

Dalton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dalton Parish Council at 7.00 pm on Monday 6th September 2021 in Dalton St Michael's School, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RP.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Louise Howard (Chairman), Cllr Iain Pearce (Vice Chairman), Cllr Gillian Rainford.

In attendance: County Councillor Rob Bailey, one member of the public.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Chris Murphy.

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.**

County Councillor Rob Bailey, Lead Member for Highways and Transport informed the meeting that re-surfacing of (lower)Beacon Lane from Whalleys Farm to Cobbs Brow Lane would be done in the next few days.

The dips in Higher Lane at the High Bracken, where the road narrows were again discussed. One a Report It number was obtained, progress, or lack of it can be tracked and if none, Cllr Bailey to be informed to chase it up. There is a higher definition mapping system now in operation that alters the frequency of grid clearing based on the information stored, so that some annual programmes have reverted to six monthly clearing, for example.

He also invited members to attend the Parish Council event, one Saturday mid- November at County Hall. There would be opportunity to 'attend' virtually if preferred.

4. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 5th July 2021

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

5. To ratify decisions taken during Lockdown, contained in Minutes for 24th May 2021

Decisions taken were ratified herewith.

6. To consider complaints about South West Lancashire Pistol Club

Most complaints that had been received by the Parish Council were anonymous so could not be responded to. Complainants who could be identified were advised to address their complaints to WLBC Planning Authority directly.

The Parish Council had, on their behalf, contacted WLBC Planning Enforcement Officer who detailed the history of the site that began in 1970, confirmed that any anomalies in planning were being addressed by the retrospective application and no trees on the site had Tree Preservation Orders on them. The site does not expand beyond their curtilage.

The following planning history was confirmed by West Lancashire Borough Council's Enforcement Officer:

In 2017, a site visit was conducted as a result of a complaint received by our Environmental Protection Team regarding noise; the Environmental Protection Team subsequently asked the planning office to check the planning history for the site.

Planning History

On 21st May 1970, planning permission was granted for a pistol and rifle range for a period of five years (i.e. until 20th May 1975) -9/11/3084

On 22nd October 1970 planning permission was granted for two shelters for pistol shooting range - 9/11/3175

On 23rd October 1975, planning permission was granted for the retention of two shelters and toilet used in connection with pistol shooting for a period of five years (i.e. until 22nd October 1980 - 8/75/735

On 12th September 1980, planning permission was granted for the continued use of land as pistol and rifle range including retention of two shelters and toilet - 8/80/661

On 9th July 1986, planning permission was granted for an extension of pistol and rifle club range; erection of 'L' shaped clubroom/firing points and laying out of car park - 8/86/449

On 23rd May 1990, planning permission was granted for Additional target pistol range - 8/89/1314. There were 5 planning conditions attached to this permission:

Condition 1 states:

The development must be begun not later than the expiration of 5 years beginning with the date of this permission

Condition 2 states:

Noise resulting from the shooting activities on both existing and proposed rifle ranges shall not exceed 65 d/BA as measured at points 200 metres from the centre of the site (as defined on the attached plan)

Condition 3 states:

Prior to commencement of the use of the range hereby permitted, a scheme of measures to minimise danger to the general public and neighbouring land occupiers shall be fully implemented. Such scheme to be previously submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and to include the following measures

- (i) security fencing around the ranges*
- (ii) warning signs around the ranges, including on the approach road and*
- (iii) measures to prevent stray bullets leaving the site*

Condition 4 states:

The use shall only take place at the following times:

Sundays - 1400 hours to 1700 hours

Mondays - 1900 hours until official, lighting up time

Condition 5 states:

Prior to commencement of the use of the range hereby permitted a scheme for the provision of a warning flag and flag pole shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The warning flag shall be raised at any time at which the range is in use and shall not be raised at any other time. The warning flag shall be provided and made available for use prior to the commencement of the use of the range and shall be maintained in position to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority for the duration of the development.

- On 30th April 1998, planning permission was granted for an extension to an existing club room - 8/98/0166

A site visit revealed that planning permission 8/89/1314 had not been implemented and therefore 8/86/449 is the existing permission for the site. This application granted permission for an extension of pistol and rifle club range; erection of 'L' shaped clubroom/firing points and laying out of car park. There were no conditions attached to this permission in respect of times of operation or noise levels.

Therefore taking cognisance of the site history, it was determined there is no evidence of a breach of planning control at that time.

I visited the site towards the end of 2020 which had led to the current application.

The erection of the wall has in effect divided that part of the site into separate areas

In terms of the allegations outlined below; are residents saying they have extended the site beyond the red edge of the site onto adjoining land? I very much doubt that has occurred as I have been in communication previously with the adjoining land owner who I am confident would highlight the issue if this was the case.

In terms of the removal of trees there are no protected trees on the site.

In view of this information, no further action will be taken further by this Parish Council.

7. Accounts for ratification and payment

Online Design	260721	Website costs	0481	£134.40*
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E A Broad	280721	Salary – July 2021	s.o.	£248.42
E A Broad	280821	Salary - August 2021	s.o.	£248.42

*contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

8. To record any police issues

The Police & Crime Commissioners survey was completed. The form of the survey was quite restrictive in a question and answer form however the following comments were worked into the relevant sections of it:-

The main problems in Dalton are wildlife crime, fly tipping and off road bikes.

Whilst it has been great having Paddy (PC 169 Stewart), as that has given us hope that our worries and problems will be taken seriously, as we get forgotten about due to our proximity to Skelmersdale and the amount of Police resources it takes, the Rural Policing team needs more support and resources, both in terms of manpower and 4x4 vehicles, as there are only four officers and one 4x4 to cover a very big area in South Lancs.

Also call handlers and non-rural Police need to have an overview on rural crime/problems to enable them to understand what goes on, especially as Lancashire is such a rural county. People struggle to get through on 101 and very often when they get through the call handler doesn't understand the urgency or seriousness of what is being reported.

In addition to this, in early August 2021, the Chairman attended a meeting at Holmeswood, with the PCC, PC Paddy Stewart and he gamekeeper. There were several farmers present as well as three members of the Rural South team, plus their Sergeant. People from the RSPCA, Police from Merseyside Rural team, West Lancs Environmental Health and others were there too.

Our Chairman was very impressed with him, that he's taken the time to visit different rural areas to see first-hand what the problems are. PC Stewart has given him a full tour of Dalton, so he knows exactly what problems we have.

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

It was resolved to return to the highways spreadsheet and see which items were still outstanding. In view of Cllr Bailey's offer to intervene if reported issues have not yet been resolved, the reference numbers will be emailed across to him.

The clearway plan to join up the section of road outside Fairy Glen was noted.

10. To consider any planning issues or applications

Reference: 2021/0818/FUL

Chairman:.....

Demolition of existing glasshouses and erection of 1 No detached dwelling with detached garage outbuilding
At Lees Lane Nurseries, Lees Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RB

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.44 pm.

Cllr Louise Howard
Chairman

18th October 2021