

Dalton Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00 pm on Monday 29th November 2021 in Dalton St Michael's School, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RP.

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

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Rainford.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. Public Participation:

- **Any item raised by a member of the public will be discussed at this point. There is usually a restriction of four minutes for each issue that is brought to the attention of the Chairman.**

There had been a long period without electricity as Storm Arwan brought down power lines, which subsequently set alight. Residents around the WN8 7RE postcode were without power from the evening of Friday 26th – to 4.15pm on Monday 29th November 2021. The Parish Council had complained to Electricity North West and Rosie Cooper MP. Rosie Cooper's office acted very quickly in contacting Peter Emrey CEO of Electricity North West Power and Jonathan Brearley, CE of OFGEM. The power was restored shortly after this.

Residents had complained to LCC Highways that part of Long Heys Lane had been dug up and retarmacked to extend another resident's driveway.

4. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 6th September 2021

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. To ratify donation of £70 to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

It was resolved to issue the usual £35 donation to the RBL Poppy Appeal. £70 had been suggested as last year's cheque was reported to be lost. However, according to the bank statement, the cheque issued in October 2020 was cashed on 26th April 2021.

6. Accounts for ratification and payment

CPRE	210921	Annual Subscription	0482	£36.00
HMRC Cumbernauld	270921	Tax for 3 months	s.o.	£183.00
E A Broad	280921	Salary - Sept 2021	s.o.	£248.42
E A Broad	281021	Salary - Oct 2021	s.o.	£248.42
Glasdon UK Ltd	151121	New bollard to replace broken one	0483	£162.00*
0484 Cheque cancelled				
John Stewart	231121	Installation of bollard plus 3 x grass verge cutting	0485	£185.00
SLCC	291121	Contribution to SLCC membership	0486	£35.50
E A Broad	291121	Stamps	0487	£13.12
Royal British Legion	291121	Donation to Poppy Appeal	0488	£35.00
E A Broad	281121	Salary - Nov 2021	s.o.	£248.42

*contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

Explanation of SLCC membership costs:-

The Clerk has resigned from Parbold Parish Council and Lathom South Parish Council but is now working 21 hours for Up Holland and 5 hours for Dalton – annual fee for SLCC of £185 is split as follows:

£149.50 paid by Up Holland Parish Council

£35.50 paid by Dalton Parish Council

7. To consider application for WLBC Capital Grant funding

The Public Rights of Way system through Dalton needs some attention, and whilst it is a land owner's responsibility there are a few areas where it is in public ownership, that might warrant work if funding via the Capital Grant Scheme can be found. Councillors will look to see what might be done and email the Clerk with ideas for a funding application. It was noted that Coronation Bridge (rear of Pinewood and end of Ashleigh's Farm land) is in a poor state of repair. This is believed to be 'council' land but it isn't clear if it is Wigan or West Lancashire Council.

8. To consider budget for Financial Year 2022-23 and propose level of required precept

Examination of the budget revealed a shortfall.

The estimated requirement is £6,350 if all plans were carried out and contingencies needed. So, the current level of precept at £4,200 is insufficient.

However, there is a predicted balance of £5,000.00 at end of financial year (31st March 2021)

It was therefore resolved to request a precept of £4,500.00 for Financial Year 2022/23 with the expectation that £15 Council Tax Support Grant and £390 concurrent funding from WLBC will continue to be received in addition to the precept.

This decision will be reviewed in January 2022 in case there is any new information at that time.

It was resolved to switch bank accounts from Natwest to Unity Trust online banking.

9. To record any police issues

No items raised.

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

- **Replacement of broken bollard on Higher Lane corner**

A new bollard has been purchased and installed at a cost of approximately £185.00.

Hillock Lane was extremely icy during the last cold spell and will need to be approached with caution in poor weather.

The planned highway works at Lees Lane were delayed due to lack of materials. Clerk to ask LCC Highways for an update as to when the work might be completed. The drainage issues extend along Lees Lane and Dungeon Lane.

The dip in Higher Lane, alongside High Bracken, has been fixed.

The Public Rights of Way Officer from LCC had met with some land owners and the game keeper with a view to examining what fencing needs replacement.

11. To consider any planning issues or applications

Application Number: 2021/1215/FUL
Location: Woodbank, Higher Lane, WN8 7RP
Proposal: Remodelling of dwelling to provide extensions to side and rear.

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council has no objection in principle to this application, providing all the criteria for development in the green belt, in terms of volume, design, etc have been met. Also that it fits with the Dalton Village Design Statement.

We do have concerns that the side extension is very close to the boundary with the neighbouring property, this property is a bungalow and on a lower ground level, so the side extension may seem imposing, but trust this will be taken into account in the planning process.

Application Number: 2021/1216/PNH

Address: Rivoma Higher Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7TW

Proposal: Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required - Extension of dwellinghouse

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council has no objection to this application, providing all the criteria for development in the green belt, in terms of volume, design, etc have been met. Also that it fits with the Dalton Village Design Statement

WLBC Decision: Refused.

Application Number: 2021/1178/FUL

Location: Ashleigh Farm, Long Heys Lane, WN8 7RS

Proposal: Retention of and alterations to a replacement building with agricultural use.

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council has no objection to this application as long as all the criteria for development in the greenbelt has been met, and the actual usage type of the building has been confirmed and deemed acceptable by the planning department.

Application Number: 2021/1159/PNC

Location: Boydells Farm Hillock Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7RJ

Proposal: Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required - Change of use of 2 agricultural buildings to 5 dwellinghouses

Parish Council Comment: This area of land has already been looked at by the Planning Inspector who agreed for conversion of the buildings but this plan is that they be demolished because it would not be possible to create 5 detached dwellings out of 2 attached barns

Further Comment from Dalton Parish Council

Dalton Parish Council is highly concerned that this application is deliberately misleading with minimal detail and no neighbour consultation, so as to suggest the proposal is within the scope of the planning permission obtained.

It is misleading because it is unclear as to whether the proposal is to totally demolish both barns and build five new properties (an application for 5 new builds was refused) or are in some way keeping the existing barn structure but splitting it to create detached properties. Both of which are a far cry from what has been approved.

Therefore, we do not agree that this proposal fits the current permission for the site. The applicant clearly intends to build five brand new properties which was expressly prohibited

under planning law, having already been refused by the Planning Authority on application and by the Planning Inspectorate on appeal.

WLBC Decision: Refused.

12. Update on WLBC Local Plan

The current consultation is limited in detail so little to respond to at this time. It was resolved that the Parish Clerk will complete the consultation process, concentrating on the maintenance of the field opposite St Michael's Church as a buffer zone of greenbelt land, separating the conurbations of Dalton Village and Skelmersdale New Town.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50 pm.

Cllr Louise Howard
Chairman

10th January 2022