

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 9th September 2019 in St Michael's C E Primary School.

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Chris Murphy

2 To receive declarations of interests

None declared

3 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 1st July 2019

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)

Concern was raised about possible development at the Christmas Tree farm and the Parish Council was asked to contact Planning Department at WLBC for advice. Further, as winter approaches, the site is used as scenery for commissioned artists and photographers, which is leading to an increase in cars parked in the vicinity.

The footpath through to Newburgh is not clearly marked and walkers are trespassing on private property as a result. The Parish Council was asked to investigate and if possible, advertise that walkers should follow the designated public right of way and not stray from the paths.

Several issues regarding (lower) Beacon Lane were raised:- The manhole cover is again missing, WLBC are not litter-picking the road and now lorries working on the development at Beacon Golf Course are using this route and it is highly dangerous.

5 County Council matter of Parbold Hill Quarry – LCC/2019/0028, & Application Number: 2019/0660/FUL

The meeting heard that WLBC Planning Committee had met recently and resolved to oppose the application. As the proposed development would have negative impact on the health and wellbeing of Dalton residents in that they overlook the site and road disruption is inevitable, it was resolved to issue a £100 donation to the Stop Parbold Hill Landfill campaign.

6 To update on issues raised by residents

1. Water bubbling through road at junction of Dungeon/Higher Lane – LCC Highways last responded in July 2019 that they were dealing with this issue. Reference Number: 173979
2. Culvert cover missing on (lower) Beacon Lane – LCC Highways responded that a temporary fix was in place and permanent repair by the owner of the culvert might require road closure. However, the temporary cover is missing again and it will be reported once again.
3. New drain installed at Dalton Brae diverting water onto the carriageway has been reported to LCC Highways who allocated a reference number 173964
4. The Parish Council resolved to join the Campaign to Protect Rural England at the request of residents.
5. There was no response whatsoever from WLBC Planning Department regarding complaints about the soil mounds at Beacon Golf Club probably because there has been a planning application for the site.
6. The flooding on Long Heys Lane had also been reported to LCC Highways two months ago.
7. Fly tipping at bottom of Long Heys Lane – The land owner has agreed to meet with a member of the parish council.
8. Footpaths being used by cyclists – LCC’s PROW Officer responded as follows: -

“Cyclists are not allowed on footpaths but, as you will appreciate, a way shown on the Definitive Map is not necessarily the same thing as a public footpath; the former being a way with at least public rights on foot and the latter being a way with exactly public rights on foot. For that reason we are reluctant to sign "No Cycling" unless we are reasonably certain there are no such rights. Furthermore we tend to look at how much of a problem the cyclists are causing, especially if they are children, and whether it is actually better that they are on a footpath than on the roads. On the other hand if a landowner erects "No Cycling" signs we do not enforce their removal unless there are proven cycling rights”
9. Obstruction and barbed wire along footpath 36, Dalton, West Lancs (122488) LCC response as follows:-

“As of now this report has only just been prioritised in order to arrange an inspection. We are sorry for the delay, but we have a large backlog of reports to go on the PROW Database and up until very recently we only had 3 PROW Officers covering the whole of Lancashire.”
10. Duke of Edinburgh candidates – The following response was received from the Head Teacher at Fazakerley School:

“I take complaints about pupils at the school extremely seriously, will investigate the incidents you mention and take necessary action to prevent them from happening again.

Throughout the last academic year, we had several expeditions involving a large number of our pupils and staff. Could you please furnish me with the dates on the occasions where the minibus was parked across resident's driveways and when the access to the working farm was blocked? This will allow me to investigate which groups were involved and which staff member parked the minibus. Could you please also provide for me the name of the working farm in order that I can personally apologise to the owner.

You also stated that complaints were 'mainly centred around them not keeping to pathways or following the Country Code. Litter was dropped, including drinks cans and gates were left open'. Was this at the same time as the minibus parking or a different time? Please advise me again of the dates in order that I can take action.

School starts back for the next academic year and please rest assured that any groups will be spoken to about conduct before any more expeditions will be embarked upon."

It was resolved to respond with dates and times of issues but nothing that can identify residents who reported issues for fear of reprisals.

7 To consider any policing issues

This evening the Chairman had to phone 999 to report a dangerous, raised manhole on Higher Lane. The heavy rain was expected to have increased the surface water to a point that the sewer system could not cope.

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

The imminent road closures were noted and emailed dialogue with Highways was appreciated. It is hoped that the suggestions made by the parish council to reduce impact of the road closures will be implemented.

9 To discuss any planning issues, including Application Number 2019/0660/FUL Beacon Golf Course, Skelmersdale

Dalton Parish Council has complained at lack of direct consultation on this application and that it appeared to have been granted before the dates for comments had been reached. It was agreed to submit the following further complaint:

Large wagons are now moving along (lower) Beacon Lane between St Michael's Church and the roundabout at Dalton Park, Ashurst. This road is narrow – even two cars struggle to pass, it is locally known as a wingmirror alley due to the evidence left on the sides of the road. There is no pavement but pedestrians do use this only link from Skelmersdale with the church and school at the top of the hill. These pedestrians are often primary aged children accessing Dalton St Michael's School. There is also a weight limit on the road. It is a steep, winding, rural road, tree-lined with branches meeting overhead. There are several pinch-points on blind-bends where only one vehicle at time can fit. Large vehicles threaten to take branches from the trees and leave debris in the road.

In spite of all this, permission has been given by WLBC Planning Department for laden wagons to use this route to service the Beacon Golf Course under planning permission 2019/0667/FUL

The totally inadequate single sign ‘warning’ of construction vehicles has been placed half-way along (lower) Beacon Lane so there is no warning at all for sensible drivers who might wish to take the alternative route so as not to meet a wagon.

Dalton Parish Council feels strongly that this section of rural road is totally unsuitable for this use and it should never have been permitted. Having done so however, in order to mitigate risk, signage MUST be put at each end of the road, preferable on each side of the carriageway.

So far, we are aware of a stand-off between a car driver who found it so incredulous that a wagon could be correctly using this weight-limited road, that they left their car in the way and got out to speak with the wagon driver. It was then explained to them the wagon had been given permission by the local authority.

We can already see tree damage and debris on the road from wagons. Development of a new housing estate at the bottom of this road has just begun so now this precedent has been set, construction vehicles to the new developments will also try to use the road as a short cut and accidents are inevitable.

**Number 2019/0788/FUL Bradshaw Barn, Long Heys Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RS.
Proposed storm porch to front entrance**

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

10 Accounts for ratification and payment

HMRC	270619	Tax 3 months (deducted from clerk)	S.O.	£148.80
John Stewart	280719	grass verge cutting	0444	£45.00
E A Broad	280719	Salary – July 2019	s.o.	£203.48
WLBC	010819	Uncontested election fee	0445	£184.75
Online Design	040819	Website charges	0446	£243.60*
John Stewart	040819	grass verge cutting	0447	£45.00
E A Broad	280819	Salary – August 2019	s.o.	£203.48
John Stewart	090919	grass verge cutting	0448	£45.00
CPRE	090919	Annual Subscription fee	0449	£36.00
Stop Parbold Landfill	090919	donation respond to appeal	0450	£100.00

*contains reclaimable VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

11 Matters introduced by Members for inclusion on a future agenda

Councillors will email the Clerk with any issues that arise.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

*Cllr Louise Howard
October 2019
Chairman*

14th