that although a reduction in speed limit on the main roads of Higher Lane/Beacon Lane was implemented there are no repeater signs on the lamp-posts and it is quite possible to be unaware that the speed limit is in fact 30mph. The signs on the approach are also in areas of foliage and easily missed.

We are also plagued with lorries and busses getting stuck because the road is not really wide enough for them. On enquiry in the past we were told that repeater signs are not used, however we note there are now many in the area, the closest down Elmers Green Lane, which is access to only a few houses, whereas the main roads serves everyone travelling through. There were 30mph painted onto the road surface but these have now worn off.

So the Parish Council is asking can we have 'not suitable for HGV's' sign at Higher Lane junction with Alder Lane (there used to be one but it disappeared years ago - after being knocked off by a HGV) and at the top of Higher Lane by the Church and School (St Michael's) and about a dozen 30mph repeater signs as it needs two per post so that they can be seen by cars approaching both directions, but there are posts and lamp-posts already along the road that they could be attached to. The attached photograph shows a coach that was stuck on Higher Lane as it was too large to fit.

We are very aware of financial restraints in public finance so the Parish Council is willing to contribute towards the cost of these signs. Can you tell us how we go about arranging this?

The offer of an alternative route for Footpath Number near Blackbirds Farm is not accepted as the correct defined route. Ramblers are encouraged therefore to keep to the route rather than the detour on neighbouring land.

10 Update on Lancashire Wildlife Trust scheme for an interpretation board at Beacon Point

The decision regarding West Lancashire Borough Council capital grant scheme is still awaited. The Parish Council resolved that, if the application was not successful, it would not

be appropriate to use the precept money for this Wildlife Trust scheme. Therefore, the interpretation board scheme can only be supported if the grant becomes accessible to the parish council.

11 Accounts for ratification and payment; and receipt of internal audit report if available, confirmation of audit statements, including annual governance statement

E A Broad	290418	salary (April 2018)	s.o.	£191.14
Garden Rescue	210518	Grass verge cutting	0419	£60.00
S Jones	210518	Completion of internal audit	0420	£15.00
Garden Rescue	210518	Grass verge cutting	0421	£60.00
E A Broad	210518	Back pay (if agreed)	0422	£7.42

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

The Internal Audit was complete but written report not yet available due to queries raised by the internal auditor.

The Asset Register had not been provided to her for confirmation of amount on the audit form. The Asset Register was confirmed as follows:

Asset Register 2018

		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) protector (2008)	£900	Clerk

Toshiba laptop replaced in February 2018 by a Lenovo laptop. Toshiba laptop would no longer link to the internet, the power cable stopped working and, running Windows XP, it had slowed down to

the point that it could not be used efficiently. The hardware was written off and replaced with a laptop bought using the grant from the Transparency Fund.

TOTAL PROPERTY SUM £3,935

Office equipment = £600 laptop and £600 projector = £1,200. £600 laptop – written off, projector remains. Replaced by £300 laptop. Total for office equipment = £900.

The payment to Cllr Howard in respect of the purchase of the laptop was not sufficiently clear because there was a receipt but not invoice. A paid invoice is required in order to request a refund from HMRC in respect of VAT paid. It is up to the discretion of HMRC as to whether VAT can be reclaimed if the invoice is not directly addressed to the Parish Council.

The Annual Governance Statement, Statement of accounts were confirmed.

12 To discuss any planning issues

Application Number: 2018/0340/LBC

Barn East of Lower House Farm, Lees Lane, Dalton.

Listed Building Consent - Change of use of barns to a two storey dwelling including internal and external alterations. Construction of new first floor

Application Number: 2018/0339/COU

Barn East of Lower House Farm, Lees Lane, Dalton.

Change of use of barns to a two storey dwelling including external alterations. Re-grading of ground levels to east of the barn and installation of solar panels to hay barn.

Parish Council Response:

Dalton Parish Council has no objections to the amended plans.

However, would raise the point, that the proposed access is on a bend, and Highways previously rejected this being used as access. We would like to know, what will happen to the steel barn, once this development is complete?

The meeting noted the following appeal was dismissed:

Planning Application Number: 2018/0016/OUT

Outline - erection of 5 no. detached residential dwellings following demolition of existing buildings, including details of access, landscaping, and layout.

Development at Martin's Farm was causing concern. One property is complete and adheres to the permitted plans, however the second, currently under construction, appear to be oversized, compared with the agreed plans. The Clerk was asked to inform WLBC Planning Enforcement Officers that the Parish Council has concerns that the second property is being built to the original, (refused) plans in error.

13 Matters introduced by Members for inclusion on a future agenda

No items raised at this point. Members will notify the Clerk should anything arise before the next meeting.

14 To consider increase in Clerk's salary in line with National Association of Local Council's guidance

It was resolved to agree the NALC negotiated pay rise and amend the bank standing orders accordingly.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.45 pm.

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25th June 2018

Chairman – Cllr Louise Howard