

Dalton Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Dalton Parish Council at 7:00 pm on Monday 22nd January 2018 in St Michael's C E Primary School.

Present: Cllr Louise Howard (Chairman), Cllr Iain Pearce (Vice Chairman), Cllr Gill Rainford, Cllr Chris Murphy.

1 To record apologies for absence

None, all present.

2 To receive declarations of interests

None declared.

3 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 4th December 2017

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 Police Wildlife Officer is checking vehicle registrations of vans along the main routes that are clearly being used for poaching. Residents are asked to log everything on 101 so that evidence can be gained. There has been real progress recently; fly tipping and poaching prosecutions are being pursued.

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

A resident contacted Newburgh Parish Clerk to check about a damaged fence post along Footpath 32. This will be reported to LCC but it is understood that a repair is in hand.

Along Higher Lane the gully/drain outside Dalton House is again struggling to cope with surface water. The grid is lifting and there was a car accident there last week with only one vehicle involved, sadly now written off. Reported to LCC Report It system: Reference number is 291305.

There is concern that the system is failing because there are blockages further up-stream. Residents are encouraged to continue clearing gullies on their land and keep grid traps in place to prevent larger tree branches entering the system.

The Road Closed signs on Hillock Lane and Dungeon Lane, junctions with Higher Lane are still in situ despite LCC being requested to remove them now that work has been completed.

7 Accounts for ratification and payment

E A Broad	301217	salary (December 2017)	s.o.	£191.14
Inland Revenue	030118	Tax for 3 months	s.o.	£ 139.62
Streetwise Services Ltd	150118	Traffic survey	0411	£1,020.00
(£850 + VAT of £170)				
E A Broad	220118	Stamps	0412	£ 14.52
E A Broad	220118	Travel expenses for training course	0413	£ 31.20
(80 miles – Garstang County Club – 39p per mile)				

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

It was resolved to update the bank mandate adding Cllr Murphy to the list of signatories.

8 To discuss any planning issues

No current planning applications. Planning Appeals are being monitored.

9 To discuss issues involving Environmental Health, including stock-piling manure and ad-hoc shooting in the area

Stock piling of manure:

A Senior Environmental Health Officer has attended the site and noted the manure is stockpiled on the edge of the two stubble fields, presumably for spreading when the fields are dry. However, the weather has been incredibly wet recently and some of the land is flooded. Stockpiling is not prohibited unless causing a nuisance (which can be an odour nuisance) but once spreading starts guidance provides it ought to be ploughed in within 24 hours wherever possible. The Environmental Health Officer will request a time frame from the farmer and can be contacted if a nuisance is identified.

Shooting:

The following information detailing which dates shooting of birds is permitted was obtained from WLBC Environmental Health Department:-

Species	England, Wales and Scotland
Pheasant	Oct 1 – Feb 1
Grey Partridge	Sep 1 - Feb 1
Red-Legged Partridge	Sep 1 – Feb 1
Red Grouse	Aug 12 – Dec 10
Black Grouse	Aug 20 – Dec 10
Plumage	Aug 12 – Dec 10

The meeting noted that it is permissible to shoot wood pigeon all year around but that a land owner shouldn't permit shooting of birds until other non-lethal means of scaring have been

tried. The Clerk was asked to return the details to WLBC Environmental Health Department and inform the Police Wildlife Officer.

The Environmental Health Officer will intervene if the shooting is causing a noise disturbance but if at a moderate level this must be expected in a rural area such as Dalton.

10 Update on Traffic Survey of Higher Lane

The information obtained provides a useful baseline for traffic movements before the new housing developments bordering the parish are fully inhabited. The Clerk was asked to request that the strips now be removed by the company undertaking the survey.

11 Discussion of WLBC Local Plan Review

The meeting at WLBC was attended by two councillors and the clerk. This focussed on the Eastern parishes and those present confirmed that here is a need within the villages for homes for the elderly and affordable homes for young people brought up here who can't afford stay. However, Dalton is so close to the new town of Skelmersdale many of the Ashurst new homes will fulfil this need to an extent. Sadly, despite representation at the planning committee meetings, Dalton Parish Council's recommendations that more small homes for starter or the elderly were not included in these developments as they are not lucrative enough for the developers. There is a need for the green field boundaries to separate the parished-village of Dalton from the new town of Skelmersdale.

The specific sites put forward in the 'Call For Sites' exercise includes land in Dalton so specific comment will be submitted to the Local Plan system in order that Dalton's voice is heard.

12 Issues on Long Heys Lane

The issues of lack of grit bins and sweeping of surfaces, raised by residents are being dealt with WLBC.

Fly tipping continues to be a problem and after consideration the Parish Council will ask Keith Ruttles if the road can be narrowed at the end by using boulders or similar, to deter antisocial behaviour and fly tipping, but not to close it as some residents find the route useful.

13 To decide whether to apply for a WLBC Capital Grant

Following communication from Ben Hargreaves, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, with a proposal to install three interpretation boards at the Wigan Council owned land at Beacon Point, it was decided to apply to WLBC for capital funding to enhance this project to use glass-reinforced-plastic boards of stronger duration than plywood ones.

14 Matters introduced by Members for inclusion on a future agenda

Members were encouraged to contact the Clerk in advance of the next meeting should they have items for the next agenda.

The Clerk reported attending the SLCC Data Protection training session at Garstang. This was an awareness session of the existing Data Protection Act 1998 and the implications for parish councils of the General Data Protection Regulation which will come into force on 25th May 2018. This legislation will enhance what exists already but importantly gives wide ranging powers of enforcement to the Information Commission's Office (ICO) and requires

Chairman:

parish councils to have policies for data handling in place and in full public view, i.e. clearly explained on the parish council's website. The Parish Council is registered with the ICO and policies will be drawn up for discussion at a future parish council meeting.

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

Chairman
Cllr Louise Howard

5th March 2018