

Dalton Parish Council

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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 30th June 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.**

Residents requested that the Parish Council consider road safety and the speed limits on the roads within the village with a view to any additional safety/traffic calming measures. This has been raised as there was yet again another serious accident on Beacon Lane. This time near the Prince William pub, involving a motorbike, the road had to be closed. This is becoming even more important, with the increase in traffic, with just under 700 houses that are now in the process of being built at Whalleys and a lot of traffic to/from there coming through Dalton.

4. To ratify as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 18th May 2020

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and will be signed as soon as practicable by the Chairman.

5. To receive Internal Audit of Accounts and complete paperwork for External Audit, including Annual Governance Statement

The following audit report was received:

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2019-20

An internal audit was undertaken following examination of the accounts and minutes as presented by Mrs E Broad, Clerk to the Council and RFO.

It was found that overall the processes in place show a good standard of internal control. Sample checks of income, expenditure and bank statements were carried out and the audit trail was found to be in order. The cashbook is maintained and balanced on a regular basis.

However, there were a few instances, which I bring to the Council's attention:

1. Accuracy of Parish Council meeting minutes

It was found that there were some discrepancies with the minutes as described:

May Minutes

- Payment to E Broad for £50.80, cheque number listed as 440, should be 441
- Payment to John Stewart for £70, cheque number listed as 441, should be 440

November Minutes

- Payment for SLCC subscription for £30.17, cheque number listed as 453, should be 454
- Payment to E Broad for £15.72, cheque number listed as 454, should be 455.
- In addition, it was noted that cheque number 452 made payable to John Stewart was omitted from the list

It is recommended that adequate checks are carried out to ensure that all Parish Council meeting minutes are accurate and complete. It is vital that those checks are carried out as Parish Council minutes are legal documents once signed.

2. Review of Parish Council Policies

It was noted that there had been no review of the Parish Council Risk Assessment Register in the past two years.

It is recommended that a review of the Parish Council Risk Assessment Register is carried out during the next financial year to ensure the Register is still appropriate and up to date.

It was resolved to take more care recording the cheque numbers in the Minutes and the reviewed Risk Assessment Register was accepted.

It was resolved that the completed AGAR (Annual Governance & Accountability Return) forms be signed by the Responsible Financial Officer and Chairman and submitted to PKF Littlejohn LLP as instructed. With an annual gross income of £5,116 and expenditure of £4,660, a Certificate of Exemption was completed as these sums do not exceed £25,000 so

the council is exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

6. Accounts for ratification and payment

E A Broad	29052020	Salary – May 2020	s.o.	£203.48
E A Broad	30062020	Salary – June 2020	s.o.	£203.48
Sandra Jones	30062020	Completion of internal audit	0463	£15.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

7. To record any police issues

There have been a number of incidents, such as breaking of lock down rules, anti-social behaviour, suspected drug dealing and trespassing. These have occurred in different places in Dalton, including on the Church car park.

The Police have been contacted by residents, but the police have not come out, and basically weren't interested.

There has been a lot in the media recently about raves, large gatherings, but when a resident rang the Police to report a gathering of people a few weeks ago, who were turning up with tents and generators, the call operator told them it wasn't a Police matter as it was on private land.

Residents are seeing on Skelmersdale Police Facebook page all the posts around community engagement, and what results they are achieving with off road bikes, anti-social behaviour, etc but on the very few occasions a Dalton resident has rung the Police nothing has been done, not even a phone call back.

Residents feel through no fault of their own they get neglected because of the proximity to Skelmersdale, and whilst the crime/problems within Dalton are not of the magnitude to those within Skelmersdale, they do impact on people's quality of life and how safe they feel in their own homes.

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

There are still outstanding issues with drainage in Dalton, all have been reported on a number of occasions to Lancashire County Council Highways department:-

- Flooding on Higher Lane from the Church down to Dungeon Lane.
- Flooding on Long Heys Lane from the top downwards.
- Water bubbling through the road surface near the junction of Dungeon/Higher Lane.
- Edges of Lees Lane collapsing in at least three places due to culverts/ditches under the road being blocked, so the water is building up and wearing away the edges. LCC are aware of them as they've placed cones/barriers there, but these have been in place since last year, with no remedial action taken.

9. To consider any planning issues or applications

Application Number: 2020/0426/FUL

Proposal: Remove existing garage roof, extend garage and new roof over with reduced ridge height.

Location: Stoneacre, Crow Lane, Dalton, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7RY

Parish Council response:

Application Number: 2020/0485/LDC

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness - Use of land as garden area.

Location: Manor House, Long Heys Lane, Dalton, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7RS

Parish Council response:

APP/P2365/W/20/3252163 Boydell's Farm Hillock Lane.

Dalton Parish Council fully support West Lancs Borough Council's decision to refuse this application, and Dalton Parish Council's reasons for objecting still stand.

There is significant opposition from Dalton residents to this application, as there has been to the previous ones, including residents whose properties border the site.

Just a point for the record, it is again claimed that the farmer who has been renting the buildings for over a decade, no longer has a use for them. This has been stated on previous applications, including this one from the end of last year, and yet we are now over six months further on and it is still being used daily, the only change to the amount of use is when a site visit is due.

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

Upon further consideration a kissing-gate rather than a vehicle barrier was considered to be more in fitting with the local area. It was therefore resolved to seek quotations for a kissing-gate and request land-owner's consent to take this matter forward.

11. To consider projects for Community Infrastructure monies

It was resolved to ask residents to suggest how they would prefer the CIL money is spent, within the prescribed criteria, giving a deadline of 31st July 2020 for response.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the next meeting will be in September, as no August meeting is scheduled.

The planned March litterpick was postponed, initially to September, but it was now resolved to postpone again until Spring 2021.

Cllr Louise Howard
Chairman

September 2020