

Dalton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00 pm on Monday 13th March 2023 at Dalton St Michael's School, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RP.

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

MINUTES

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 will be discussed at this point.

Borough Councillor Jukes told the meeting of her endeavours to prevent the vehicle racing that is going on behind ST Joseph's College, Up Holland. Access is via Beacon Lane and surrounding properties including Crow Lane are affected by noise. Police are investigating this highly organised activity, involving You Tube recording, remote viewing and unofficial betting. Quad and off-road bikes continue to be a problem all over the Beacon – racing around the roads and across the fields.

4. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 16th January 2022

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

5. To conclude arrangements for the Community Litterpick – Saturday 18th March at 10am

Approximately 24 volunteers have signed up, with cars and trailers available to collect the filled bags from the roadside. A risk assessment has been drawn up and published on the noticeboard. WLBC has been requested to collect the filled bags from the carpark on Monday 20th March 2023.

6. To record any police issues

The residents meeting at Skelmersdale Police Station was successfully in helping people understand the work of the police Rural Task Force. The Chairman thanked all involved and the residents for coming along.

7. To record any highway or public right of way issues

It was resolved to order a new bollard to replace the one damaged by a vehicle.

An emergency closure order has been placed on the footpath where Coronation Bridge is so that the bridge can be repaired.

The Clerk was instructed to remind LCC Highways that the fingerposts are illegible and request consultation on how they will be repaired. If Highways will not replace them to the same standard, the parish will consider purchasing replacements, rather than allow the heritage signs to be replaced with plain, grey, modern signage.

An update on the following, already reported issue, will be requested:

The sides of the roads are getting worse in a number of places along Lees Lane where the gully/drains/ditches have collapsed.

The traffic cones and temporary barriers that LCC put up two years ago now, have now fallen into the ditches or holes that need fixing. It's ridiculous, they had the money and had scheduled the work in 2021, it was only because of shortage of materials that it got cancelled. Some parts of the road are really dangerous, if a vehicle goes off the road onto the verge it would cause a really serious accident.

The points on Lees Lane that need fixing, if coming from the Higher Lane end are:

1. Just before Blackbirds Farm entrance, the sides of the road have collapsed, due to water travelling over the road rather than through a drain/gully that runs under the road.
2. The side of the road just after Prescotts Farm on the left has collapsed, due to the drain/gully under the road being blocked further up, so water is travelling down the road, instead of going under the road, and as a result the verge has collapsed.
3. Opposite Holland House, the side of the road where a gully/ditch is has collapsed.
4. Opposite Lower House Farm, the side of the road where a gully/ditch is has collapsed.

A water butt on private land is being filled with dog waste bags by passing members of the public. The Clerk was asked to write to the land owner to request that it is removed, or if required for water storage labelled appropriately.

8. Accounts for ratification and payment

E A Broad	280123	Salary – January 2023	£276.73
E A Broad	280223	Salary – February 2023	£276.73
Online Design	040323	Website updates	£32.40*

L Howard	130323	Reimburse for litter-picking gloves	£16.99
E A Broad	280323	Salary – March 2023 (increase takes Working from Home allowance into account)	£281.73
HMRC	280323	Tax for three months	£163.80
Unity Bank	280323	Bank charges	£18.00

*contains VAT element

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment. The Asset Register for end of financial year 2023 was agreed to be:-

Asset Register 2023

		Custodian
Jubilee bench – bought in 2003	£772	Street furniture
Oak notice board – bought in 2007	£1,463	Street furniture
“Dalton” – cast iron signposts x 4	£500	Street furniture
Bench on corner of Lees Lane/Higher Lane (acquired 2017 - costing £300 to repaint in 2016)	£300	Street furniture
Lenovo laptop (2018) protector (2008)	£700	Clerk
Interpretation Boards £1,070 each at Beacon Point & Church footpath (2018)	£2,140	Street furniture
Kissing Gate (2021)	£ 750	Street furniture
Roadside bollards (2021)	£1,480	Street furniture
Total:	£8,105.00	

The appointment of Newburgh Clerk, Mrs S Jones, as Internal Auditor, was confirmed.

9. Update on the Capital Grant supported project to produce an artistic map of the parish

The artist is working on the final draft for the map.

10. To consider any planning issues or applications

Application Number: 2022/1321/FUL

Proposal: Proposed two storey rear extension, attic conversion with dormers. Alter elevational treatment to Render.

Location: Stoney Knoll, Hillock Lane, Dalton, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7RJ

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

Application Number: 2023/0129/FUL

Proposal: Proposed rear extension with terrace at first floor.

Location: Quinta, Higher Lane, Dalton, Wigan, Lancashire, WN8 7T

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

The Clerk was instructed to ask Planning to clarify, when a property is demolished and a new property is built, which property is classed as the original property? It is important because under Policy GB4 of the SPD – Development in the Green Belt – it is stated that proposals for extensions to existing buildings in the Green Belt should satisfy the specified criteria which include:

the total volume of the proposal together with any previous extensions should not exceed 40% of the volume of the original building and the design of the extension is in keeping with the original form and appearance of the building and does not materially harm the openness of the Green Belt. So, which is considered to be the original building – the footprint in 1948 or the footprint of the new build?

At Boydell's Farm there continues to be a problem with surface water running down the track, onto Hillock Lane and then down Hillock Lane to the East, causing flooding problems for those who live at the opposite end of Hillock Lane from the site. There are concerns that a natural spring may be sited under the track there because every time it rains it floods and remains wet with running water long after the weather has dried up. Much of the road has been patched up because of water erosion damage. This problem of flooding will be exacerbated once the track is resurfaced with tarmac, so can something be done to stop the water getting onto Hillock Lane?

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm for the commencement of the Annual Parish Assembly.

Chairman

15th May 2023