

Dalton Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Dalton Parish Council at 7:00 pm on Monday 24th February 2020 in St Michael's C E Primary School.

Present: Cllr Louise Howard (Chairman), Cllr Iain Pearce (Vice Chairman), Cllr Gill Rainford, Cllr Chris Murphy and eight members of the public.

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 13th January 2020

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)

The Parish Council was asked to send a letter of thanks, on behalf of the residents, to the Gamekeeper, Danny. They are most appreciative that he is always on hand, usually when everyone else is sleeping, to avert wrong-doing.

Long Heys Lane residents agreed to erect NFU and Rural Watch notices along the lane as a deterrent.

Residents at Ashleigh Farm attended to explain their planning application to reinstate a farm building blown down in a storm. They expressed concern that neighbours' applications for new constructions had been submitted without the need for a coal mining report. They had been asked to supply such a report for a building that had been in situ for fifty years before storms brought it down.

The Council was asked if they had a policy about drones because a number of residents were concerned about drones flying over their property. They note the frequency of drone use by estate agents, neighbours and the general public. They also have concerns that some may be engaged in criminal activity, being most aware that these drones are capable of photographing their property.

The usual issues of water on the highway following storms were raised. Residents were asked to continue to report these to Lancashire County Council on the Report It system.

The Beacon Inn at Dalton is currently up for sale and local residents asked if the Parish Council has a view on this retaining its status as a public house or if other development might be acceptable. The Parish Council will consider whatever planning application is put forward but at this stage wouldn't comment further. It was mooted that the car park section might be suitable for smaller housing, possibly being more affordable for anyone with links to the village. As most houses are now out of reach financially for adult children of residents the village suffers, the school has fewer pupils etc.

5 To consider any policing issues

Most recently there was an attempted burglary on Higher Lane, where residents, gamekeeper and police gave chase. There was a poaching incident on Long Heys Lane, where the gamekeeper apprehended suspects. Also an assault on Lees Lane is an ongoing police incident. The Parish Council had written a letter of thanks to the police for their good work, including Police Dog Ryker in the recent activities.

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

The recent storms have increased surface water and none of the roads in the village are coping with this. Specific blocked grids or incidents of flooding will continue to be reported to Lancashire County Council Highways department, however it is noted that much of the county has suffered so repairs and reinstatement will have to be prioritised.

7 Accounts for ratification and payment

E A Broad	29012020	Salary – January 2020	s.o.	£203.48
Online Design 4 U	24022020	Website costs	456	£ 26.40
St Michael's School	24022020	Room hire for meetings	457	£150.00
Cheque cancelled – incorrect payee.				
E A Broad - stamps	24022020	stamps	458	£15.72

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

8 To comment on planning applications in the parish

Application Number 2020/0124/LDP

Riyoma, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7TW

Certificate of lawfulness – proposed single storey flat roofed rear extension and conversion of garage to living accommodation including removal of existing pitched lean-to roof and new flat roof.

Parish Council Comment: This is an application to determine whether the proposal is within permitted development and therefore does not invite comment from the Parish Council so there is no 'make a comment' button on the online system. However, Dalton Parish Council does have concerns.

The Parish Council noted that a very similar application 2019/0613/LDP was considered last July and a determination that a full planning application would be required was made.

At that time (1st July 2019) the Parish Council did ask

What's the intended use of the garage, as the plans show windows at the rear but cars drawn on the plans?

Is the overall volume of the new garage and extensions covered by the previous planning permission?

Why submit a certificate of lawfulness, as they've already got full planning permission, so why not submit an amended planning application? What's the reasoning\benefit to the applicant in doing it this way?

But received no reply and just noted that the LDP application was refused.

This application appears to the Parish Council to be so similar as to expect the same result; can we be assured that the full application will come forward giving the Parish Council an opportunity to comment?

If so, the questions above still stand.

Application Number 2020/0054/FUL
Ashleigh Farm, Long Heys Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RS
Replacement/reinstatement of storm damaged agricultural storage building (retrospective)

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council has no objection to this planning application for a replacement building.

In respect of this application, the following was asked of the Planning Authority:

Dalton Parish Councillors are considering their comments to this planning application and the applicant has asked why have they been asked for written evidence to demonstrate how ground conditions and risks posed by past coal mining activities have been considered and taken into account during the construction phase, when this is a replacement building for one that had been there for over 50 years.

They have looked at many applications that have been made in the same lane, and no others seem to have been asked this; there is currently an application in from The Barn across the road from this, they have two pit heads at the top of their land, they don't seem to have been asked for this information.

Can you answer this so that we might all understand?

Application Number: 2020/0027/CON
Bradshaw Barn Long Heys Lane Dalton WN8 7RS
Approval of details reserved by Condition Number 3 of planning permission 2019/0788/FUL relating to material details.

Application Noted.

9 To consider WLBC Local Plan: Call for Sites consultation

It was resolved to respond to the consultation, reminding the Borough Council of concerns about the field opposite St Michael's Church and the necessity that it remains as a buffer, rural field separating the town of Skelmersdale and the village of Dalton.

10 To finalise details for the Community Litter pick 21st March 2020

The risk assessment documentation was agreed. Splitting into teams was discussed but the final decisions will be taken on the day once the number of volunteers becomes apparent. WLBC promised to provide gloves as well as bags and to collect the filled bags on Monday 23rd March 2020.

11 Matters introduced by Members for inclusion on a future agenda

There were rumours about closure of the Prince William public house and concern for the cricket club who meet there. A letter of support to the Brewery was offered, and enquiry with WLBC about establishing the building and grounds as an asset of community value. Councillors will support the protest group that has just been formed.

There have been a number of incidents of quad bikes being driven around the monument on Ashurst Beacon.

St Michael's School may be purchasing a defibrillator for public use and Dalton Parish Council would like to support this venture. Any request for funding would be welcomed at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Cllr Louise Howard
Chairman

30th March 2020