

# *Dalton Parish Council*

**Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth-Anne Broad JP, LLB (Hons), MA, CiLCA**  
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**The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00 pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Dalton St Michael's School, Higher Lane, Dalton, WN8 7RP.**

## MINUTES

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

### **1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Chris Murphy and Cllr Toni Newman.

### **2. To receive declarations of interest**

Cllr Pearce updated his Register of Interest form, adding position as governor at St Michaels School, Dalton.

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

Borough Councillor Katie Jukes gave an update on a number of items and the Chairman thanked her for taking so much time to pursue other councils on these items.

Long Heys Lane residents complained about a lack of street sweeping. WLBC promise two thorough cleans a year. Cllr Whittington has offered to meet LCC Highways to sort out the various problems and asked for an update from Enforcement over planning issues. Ashurst Beacon monument and surrounds remains Wigan Borough Council land and has been left in limbo somewhat. There appears to be no progress on any transfer to WLBC for maintenance. Litter is still a problem, mostly thrown from vehicles. It is not recommended that volunteers clean (lower) Beacon Lane as it is dangerous. WLBC are looking to see if there are any appropriate sites for public waste bins. The empty public houses continue to deteriorate. The Chairman thanked Cllr Jukes for her veracity in pursuing Dalton issues and taking the time to listen and understand.

### **4. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

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

**5. Accounts for ratification and payment and appointment of internal auditor**

J Riley	150124	QR code design	£65.00
JAF Graphics	210124	Hard plastic discs for QR code	£185.00
E A Broad	270124	Clerk's salary January 2024	£299.18
M Rigby	260224	Bollard replacement	£160.00
E A Broad	270224	Clerk's salary February 2024	£299.18
Online Design	280224	Website updates	£32.40

*Anticipated, agreed payments:*

E A Broad	270324	Clerk's salary March 2024	£299.18
HMRC	270324	Tax for three months	£200.60
L Howard	280324	Gloves for litter picking	£16.99
DV Gardens	280324	Install QR code stickers	£95.00
Unity Trust	310324	Bank charges	£18.00

## Income received:

WLBC	090224	Capital grant (map)	£115.63
WLBC	010324	Capital grant (map)	£48.75
Unity Trust	310324	Interest on savings account	£21.32

## Account Balances as at 090324

Savings account	=	£3,093.15
Current account	=	£767.54
Total:	=	£3,860.69

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

It was resolved to appoint Mrs Sandra Jones as Internal Auditor.

**6. Update on fingerpost and Dalton signs maintenance**

The fingerpost repainting is complete and the contractor has been asked to repaint the remaining ones, on Higher Lane and Beacon Lane just after Crow Lane junction.

**7. Ashurst Beacon: to resolve question of responsibility for maintenance**

No progress on this issue. The land is owned by Wigan Council so lack of maintenance there is to be referred to them at this stage.

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

The lectern is on order but there have been production delays. It was agreed to ask to Ground Changers to install it when it arrives and for D V Gardens to install the QR discs. The project is almost complete, so some two weeks behind schedule. The artistic map and lectern will be added to the asset register on receipt.

**9. To record any police issues**

No items raised.

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

- **Lees Lane issues**
- **Coronation Bridge - FP080740**
- **Japanese Knotweed on Dungeon Lane**
- **Himalayan Balsam on roadside verges**
- **Surface water issues - ED 48706 Dungeon Lane Higher Lane junction**

The above issues have all been reported to LCC Highways and Public Rights of Way, with no recent progress to report.

**11. Hedgehog Highways Project**

It was resolved to write in support of the Hedgehog Highways Project but to explain that the Chairman already helps the hedgehog rescue in a very practical way and this parish council is very aware of their plight. The rural nature of this parish, with few new builds, makes the advertised product inappropriate here so no hedgehog highway bridges are required.

**12. To consider any planning issues or applications and update on WLBC Local Plan**

Application Number: 2024/0047/FUL

Proposal: Proposal to surface an agricultural access track.

Location: Land West Of Higher Lane Dalton Lancashire

Parish Council Response: Dalton Parish Council objects on following grounds:

**Lack of detail/information in the drawings and application form**

Very limited information has been provided with the application. There is no design & access statement, no information on flood mitigation measures, and no detail on where or how the hardstanding will be laid (shape, scale, gradient etc). We are unsure if an altered vehicle access is being proposed. If so, Highways should be consulted.

There's also no information on the number of vehicle movements proposed to justify the introduction of hardcore. There are currently 12 plots of land on this field that are up for sale/sold, with the advert indicating this would be a new access point for up to 12 potential new owners/uses.

### **Excessive scale**

At 250sqm and 35m in length, the proposed hard-standing is presumably 7m wide (although this is not stated or shown in the application). This seems an excessive width for a vehicle access and is more likely going to be used for parking, storage, or another use.

### **Flood Risk**

The Environment Agency has categorized Higher Lane as high risk for surface water flooding. No mitigation measures are proposed to prevent worsening the situation. The introduction of compacted hardcore, some of which will be a bound material, is likely to increase surface water flooding elsewhere. We believe there is also an underground stream/watercourse on this land.

### **Irreversible development in Green Belt**

There are better options than hardcore that have a less permanent impact in Green Belt. For example, mud control mats are reversible and support up to 60 tonnes in weight.

### **Tree Preservation Order**

The development site contains over 30 trees protected by Tree Preservation Order WLBC 28/2002. This is not mentioned in the application, nor how those near this track will be protected.

### **Enforcement action pending**

We would also remind yourselves that enforcement action is pending on this site.

### **Condition**

If planning permission is granted, we would ask that a condition is imposed so that the works are only used for agricultural purposes as detailed in the application.

The Clerk was instructed to complete the WLBC Housing Strategy consultation on behalf of the parish council.

[Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - 2029 | Your Voice West Lancashire \(engagementhq.com\)](https://www.engagementhq.com)

The meeting noted the update that the next Local Plan consultation is expected later in this year.

The following issues are ongoing with limited updates available:

**Chairman: .....**

- Progress of development under Application 2022/1210/FUL - land adjacent to Old School House, Higher Lane, Dalton.
- Update on Enforcement action to remove shipping container from the land west of Woodvale, Higher Lane.
- Empty Public Houses: Prince William and The Beacon Inn

**13. To confirm details and risk assessment for Community Litter Pick – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**

The risk assessment was confirmed for use at the event.

In future, perhaps cleaning of public benches and signs or bulb planting might be added as community group activities.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:30pm.

*Cllr Louise Howard*  
*Chairman*

*13<sup>th</sup> May 2024*