

Dalton Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Louise Howard (Chairman), Cllr Iain Pearce (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Chris Murphy, Cllr Toni Newman, Cllr Gill Rainford.

Borough Councillor Katie Juckes and three Dalton residents were in attendance.

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.

Members of the public were highly concerned about the state of two empty public houses. It was suggested that WLBC be asked what arrangements are in place for incremental rises in council tax for the owners, as each property has a residential component to the building, in order to encourage them not to leave the properties empty. Borough Councillor Juckes agreed to make enquiries at WLBC regarding empty properties.

Parish Councillors were reminded that the property adjacent to the Old School House has been given a time limit for planning conditions to be met.

Concern was raised that Dalton St Michael's parochial parish council has only one member who is resident in Dalton, leading to concern that Dalton is poorly represented.

The ticker tape marking out of land at Woodvale is worrying some residents who ask why it has been sectioned off. WLBC Planning Enforcement Office has been involved in assessing any breaches of permissions.

The plot of land at Crow Lane/Higher Lane with application for dog walking fields had no report on the existing trees.

The above issues were raised as matters of interest but do not concern the parish council directly.

Borough Councillor Katie Jukes, was thanked for raising the issue of the LCC Walking & Cycling Survey, to which the parish council responded. Feedback from Lancashire Active Travel Team confirmed that the proposals were aspirational in nature and not yet subjected to a feasibility study.

4. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 11th September 2023

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

5. Accounts for ratification and payment

M Rigby	031023	Grass verge cutting	£50.00
M Rigby	061023	Grass verge cutting	£50.00
M Rigby	251023	Grass verge cutting	£50.00
Up Holland PC	251023	Contribution to SLCC fees	£36.00
E A Broad	271023	Clerk's salary October 2023	£281.73
St Michael's School	141123	Room hire – annual sum	£150.00

Income received:

WLBC	201023	Second half concurrent funding	£200.50
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Account Balances as at 081123

Savings account	=	£4,560.11
Current account	=	£1,261.88

Total: = **£5,821.99**

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

6. Consider any grant applications – capital or under UK Shared Prosperity Fund

No applications will be made for grant funding this year.

7. Consider draft Budget for 2024/25

The budget was considered and it was resolved in principle to request a precept of £5,000 for the financial year 2024/25. The Council reserves the right to revisit this, and amend, should there be a change of circumstance before 31st January 2024. Financial risk assessment papers were updated.

8. Update on fingerpost and Dalton signs maintenance

The next two fingerposts will be repainted in the spring.

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

No response from Wigan or West Lancashire Councils on this issue. The land remains in the ownership of Wigan Council.

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

Invoices under this project must be submitted to WLBC before 31st March 2024.

11. To record any police issues

The meeting noted issues of damage to the land at Beacon Country Park & Golf Club, however, this land is not within Dalton Parish boundary. Problems of off-road motorbikes and anti-social behaviour continue. Residents are encouraged to report these directly to the police so that accurate statistics can be obtained and police assistance to arrest the perpetrators.

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

- **Lees Lane issues**

It was agreed to send more photographs and a full background of this issue to Borough Councillor Katie Jukes who will pursue LCC to repair this carriageway.

Japanese Knotweed discovered on Higher Lane, and reported to LCC will also be followed up by Borough Councillor Jukes.

- **Coronation Bridge inadequate repair - FP080740**

This Footpath running from Long Heys Lane to Ashurst Beacon is along a route commonly used each December for a Santa Run. The footpath was closed by LCC PROW in February this year as dangerous but the footbridge has not been attended too. The land owner here is not clear – it may be Wigan Council. Clerk to contact the PROW team at Lancashire County Council so that they are aware of the risk they are taken by not repairing this bridge.

13. To consider any planning issues or applications

No planning issues.

14. Consider response to WLBC Parish Remuneration Panel on Basic Parish Allowance recommendations

Dalton Parish Council does not pay an allowance to any parish councillor and as such, has no comment on the remuneration panel's recommendation.

15. Resolution for the Exclusion of Press and Public

It is recommended that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and as, in all circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Section 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

16. Approve pay award in line with National Association of Local Councils Guidelines

Approved.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

Cllr Louise Howard
Chairman

15th January 2024