

Minutes of Dunham-on-Trent, with Ragnall, Darlton and Fledborough Parish Council (Dunham & District Parish Council)



Meeting of **Dunham & District Parish Council** held on the **23rd Jul 2021** at Dunham Village Hall, the meeting commenced at **7:00pm**.

Members & Officer Present

Cllr Madeline Barden

Cllr Lucy Atkinson

Cllr Emma Thorpe

Current Vacancies

Ed Knox

0 Members of the Public

Chairman

Cllr Vera Ballinger

Cllr Rachel Bean

Darlton: 1, Dunham on Trent: 2

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Also, Present

➤ Public Forum

None Present.

33/21 To receive apologies for absence

The Council resolved to accept the apologies of Cllr Booth due to other commitments. Cllr Stapleton did not attend.

34/21 To receive declarations of interest

None.

35/21 To Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

After discussion, the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

36/21 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

Dist Cllr Isard – Did not attend.

Dist Cllr Stanniland – Did not attend.

County Cllr Ogle - Did not attend.

37/21 To Adopt a Petitions Policy & Public Participation Policy

After Discussion Cllr Barden **Proposed**, Cllr Watkinson **Seconded** that the Council unanimously **resolved** the re-adoption of:

- Petitions Policy
- Public Participation Policy

The Clerk will upload the final versions to the website. **Action**, Clerk.

38/21 To Arrange Quarterly Litter Picks with Bassetlaw Council

After discussion, the Council **resolved** that it would aim to do quarterly litter picking, the first one on Sunday 3rd Oct 2021, purchase 20 litter picking hoops and arrange to loan the other litter picking equipment and bags from the Bassetlaw Council Environmental Education and Awareness Officer who coordinates the equipment. Cllr Barden agreed to allow the delivery of the equipment, collection of the rubbish bags from her address and will look after the hoops. It was also agreed that litter picking in between the Council ran picks will be undertaken as part of the role of the replacement Lengthsman.

39/21 To Authorise Replacement of Ragnall Bench

Cllr Barden explained out the bench in Ragnall near the noticeboard is very old, leaning to one side, it has had a temporary fix by S.Ashworth Diggers Ltd who have advised it is beyond repair. The Clerk advised that Rampton and South Leverton have both been installing the Glasdon Lowther Benches, which whilst look aesthetically pleasing, are robust and zero maintenance, with a guarantee of 25 years. S.Ashworth have installed several of these. The cost is net £553 including fixings. S.Ashworth would charge £155 to take the old one away and install the new one. The Clerk advised that there are enough funds in the council's budget

to comfortable cover the cost. After Discussion Cllr Barden **Proposed**, Cllr Watkinson **Seconded** and the Council unanimously **resolved** that S.Ashworth replaces the old bench with the Glasdon Lowther bench. Action, Clerk to order bench and liaise with S.Ashworth Diggers Ltd.

40/21 To Appoint a Flood Warden

Cllr Ballinger explained that the Flood Warden Official Guidance provided from the EA was too in-depth and suggested that the role read more complex than some volunteering and should ought to be a paid role that is carried out and not something they expect a person to volunteer to do. After discussion, the Council **resolved** not to appoint a specific Cllr as a Flood Warden but the Clerk should ask the District & County Councillors for any guidance which the County or District Council can provide to Parish Council, what is the level of input they expect from Parish Council's on the matter and what should/could Councillors be expected to do should flooding of homes ever be declared imminent in the parishes.

Action, Clerk to contact District & County Cllrs.

41/21 To Decide which road sign to ask Highways to swap for an 'Elderly Persons Crossing' sign

After discussion, Cllr Barden **Proposed**, Cllr Watkinson **Seconded** that because all the existing road signage is essential, it is imperative that the Highways Manager visits Dunham and considers the most appropriate placement for an Elderly Persons Crossing sign, within the vicinity of the dropped curbing at the crossing point which the County Council installed in 2011, at that time it was recorded in the Parish Council minutes that they promised the Parish Council that signage would be installed but it never appeared. Clerk to Chase Highways/County Cllr for a response.

42/21 To Review and update the Responsibilities and Appointment of Representatives of Other Bodies List

The Charity Governing Document of the Village Hall requires that the Parish Council appoints 2 people to be committee members of the village hall. The rest of the list of responsibilities needs updating with a cllr or cllrs for each one. After discussion the Council **Resolved** the following:

- o Dunham Millennium Hall Trustees appointed by the Parish Council – Cllr Thorpe & Cllr Atkinson
- o Parish Website/social media – Clerk & Cllr Watkinson
- o Bassetlaw Nottinghamshire Police Rural East Bassetlaw Priority Setting Group – Cllr Booth
- o EDF Power Station Liaison – Cllr Barden & Cllr Ballinger
- o Bassetlaw Rural Conference – Cllr Barden
- o Bassetlaw Parish Forum – Cllr Barden & Ballinger
- o Bassetlaw South East Forum – Cllr Barden
- o Bassetlaw Local Plan – Cllr Barden & Cllr Atkinson
- o Bassetlaw Planning Applications – Cllr Watkinson
- o Bassetlaw Quarterly Litter Picks – Cllr Barden (equipment storing etc) & All Cllrs free to take part
- o NCC Policy – Cllr Barden
- o LCC Policy – Cllr Barden
- o Central Government Policy – Cllr Barden
- o School Governor – Cllr Watkinson
- o Fledglings Preschool – Cllr Thope
- o Noticeboards – Cllr Thorpe (for all noticeboards in Dunham, Darlton, Ragnall & Fledborough)
- o Online Signatories – In addition to the Clerk and the 3 existing Councillors on the Bank Mandate. The Council, agreed that All Parish Councillors would be added as signatories onto the Unity Bank so that all Councillors can authorise payments.

The Clerk will update and send around the council a copy of the updated Responsibilities and Appointment of Representatives of Other Bodies List and arrange for the bank mandate at Unity Bank to be updated.

Action, Clerk.

43/21 To Discuss a request for a lease for Reptile Gardens

A request has been made to take over the lease of the parish council own land HM Land Registry Title No NT547456, known locally as Reptile Gardens which is located adjacent Bridleway & Gauntleys Ltd's business. After discussion, Cllr Watkinson **Proposed**, Cllr Barden **Seconded** that the Parish Council is keen to support Gauntley's as a prominent local business, the carpark is essential to the continuation of the business,

therefore, the Council **resolved** that a 5 year lease with the option to extend for 5 year periods is drafted, that the Councillors will work on the wording of the lease and once all Councillors are satisfied with the content the draft is then sent to the member of the public for their input, once both parties are agreed, then the final draft is sent to Jones & Co solicitors for advice before proceeding with signing of the new tenancy to commence on 1st April 2022. **Action**, all Cllrs and Clerk.

43/21 To Discuss Wildlife Projects

Following Cllr Atkinsons suggestion that National Grid Ltd may have funding to support a local project Cllr Watkinson emailed the following ideas, for the environmental money that might be granted:

- Wildflowers - seeds or turf
- Bulbs - daffodils, crocus, snowdrops, tulips (but basic variety may be red)
- Tree planting - play area, verges, volunteered farmers land
- owl/bird boxes
- Bat boxes
- More play equipment at Dunham Play Park (think they will only do Dunham as the work they are doing isn't affecting Darlton).
- Perhaps adult exercise equipment.

Cllr Barden also met with a representative from Notts Wildlife Trust to look at potential environmental projects we could undertake in our parishes.

After discussion, the Council **resolved** that **1)** Cllr Thorpe & Atkinson would approach the Village Hall Committee for their input and see if the Village Hall would be interested in helping develop the land to the north of the Village Hall further for the benefit of flora & fauna. **2)** Cllrs would draft a suitable mailshot that could go to all homes in the parishes together with the Community High Speed broadband literature once it arrives from Openreach. The mailshot leaflet would then also be advertised on Facebook, Parish Council website and noticeboards.

43/21 To Discuss Dunham & Darlton Playpark Reports

The annual ROSPA inspection Reports have arrived, there are several minor adjustments and repairs required at both playgrounds. Cllr Barden **Proposed**, Cllr Watkins **Seconded** the Council **Resolved** that S.Ashworth Diggers Ltd undertakes all the remedial actions in the reports as per the quote provided. Fortnightly inspections and inspection log completion was also discussed, it was also Resolved that the Clerk shall in the first instance approach the Laneham Parish Council lengthsman to ascertain if he is willing to be employed on a self-employed basis to inspect the play equipment and potentially share the Rospa Training costs between both Councils. **Action**, Clerk to arrange with S.Ashworth and contact Laneham Lengthsman.

44/21 Finance:

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
C.Gaisford	Lengthsman Services Apr	£131.40
C.Gaisford	Lengthsman Services May	£499.40
C.Gaisford	Lengthsman Services Jun	£284.70
Postsaver Ltd	Metal Post Protectors for Zipwire Polls	£38.99
S.Ashworth Diggers Ltd	Darlton Play Area Remedial Works	£125.00
S.Ashworth Diggers Ltd	Dunham Play Area Remedial Works	£405.00
Sovereign Play Ltd	Dunham Zipwire Service & Re-tensioning	£216.00
Helix Binders Ltd	Minute Book 2013-2020 Binding	£47.91
Holmes Ground Care	Dunham Play Area Grass Cutting Apr	£180.00
Holmes Ground Care	Dunham Play Area Grass Cutting May	£135.00
Holmes Ground Care	Dunham Play Area Grass Cutting June	£135.00
SLCC	Membership Renewal 2021	£46.80
Gauntleys of Dunham Ltd	Gallup WeedKiller for C.Gaisford Lengthsman	£19.95
Came & Co Ltd	Insurance Renewal 2021	£862.74
Rospa Playsafety Ltd	Dunham & Darlton Annual Playground Inspections	£257.40

Total Payments **£3,385.29**

Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
None		

Total Receipts **£0.00**

Bank Balance **£26,665.82**

Bank Reconciliation for the year to date to be approved. Council **Resolved** unanimously that figures were correct. Reconciliation to be signed by when practical. Direct Debits and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE and Pension, all **approved** unanimously.

45/21 To Receive Update on a community partnership bid for financial help with improving Broadband

Unfortunately, the voucher scheme has changed from 1st Apr 2021, the Notts Digital Engagement Officer (NDEO) has confirmed that the scheme will no longer apply to all 277 homes in the parishes, only those that are 0 to 30mbs: *“Nottinghamshire County Council have provided notice to DCMS that we wish to change the eligibility criteria concerning which premises are able to access the Notts top-up. The top-up will only support Nottinghamshire premises that are unable to receive a 30Mbps download speed from their current broadband network. This strategic decision was made based on our experience of the previous voucher scheme. There was significant concern that the funds available in the top-up fund were being applied for by suppliers in areas where the vast majority of premises were able to receive speeds above the 30Mbps mark, often in the region of 50Mbps-80Mbps. The purpose of the top-up was to support the areas that required it the most and a decision was made in order to accomplish that.*

The top-up fund will not be available to premises that are able to receive a broadband service of a minimum of 30Mbps download speed.

Nottinghamshire County Council have no influence on any supplier's commercial decision for contracting. If the group scheme does not meet the criteria determined by Openreach for being demand-led then they will require a legal entity to contract with as indicated by your supplier. Based on the information provided below by your supplier it would seem they are willing to allow residents to pledge their support to the scheme in order to see how much funding can be raised. The liability question really should be discussed with your supplier as this is a scheme between yourselves and them. As I outlined to the Parish Council on my digital visit; until you approach a supplier and get the cost associated to deliver the network, we simply do not know the cost involved. This will mean that not all areas that develop a group scheme progress to delivery such is the nature of network delivery to rural areas.

It would also be important to ascertain how many of the premises within your scheme (residential or business) are voucher eligible to get a handle on additional funding. When we have the final offer, we can determine what premises are top-up eligible (all premises should be voucher eligible) and then we can see if there is any gap-cost. Further to this; we need to understand whether the residents and businesses in the community would support a scheme, as without them registering their support we cannot include the funding.

The Clerk has submitted costing enquiries for the following areas:

- **Dunham, Darlton, Ragnall & Fledborough Parishes** 277 Properties registered on Dunham-on-Trent Exchange Ref 55487, unfortunately, the initial cost for this scheme is expected to be £2600 per property, £1500 of which is covered by the Central Govt Voucher Scheme. Unfortunately, the changes to the Notts CC Top Up Scheme from 1st Apr 2021 means that the £1,500 additional top up, which previously would have been enough to bring superfast broadband to all 277 homes, is now only available to those with a broadband speed of 0 to 30mbs. Openreach have advised that there are 93 properties out of the 277 which would qualify for the top up, we would need 72% take up for the scheme to be viable. Openreach are now looking at finding out a list of the 93 properties so that these can be approached to see if the majority of them will sign up to the scheme.

The Clerk advised that the new Openreach Rural Engagement Manager, Wendy, states that Openreach are currently looking at end of August as timescales for new pledging websites to be set up, followed by the literature to support promotion of the scheme for the parish council to promote the sign up in the local area. The Clerk agreed to chase the Notts County Council Broadband Engagement Officer Openreach for their assistance in escalating the matter with Openreach, to see if the timescales can be improved upon.

If any residents have further questions, they can also contact the Notts County Council Broadband Engagement Officer and his Better Broadband for team using enquiries.broadband@nottscc.gov.uk or by phoning 0115 977 2532.

46/22 To Receive Councillor's/Clerks' Reports including Road Traffic Accidents:

New Highways issues cllrs report via the online tool (ideally with photos) in first instance whenever possible and let the Clerk know the reference number, then at each meeting any unactioned reported items the Clerk will escalate to the County Cllr/District Cllr, Highways Manager/Waste Managers.

The following items have been raised with the Highways Authority Manager so that these matters can be investigated and finally resolved. Each month the Clerk chases the Highways Manager and the Parish Council adds to this list while awaiting a reply:

Outstanding Items:

- **Noting of Accidents** – None.
- **Fledborough Potholes & Highway Markings** reported 13.04.21 reference HAMS 6204962 & 24/3/21 – Job no: 2768672 – Highways Manager visited and took notice of the potholes and agreed for these to be looked at. The Highway Markings, can we mark sides of the roads to identify the drainage divots, the Highways Manager couldn't see a suitable solution. Cllr Atkinson suggested that a membrane with a sufficient number of stones on top could be a potential solution. Cllr Booth **agreed** to contact the Lengthsman to ask if this is something he can assist with the installation of the membrane and stones. Road from Manor Cottage to Church Potholes: – Awaiting Inspection. Some potholes identified and repairs undertaken on Access Road to Fledborough
- **Car Accidents at Coronation Terrace** – Cllr Barden gave a copy of Cllr Booth's email detail the safety of this area to the Highways Manager at the site visit. Highways Manager advised a barrier could cause entrapment issues; however, slimmer bollards or raised curbs could potentially be installed, the Highways Manager will report back as to whether these slimmer bollards could be installed.
- **Signage on The Green** – The Highways Manager looked at the blind corner of The Green/Horne Lane and the cars parking near the junction increase the safety problem. The Highways Manager will arrange to repaint the road markings and write a double dotted line on the road.
- **Dunham The Green, Potholes** – When Cllr Barden met the Highways Manager looked at the Potholes, took note of these to be repaired. It was clear to see that the east side of the carriageway running north/south of The Green was badly in need of repair. This side was particularly bad because traffic heading both north and south was forced to travel on the east side because of parked cars. Unfortunately, the problem of vehicles going onto the verge of the road on the south side of the Green couldn't be resolved. We know that it happens because residents park their cars outside their homes leaving insufficient room for other vehicles to pass, but putting dropped kerbs either end would mean that the verge would be regarded as road worthy and this would not be the case.
- **Dunham A57 Dropped curb Elderly Persons Crossing Signage:** At the July 2021 meeting Cllr Barden Proposed, Cllr Watkinson Seconded that because all the existing road signage is essential, it is imperative that the Highways Manager visits Dunham and considers the most appropriate placement for an Elderly Persons Crossing sign, within the vicinity of the dropped curbing at the crossing point which the County Council installed in 2011, at that time it was recorded in the Parish Council minutes that they promised the Parish Council that signage would be installed but it never appeared. Clerk to Chase Highways/County Cllr for a response.
- **Bus Shelter for Laneham Road, Dunham:** The Highways Manager has been informed there's 9 children soon going from this stop to school. The Highways Manager raised **Enquiry reference 6180034** – this request is currently with NCC Transport Facilities team for their consideration and response
- **Laneham Road, Dunham: Pavement poor condition and exposed drainage pipes (Ref 93719):** Cllr Barden showed the Highways Manager all of the problems and where the pavement is falling apart and there are drainage pipes exposed. The Highways Manager agreed to raise a job for these to be investigated and repaired. The Highways Manager agreed that the Lengthsman can weedkill from the Dunham/Ragnall Crossroads to the Laneham, Drayton Road junction.
- **4 Long Row Cottages Flooding** - The Drainage Manger and Principal Flood Risk Manager are working together to find a resolution to this issue. The resident has been contacted by a member of the Flood

Risk team at NCC. The Council would like to be copied in on the final resolution for information purposes.

- **Yellow Salt Grit Bins in all 4 Parishes** – Reported to Highways Liaison Officer & Manager 19.04.21 – Parish Lengthsman advises all salt bins need topping up. Highways Manager raised this with Ruth Eyre bring this to the attention of the Winter Maintenance team.
- **Children Playing/Playground Signage** - the Parish Lengthsman advises that on Low Street near the Village Hall, there is no Children Playing/Playground Signage. Reported to Highways Manager 19.04.21. Highways Manager agreed no signage was there so this would be looked into for potential signage installation. The Highways Manager asked Ruth Eyre to provide the PC with an update.
- **Cocketts Hill** – Was discussed with the Highways Manager, Cocketts Hill is a narrow road leading into Low Street which links the Laneham Road to the A57 at the White Swan. For a number of years, we have been trying to a) make this stretch of road accessible to pedestrians and so far, failed, mainly due to cost and b) stopping cars travelling west ‘queueing’ at a blind bend on the A57 to turn right onto Low Street, using this as a short cut to the Laneham Road. We believe our proposal negates the need for excessive cost and resolves our two long term problems. If Cocketts Hill is made One Way (vehicles able to travel southerly, down Cocketts Hill) then there would be sufficient space for a pedestrian walkway to be ‘lined’ on the road. It would require a No Entry sign at the bottom of Cocketts Hill, immediately after the crossroads of Upper Row and Chequers Lane.

The PC have informally approached those houses affected by the change and they are in agreement. The Highways Manager agreed to look into this proposal and report back to the Parish Council.

New Items:

- **Cllr Barden:** Attended the Bassetlaw South East Forum, it is yet to be determined whether Remembrance Sunday services will happen this year, depending on Covid. The Bassetlaw Local Plan goes before Bassetlaw Cabinet in Sept 2021, a further consultation will then follow before it is sent to the Secretary of State in Jan 2022. Cllr Barden requested that the Lengthsman is asked to keep an eye on the bin in Dunham Play area during the summer holidays and ensures it is emptied regularly. Cllr Barden would like the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on the Sept Agenda.
- **Cllr Watkinson:** The new head of Dunham Primary starts in September.
- **Cllr Bean:** The Parish Council owned Fledborough sign appears to be leaning, Cllr Bean will check and if it is leaning let the Clerk know as it will need S.Ashworth Diggers Ltd to reinstate it. Cllr Bean also requested that Lengthsman weedkills the 4 mtr former bus stop area in Fledborough known as Foggy Bottom.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the council voted to close the following item to members of the public due so that the Council can discuss Contracts (which may include, but not limited to, terms of tenders & contracts, proposals and counter proposals, consultations and negotiations of contracts, including tenancies and hire agreements and or negotiations relating to Contractor labour or financial/business affairs of a person) minutes of the decisions made under this item will be open to the public.

47/21 To Receive Lengthsman Resignation and decide on future of the role

The current Lengthsman has given notice to retire on 1st December 2021. Cllr Barden gave thanks for his many years’ service and the Council agreed that a suitable leaving gift will be arranged. After further discussion, the Council **resolved** for the Clerk to advertise the post so that a replacement person can be found to provide a seamless transition and the Clerk will send around the Lengthsman contract for further comment/adjustment. The overall budget for the Lengthsman activities including expenses is £4,188 in 2021/22.

48/21 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 10:00pm.