

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

SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS DUE TO COVID-19

Parish Council public meetings cannot take place at the present time.

Under the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020, and The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this Meeting of the Parish Council took place at **7.00 pm on Monday 26th October 2020** by electronic conferencing.

MINUTES

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

1. To record apologies for absence

None, all present.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. Public Participation:

- **Any item raised by a member of the public via email will be discussed at this point.**

A suggestion that CIL money be spent on improving public rights of way along The Cassicar (a green lane), or spent on a feasibility study of improving the rights of way was raised and listed as an agenda item at Item 13

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 7th September 2020

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.

5. To consider donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Aa donation of £35 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal was agreed.

6. Accounts for ratification and payment

CPRE	21092020	Annual subscription	0466	£36.00
E A Broad	30092020	Salary – September 2020	s.o.	£203.48
E A Broad	30092020	Salary – back pay	0467	£77.38
HMRC	30092020	Tax for three months	s.o.	£148.80
John Stewart	05102020	Grass verge cutting through summer	0468	£180.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	19102020	Donation to Poppy Appeal	0469	£35.00
SLCC subscription	26102020	Society of Local Council Clerks	0470	£31.05

Total subscription of £180 divided on pro rata basis Parbold PC (16hrs) £99.30; LSPC (8hrs) £49.65; Dalton PC £31.05 (5hrs)

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

7. To consider Business Banking Switch application to Co-op Bank, from RBS

The applications forms were being completed for submission to the Co-operative Bank. The Clerk confirmed that the RBS reserve account had been closed with funds transferred to the current account in preparation for Switch process.

8. To record any police issues

No items raised.

9. To record any highway or public rights of way issues

Considerable work was being undertaken along Higher Lane following years of complaint about the drainage here. The road has been blocked now for four weeks with no real end in sight whilst the Highways authority investigates and repairs the drainage issues.

There is water coming through tarmac at top of Dungeon Lane and road collapsing near High Bracken on Higher Lane. Plus the sides of the carriageway have quite badly fallen away in three places on Lees Lane, these aren't new problems, but have got considerably worse

recently, LCC know about them as they have placed cones/barriers there, last year, if not the year before, but still nothing has been done to rectify it. The places are between Higher Lane and Blackbirds Farm, between Holland House and Lower House Farm, also opposite the end of Long Heys Lane.

It was resolved to remind LCC Highways about all these issues.

10. To consider any planning issues or applications

No current WLBC applications.

Application Number: 2019/0028/LCC
Parbold Hill Landfill proposals

The meeting heard that this decision had been found in favour of the applicant with LCC adding some conditions to assist with the inevitable traffic hazard that will be created.

Dalton Parish Council expressed extreme disappointment that this decision appeared to follow political party lines as there were six Conservative votes for, one Conservative Member abstained, Four Labour and one Independent Member against.

It was resolved to write to the Chairman of the Development Committee, noting that the reasons for decision will eventually appear on the decision notice, but requesting comment on this apparent political party division in the Committee.

It was resolved to write a letter of thanks to Parbold Hill Stop the Landfill – a small group of volunteers who had tried so hard to raise awareness and objection to the application.

The meeting noted that the decision at Pinfold had been delegated to an officer without reference to the parish council comments submitted last month as follows:-

Application Number: 2020/0673/LDP
Location: Pinfold, Higher Lane, WN8 7RA
Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness – proposed demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage

Parish Council Response: No objection, but want a condition attaching as a main stream/drain from the surrounding land, goes through this property and under the garage. So the condition needs to be put in place to ensure there is no restriction to this flow of water, it is not blocked in anyway and is maintained.

There has been no response from WLBC Planning Department to the complaint that these comments were not noted.

In response to concerns from Members of the Public, the Parish Council has contacted WLBC to check if the plane and solar panels at Hilcrest Barn, Lees Lane, have planning permission.

Appeal Ref: APP/P2365/W/20/3252163 - Boydells Farm, Hillock Lane, Dalton

Lodged with Planning Inspectorate – status in progress; not yet decided.

11. To notify Councillors of Capital Grant funding for vehicular barrier on the footpath near to the Interpretation Board by Dalton Church grounds

Having spoken with local residents, it was revealed that they intended to install more secure fencing around the fields meaning this barrier might not be necessary. It was decided to await the actions of the farmers working the land before making a final decision.

12. West Lancashire Borough Council consultations:

- **Standards Board - National Review of Ethical Standards: Consultation on Standards complaints submitted by the Parish Clerk**

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-ethical-standards-report>

Dalton Parish Council considered the recommendations and have one concern about Best Practice 11. It would not be fair to expect a parish clerk to have to approach the Chair or a councillor whom they feel they have a complaint against alone. There must be a procedure in place (perhaps a mediator or employee representative) that gives the clerk confidence to complain, and if there is none, then they should be able to approach the Monitoring Officer at the Borough Council directly.

- **WLBC CIL spending proposals**

Dalton Parish Council endorses the spending proposed in particular that £385,00 be committed to towpath improvements from Parbold to Appley Bridge, in conjunction with other agencies.

13. To consider projects for Community Infrastructure monies

- **The Cassicar Green Lane**

Comments from member of the public:-

I wondered if it was worth considering an upgrade to the green lane known as The Cassicar near the bottom bend on Long Heys Lane. Since Long Heys Lane is popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders, it's one of the few Green Lanes in Dalton. Its upgrade would make a neat link to Lees Lane without having to go past the quarries. It would fit neatly into the selection criteria they are using. If there's more money in the pot, perhaps they would reconsider work to Ashurst Beacon.

Research revealed that under modern public rights-of-way (PROW) law, the expression "green lane" has no legal meaning. ... A bridleway allows pedestrians, horse traffic and cyclists. A byway open to all traffic (BOAT, or just 'byway') is open to all users and all types of traffic. Footpath 8-7-FP22 appears to go through 'Casicar Wood' and is identified as the route known locally as The Cassicar. However, this is a footpath, and hence not legal for horse-riding and cycling. It also goes through private land so its maintenance is the responsibility of the landowner.

All agreed that that using public money (CIL) to fund something that the landowner should be maintaining and paying for is not right. The amount of CIL in any case is insufficient to cover the cost of resurfacing or repairing the surface.

- **Replace wooden bollards around St Michael's Church**

It was resolved to obtain quotations for replacement bollards and consider using CIL money for this. Also, to enquire if the CIL monies could be used to encourage Openreach to improve broadband, as a lot of residents complain of low broadband speeds as Openreach has still not fitted fibre, yet those on the Parbold exchange have fibre broadband to the property. Cllr Murphy agreed to look further into this and if funding is required, might CIL monies be used? The Clerk agreed to check with WLBC.

*Cllr Louise Howard
2020
Chairman*

30th November