

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 **15th Dec 2020** virtually via Zoom, as per the regulations enacted under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the meeting commenced at **7:00pm**.

Members Virtually Present

Via Remote Attendance

Cllr Madeline Barden
Cllr Kathryn Watkinson
Cllr Lucy Atkinson
Cllr Carole Booth
Current Vacancies

Chairman

Vice-Chair

Cllr Vera Ballinger
Cllr Emma Thorpe (from item 48/20)
Darlton: 1, Dunham on Trent: 1
Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Also, Virtually Present

Via Remote Attendance

Ed Knox
0 Members of the Public
County Cllr John Ogle

➤ Public Forum

None Present.

40/20 To Receive a written application for the office of Parish councillor and to potentially Co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy

The Clerk informed the Council that Bassetlaw District Council Electoral Dept had rejected Cllr Thorpe's Co-option in November as their records stated that Cllr Thorpe didn't move to one of the Dunham & District Parishes until 1st Dec 2019, therefore the earliest Cllr Thorpe could be Co-opted was 1st Dec 2020. After discussion, the chairman called for a vote, all in favour **resolved** to co-op Emma Thorpe. Cllr Thorpe signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and completed the 'registration of interests' form. **Action**, the Clerk to inform Bassetlaw District Council.

41/20 To receive apologies for absence

The council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllr Bean due to a hospital appointment. Cllr Stapleton did not attend.

42/20 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Watkinson Declared an interest in part of 15/20.2 regarding the Grass Cutting element of the budget and was placed in the virtual waiting room during the debate and decision regards this.

43/20 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.

44/20 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

Dist Cllr S Isard - No report received.

County Cllr Ogle – provided an update on the potential Dunham crossroads speed limit consultation, Cllr Thorpe pointed out that there is no safe crossing point on the A57 for primary school children walking from Dunham to school. Cllr Ogle advised that the Ragnall Speed Limit, 40mph to 30mph reduction petition is being presented shortly to the Full Council. Cllr Barden raised the issue with Cllr Ogle of no reply from the Highways Manager regards the long list of Highways issues across the district.

45/20 To Discuss co-ordinating a community partnership bid for financial help with improving Broadband

Nottinghamshire County Council have invested £750,000 in order to help deliver high-speed broadband to the most rural parts of the county. The £750,000 investment is to support the government's 'Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme' which delivers subsidy to rural homes and businesses without access to high-speed broadband to help deploy a full-fibre network. Under the scheme residential premises are eligible for up to £1,500 and small and medium sized businesses are eligible for up to £3,500 through a registered

supplier when part of a group scheme. The Notts top-up doubles the value of the voucher, meaning rural residential premises are eligible for up to £3,000, and small and medium sized rural business are eligible for up to £7,000, to help deliver digital connectivity to the hardest-to-reach areas of the county. Rural premises with broadband speeds of less than 100Mbps can apply for vouchers worth up to £3,500 for each small and medium size business (SMEs), and up to £1,500 per residential premises to support the costs of a new gigabit-capable broadband connection when they apply as part of a group project (defined as two or more properties). In Nottinghamshire, the maximum voucher values available are doubled as a result of the additional funding being provided by Nottinghamshire County Council.

To be eligible, the home or business benefiting from the voucher must:

- be located in an area defined as rural by Defra.
- apply as part of a group scheme. (Group projects are where two or more residents and/or SMEs get together to combine their vouchers towards the shared costs of installation). Single connections are not eligible for this scheme.
- not be able to get a broadband download speed of 100 mbps or more from any provider and be outside the scope of any publicly funded upgrade plans. For example, the Nottinghamshire BDUK Broadband Project.

To be eligible for the additional Nottinghamshire top-up voucher funding, the following additional criteria applies:

- the property must reside in the Notts County Council area
 - the property must be a permanent residential dwelling, which is eligible to pay council tax.
- Cllr Barden welcomed the Notts County Council Broadband Engagement Officer (NCCBEO) and inviting them to speak on the matter. The NCCBEO explained that across the Dunham & District Parishes, there are 42 premises without access to 30Mbps broadband – the worst of the worst in the area. Due to the rural location of the area, and the fact that only one full-fibre structure exists (Dunham-on-Trent V5007 serves 16 premises in NG220UE, NG220UN and NG220UW), the vast majority of premises across the Dunham & District Parishes are eligible – criteria for eligibility is rural location according to DEFRA, part of a group scheme, and cannot access a broadband service of 100Mbps or below (Openreach FTTP and Virgin Media etc). The issue you might run into if you simply register EVERY premises within the parish in the group scheme is that some residents simply may not see the benefit of a full-fibre network, especially if they are already receiving a satisfactory service. Your supplier would be able to discuss how many commitments would be required in order to commit to the network build when a ballpark figure is received.

There are likely premises nearby to the 42 worst which that receive a broadband service over 30Mbps, but would benefit from a full-fibre network, due to contention issues on the line, a poor section of copper line causing reliability issues. If the Parish Council proceeds with an application, a registered supplier will put forward a possible network build to you when they return a ballpark figure which includes a wiper scope.

Cllrs asked the NCCBEO questions, answers were:

- Properties will only qualify if they agree to be on broadband package, or already have broadband
- The Parish Council can submit all properties in the parish to see what is possible
- Stage Two is to then approach everyone who can benefit, with the NCCBEO's help to encourage participation.

After Discussion, the unanimously **resolved** to submit all properties in the Dunham District parishes to see what Openreach advise is possible. Acton, Clerk.

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

46/20 Finance:

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
C Gaisford	Lengthsman Services	£221.00
Arvato Ltd	Outstanding Final 1&1lonos	£43.77
Caloo Ltd	Swing Set @ Darlton	£3,787.06
Bassetlaw Dist Council	Fledborough Bin near Church	£125.00

Total Payments**£**Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rotary Club	Donation Grant	£1,500
Dunham Bridge Co	Donation Grant	£1,750
Total Receipts		£3,250

Bank Reconciliation for the year to date to be approved. Council **Resolved** unanimously that figures were correct. Reconciliation to be signed by two Councillors when practical.

Direct Debits and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE and Pension, all **approved** unanimously.

Cllr Barden gave thanks to Ed for his efforts at obtaining funding and coordinating the replacement swings and other repairs across the playgrounds.

2. To Approve 2021/22 Budget & Set a Precept

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the draft budget statement with potential precept requirements for 2020/21 and the facts surrounding the precept to allow each member time to prepare for making a decision.

Bassetlaw District Council Concurrent Grant has reduced year on year to just £21 in 2020 Explaining the reduction of the Concurrent Grant, Bassetlaw District Council wrote to each Parish Council to state that: *"we continue to reduce the concurrent grant; therefore, you need to factor in these reductions, you will see that Harworth & Bircotes Parish Council decided some years ago to substantially increase their precept and invest in their infrastructure for their local people."*

NALC and the SLCC advise that Parish Councils should not set any arbitrary, random figure for their precepts, the law requires parish councils to set a precept that is a 'balancing figure' known in legislation as the 'council tax requirement'. The precept should be set to be the amount of money required to 'balance' the accounts **after deducting all 'other expected regular annual income'** in our case this is all rental income from Parish Land and Property:

Rents & Other Income	Income Amount	Precept Saving per home @ Band D	Precept Saving per home @ Band A
Bassetlaw Concurrent Grant	£21	£0.10	£0.06
Bassetlaw Street Cleaning Grant	£488	£2.22	£1.48
Notts County Council Lengthsman Scheme Grant	£3,700	£16.83	£11.22
Land Rent	£279	£1.27	£0.85
Total	£4,488	£20.42	£13.61

In addition to the usual running costs, after taking into consideration the self-generated income, a precept rise is required to cover the balance of regular recurring expenditure. Cllr Watkinson was placed in the waiting room whilst the Council discussed the three tenders for grass cutting and strimming of Dunham Playpark. After discussion, Cllr Barden **Proposed**, Cllr Ballinger **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** to offer Acer Landscapes Ltd a potential 5-year contract at £55 per cut, if this is not forthcoming, the Clerk is to then accept the Holmes Groundcare Ltd tender of £45 per cut for 26 cuts. **Action**, Clerk to contact the contractors. If Holmes Groundcare are accepted then they are to be asked to text and/or email Cllr Thorpe once each cut takes place so she can check the work whilst out walking. After discussion of the budget options, Cllr Barden called for a vote, all 5 members in favour, **resolved** to 1) approve the budget, 2) to select option B setting a precept at of £14,162 = to Band D at £61.23 per year (£5.10 per month). **Action**, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council.

It is also worth noting that the parishes have a total of 295 properties, 127 are in band A, 17 in Band B and 30 in Band C, 174 homes out of 295 will pay less than the Band D figure. Homes with only 1 adult occupant are entitled to receive a further 25% reduction on the above figures, with additional reductions for residents in receipt of certain benefits. Details are found by contacting Bassetlaw Council regards Council Tax reduction.

47/20 To Progress Local Flooding Issues with Bassetlaw Council's Representative

Cllr Barden advised that she was advised that the Bassetlaw South East Forum to raise any issues of Local Flooding with Ian Davies at Bassetlaw.

48/20 To Receive Councillor's/Clerks' Reports including Road Traffic Accidents:

The following items were consolidated into one email to the Highways Authority Manager 9th November 2020, asking for a site visit with the chairman and other cllrs so that these matters can be investigated and finally resolved:

- **Fledborough Potholes & Highway Markings** – Cllr Atkinson to emailed photos together with a description of pothole locations and locations where the road/verge could be marked.
- **Car Accidents at Coronation Terrace** – Cllr Booth advised she had had no contact from the Highways Manager despite the Clerk asking twice for a site meeting to discuss the matter. This has now been added to the highways site visit request
- **Noting of Accidents** – Cllr Ballinger has created a log of road traffic accidents that covers the past 10 years, and the council will add to this if future accidents occur. The log has been included on the email to the Highways manager.
- **Signage on The Green** – Cllr Ballinger advised that the 'children' signage is not in the best location and does not alert drivers enough to the blind corner of the The Green/Horne Lane. Photos and descriptions added to the email to the Highways Manager
- **Dunham The Green, Potholes** – Cllr Ballinger advised that the repairs to numerous potholes in this area are not sufficient, no soon as Highways fill them, the filler comes away again. Photos and descriptions added to the email to the Highways Manager
- **A57 Speed Limits between Darlton and Dunham** – This has been raised to the Highways Manager, as per item 42/20 Cllr Barden to email the Highways Manager.
- **Highways items in ditches** – Cllrs Atkinson and Barden commented that during the recent litter pick, there are several roadside reflectors and signs belonging to the Highways Authority. Photos and descriptions added to the email to the Highways Manager
- **Grass Verge Cutting Frequencies:** The Council asked the Clerk to ask the Highways manager how many cuts there are per year and the reason for the number of cuts? The parish Lengthsman has asked that we raise this matter with Highways as it is felt that the number of cuts is not sufficient to maintain visibility.
- **Ragnall Village Speed Limit Reduction to 30mph:** The Clerk has included the petition from the member of the public in the Highways Manager email, the Council supports the petition.
- **HGV Lorry Weight Limit for Ragnall & Fledborough:** The Clerk has queried to the Highways Manager whether it is allowed for HGV's other than (K G Pears HGVs) to travel on the road through these parishes, the road is narrow with sharp bends and cannot cope with the number of HGV's. It is believed that a large proportion of these are coming from Tarmac Ltd, using this route as a shortcut to the A1. The Council asked the Clerk to also write to Tarmac to raise concern and ask if they are willing to talk with a representative of the council to arrange for HGV vehicles to use an alternative route.
- **Dunham A57 Dropped curb Crossing Signage:** Cllr Ballinger advised that whilst researching the road traffic accidents in the minutes, it was recorded in 2011 that when the dropped curbs on either side of the A57 near the Hawthorne's and St Oswalds Park entrances, to create a pedestrian crossing point were installed by the Highways Authority, the Highways Authority stated they would install road signs to alert motorists of pedestrians crossing. No such signage has ever been installed; the council agreed to add this to the email to the Highways Manager. Photos and descriptions to be sent.
- **Bus Shelter for Laneham Road, Dunham:** School children have to stand on an a small waiting area, right next to the road, with no protection against the elements. The current arrangement is neither pleasant

nor safe. Cllr Watkinson has attempted to ask the Highways Authority to provide a bus shelter and not received a positive response. The Clerk has added this matter to the Highways Manager email.

- **Tarmac HGV Vehicles:** are short cutting to the A1 via the narrow bendy roads of Ragnall, Fledborough and Marham are still travelling this route which is not safe to do so. The Clerk has tried several phone numbers and emails which either don't accept external emails or the phone numbers are disconnected. The clerk will try Tarmac sales on 0116 264 8540 to ask where complaints can be made to the local sites whose vehicles are travelling this way. Action clerk to phone Tarmac sales.
- **Laneham Road, Dunham: Pavement poor condition and exposed drainage pipes (Ref 93719) :** Cllr Barden advised of the state of the pavement on Laneham Road, Dunham as it goes towards Laneham from Gauntley's. Example photos attached where the pavement is falling apart and there are drainage pipes exposed have been sent on to the Clerk forwarding to the Highways Manager as part of the ongoing Highways issues.

Other matters:

- **Bassetlaw South East Forum:** Cllr Barden advised that the Unitary Authority idea where the County Council, District Councils, Borough Councils and Nottingham City Council are abolished and replaced by one Unitary Authority will not affect Nottinghamshire at this stage. Central Govt has given the go-ahead for a first tranche of Counties to be converted to Unitary Authorities and Nottinghamshire is not one of them.
- **Bassetlaw Local Plan:** Cllr Barden and Atkinson agreed to draft a response. Action Cllrs Barden and Atkinson.
- **Farhill Lane Public Footpath:** Cllr Barden advised the investigation into the path, which has been gated off is proceeding with the Countryside Access Team Manager (CATM) at Notts County Council. The CATM is collecting the parish footpath file from Cllr Barden.

49/20 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9:10pm.