

Dalton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00 pm on Monday 10th July 2023 at Dalton St Michael's School, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RP. Press & Public are invited to attend.

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Iain Pearce.

2. To co-opt new Member to fill vacancy following May election, receive acceptance of office

Antonia Newman was unanimously co-opted onto the Council. Acceptance of office was read out, signed and witnessed. A Register of Financial Interests form was completed.

3. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

4. Public Participation: Any item raised by a member of the public will be discussed at this point.

No items raised.

5. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 15th May 2023

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

6. To consider response to WLBC Consultations:

- **Proposals for Beacon Country Park**

Dalton Parish Council is broadly supportive of the proposals which would widen the use of the land, encouraging a greater footfall and could enhance this asset. As the land borders the parish but is not within it, there could be increased traffic through the parish which ought to be addressed. If greater numbers of visitors are expected, some thought to traffic management should be given. Ideas for encouraging walkers to the site and, perhaps, opening a route via Stannanought Road to accommodate visitors from Skelmersdale Town Centre area.

Residents have been asked to respond to the consultation themselves and copy in the Parish Council via the Clerk so that their view can be incorporated into the parish council response if possible.

A full response will be formulated and submitted within the deadline.

- **Draft Council Plan 2023 -2028**

This consultation was noted, however it was considered too vague for any meaningful, constructive comment.

7. Accounts for ratification and payment

ICO	190523	Data protection annual fee	£35.00
E A Broad	300523	Clerk's salary May 2023	£281.73
M Rigby	020623	Grass verge cutting	£50.00
M Rigby	230623	Grass verge cutting	£50.00
Glasdon	230623	Roadside bollard replacement	£210.15
HMRC	270623	Tax for three months	£188.40
E A Broad	270623	Clerk's salary June 2023	£281.73
Unity Trust	300623	3 monthly banking fee	£18.00

Income:

WLBC	090623	£200.50 1 st half concurrent	£931.75
HMRC	300623	£731.25 capital grant Map Refund of VAT paid last year	£37.82
Unity Trust	300623	Bank interest on reserve account	£16.96

**Account Balances: £4,619.55 in current account. £3,028.52 in reserve account.
Total = £7,648.07.**

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

8. Decide action to take on fingerpost and Dalton signs maintenance

Following lobbying, LCC Highways has replaced the fingers on the post at Lees Lane/Higher Lane junction. It was resolved to request Ground Changers to repaint the black and white post to this directional fingerpost, and other Dalton black and white signs, as far as possible within one contracted day. Depending on resources, and results, the other Dalton signs will be repainted.

9. Ashurst Beacon: to resolve question of responsibility for maintenance

No update available. The Clerk was instructed to ask Cllr Rob Bailey if any progress has been made on this.

10. Consider problem of speeding vehicles

The meeting noted LCC Highways response as follows:-

LCC Highways is not able to install repeater signage on Higher Lane. Where a system of street lighting is present within a 30mph limit, as is the case for Higher Lane, the Department for Transport explicitly prohibit the installation of additional smaller repeater signs. This also applies to the presence of carriageway roundels.

Temporary signage to help remind drivers to think about their speed may be erected and consideration is being given for installing these during the period of October to December 2023, and then again for the period of April to June 2024. This helps to maximise the effect of their message. The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership will also consider whether Higher Lane would be suitable for a community road watch.

In addition, residents benefit from the online Community Toolkit, which gives other examples of how they can raise awareness of speeding and road safety issues. This toolkit is available from the web address: lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern

If highway users witness regular incidents of nuisance or dangerous driving, they may wish to contact the police directly. They can do so by calling their non-emergency telephone number: 101. Alternatively, they can use their 'Do It Online' website, ideally with a record of the vehicle registration numbers and/or photographic evidence.

Finally, residents can now also submit footage directly to the police for their consideration through Operation SNAP. More information about Op SNAP can be found online at www.lancashire.police.uk/op-snap-public-submission-of-dashcam-footage

11. Consider problem of off-road bikes and quads

The problem of off-road bikes and quads persists. Residents are encouraged to report incidents to the police. The former golf course remains a popular venue for these.

12. Update on Capital Grant assisted project for an artistic map of the parish

It was agreed to research providing hard plastic discs labelled 'Dalton Parish Footpath Map' with the QR code, to be installed on fenceposts and Public Footpath Fingerposts. A printed map will be put into the parish council noticeboard. There is reluctance to create more roadside furniture but a lectern map might be considered at Lees Lane/Higher Lane junction.

13. To record any police issues

The meeting was sad to hear that PC Paddy Stewart will be leaving the rural task force but noted the Police & Crime Commissioner's commitment to rural policing and hoped to be in a position to welcome his replacement shortly.

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

- **Lees Lane issues**

The road repairs scheduled, then cancelled, in 2021 have not been returned to. As a result there has been further road erosion. The matter will again be reported to LCC Highways.

- **Footpath diversion – FP080735 at Rock Haven**

There has been no recent update on this application. Meanwhile residents have noted that the new alternative route provided is impassable due to water running down and a small pond forming with the junction of the road. Drainage is inadequate and the water cannot reach the stream running alongside. There has also been no maintenance done on this path and it is overgrown with stinging nettles. A supplement objection will be submitted to the Footpath Officer.

- **Coronation Bridge inadequate repair - FP080740**

During February and March 2023, the footpath was marked 'closed for repairs' but Coronation Bridge has not been repaired and the tape has been torn away so walkers are using the bridge in its dilapidated state again. It was agreed to write again to Lancashire County Council Public Rights of Way.

- **Blue water butt being used for dog waste at Priorswood:
Fischergerman.co.uk owned land**

It was resolved to write to the land agent to complain about this unsightly addition to the side of the public footpath again.

15. To consider any planning issues or applications

Application Number: 2023/0483/FUL

Location: Land adjacent Crow Lane, Dalton, Lancashire.

Proposal: Change of use from woodland into an enclosed private woodland park and retrospective planning for the erection of boundary fence

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2023/0464/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and associated external works

Location: Martins Farm Lees Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7RE

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council has no objection to this planning application providing all the criteria for development in the greenbelt have been met, and that it meets the guidelines in the Dalton Village Design Statement

Application Number: 2023/0401/FUL

Demolition of an existing conservatory and its replacement with a single storey extension to the rear of the dwelling. Construction of an open canopy at the front of the dwelling.
Martlews Cottage Long Heys Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7RS

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council has no objection to this planning application providing all the criteria for development in the greenbelt have been met, and that it meets the guidelines in the Dalton Village Design Statement

Application Number: 2023/0386/FUL

Location: Meadowbank Lees Lane Dalton Wigan Lancashire WN8 7RE Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council has no objection to this planning application providing all the criteria for development in the greenbelt have been met, and that it meets the guidelines in the Dalton Village Design Statement

Application Number: 2023/0422/PNP

Proposal: Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for details - New Access Road.

Location: Land West Of Woodvale Higher Lane Dalton Lancashire

Parish Council Response:

Dalton Parish Council request that this application is **refused**, owing to:

1. the scale of works proposed being excessive and unreasonable.
2. the potential for the tracks & facilities to be used unlawfully by visitors to the 5 caravans and 5 tents licensed for use on the land.

We also request that a decision is sent to the applicant before **Friday 21 July 2023**, in accordance with the requirement for WLBC to respond within 28 days.

Our rationale for this request is set out below.

Part 6, Class A – Agricultural Use

We do not believe the application qualifies under Part 6, Class A of the GPDO because forestry is not an agricultural use, unless carried out on land that is ancillary to farming land used for other agricultural purposes (see Section 336 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990). This site is an independent unit that is not ancillary to any other land used for farming. The proposed works exceed the limit of 1000 sqm set by A.1(e).

Part 6, Class E – Forestry

Afforestation is included under Class E; however, the application lacks any detail on the extent of afforestation proposed. To be legitimately considered afforestation, the Forestry Commission expects no more than 20% of the site to be open land. There is also a mandatory requirement for the applicant to submit a 'stage 1' afforestation application to the Forestry Commission for this site (i.e. being >5ha in a 'low risk area'). The required EIA form has been supplied to WLBC as supplementary information, but it has not been completed. It

appears the Forestry Commission has not received an application either, as this site does not appear on their public register for consultations.

Without detailed information on the extent of afforestation proposed, it is impossible to assess whether the scale and siting of hardstanding is reasonably necessary for the purposes of forestry on this land. Please note there are no hardcore tracks currently in existence on the site (only grass), so the total area being proposed is 2585 sqm. Without detail of the afforestation scheme, Dalton Parish Council considers 2585 sqm to be unreasonable and excessive.

Camping

The application has omitted that a licence has been granted by Freedom Camping to operate a camping/caravan/glamping site from this field for 5 tents and 5 caravan/glamping pods. The toilet block and access track are in proximity to the agreed camping location. It would be unlawful for camping visitors to use any tracks & toilets authorised under Part 6 of the GPDO, with such use limited to either forestry or agriculture. The GPDO does not allow for works with a duality of use of this kind (i.e. forestry and camping). We feel strongly that Highways need to be consulted to ensure the safety of holiday makers accessing the site, especially with regards to visibility around the proposed entrances/exits.

Enforcement

Unfortunately, enforcement has already been involved on this site because a container was placed there with no planning permission. Enforcement asked for it to be removed by the end of February 2023, but it is still there.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm.

Cllr Louise Howard
Chairman of Dalton Parish Council

11th September 2023