

# 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 **10<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026** at Dunham Village Hall, the meeting commenced at **6:30pm**.

<b>Council Members &amp; Officer Present</b>	Cllr Ben Lee	Chairman
	Cllr Ian Oakden	Cllr Vera Ballinger
	Cllr Madeline Barden	Cllr Rachel Bean
	Cllr Pam Hutley	
	Cllr Kathryn Watkinson	
	Current Vacancies	2
	Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
<b>Also, Present</b>	1	Member of Public

➤ Public Forum  
None.

68/25 To receive apologies for absence  
The council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllr Atkinson. Cllr Sergison did not attend. Cllr Bean advised that she is moving to Wiseton shortly and will be resigning from the parish council in due course.

69/25 To receive declarations of interest  
None.

70/25 To Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting  
The council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

71/25 To receive reports from County and District Councillors  
**Dist Cllr Griffin** – Did not attend, Cllr Lee read aloud an update email from Dist Cllr Griffin.  
**Dist Cllr Stanniland** – Did not attend.  
**County Cllr Limber** – Did not attend.

72/25 To Discuss the Quad-Biking Incident at Fledborough with the Police and Operating a Parish Council Rural Watch Scheme.  
The Chairman welcomed the Notts Rural Police & Wildlife Manager (NRPWM) to the meeting. The NRPWM advised that any rural crimes witnesses in progress the public should ring 999 to report them, any crimes discovered after the event ring 101 and report any suspicious activities to 101. For any illegal off-roaders or quad bikers the same, report to 999. The NRPWM explained about the Notts Rural Watch Scheme, it can only be operated with 2 or more volunteers. The details of which will be added to our website and shared on Facebook. The volunteers can patrol in Hi-Viz's and report any crimes or suspicious activity to Notts police.

73/25 To Note an update on Dunham Churchyard  
A member of the public wished to find out how to contact the Rivers Retford PCC who are responsible for Dunham Churchyard. There's no website or obvious contact information when searching the internet. The only contact info that comes up is a generic Gmail address, but it is not clear if this is the correct one for the public to reach the PCC. There was fly tipping and general rubbish within the churchyard which has now been collected by Bassetlaw District Council. Cllr Barden has asked the PCC if they will arrange for a green bin from Bassetlaw Council so that old flowers, wrappings, wreaths can be disposed of, and local volunteers would happily bring out the bin on collection day.  
The council **resolved** that Cllr Barden contact a member of the PCC to ask what the correct contact email is for the public, so the public can be properly signposted to the correct contact at the PCC. Whilst the parish council has no responsibility for the churchyard and no power to undertake works there, the parish council does have the option, since the law change in 2023, to provide funding towards an Open Churchyard. The Council agreed for Cllr Barden to approach the PCC to ask if they want to potentially apply for specific funding for tree inspections or memorial inspections and notify the PCC of the parish council grant process.

74/25 To Replace the Rubber Seats on the Swings & Zipline, and fit some chippings at Dunham Playground

A member of the public noticed age cracks appearing underneath the rubber swing seats, and the zipline, to order replacement parts from Playdales is £681.87. The PC would then need Simon Ashworth to install. Cllr Lee also mentioned some chippings for underneath the swings. The PC currently has £1000 budget left in P12 2025/26 to cover the costs. The council **resolved** to order the parts, Simon install and the Lengthsman buy and put some bark chippings under the swings.

75/25 To Arrange a Bassetlaw District Council Litter Pick Date

No Date was agreed for a parish council run one, however the Lengthsman litter picks as part of his duties and Cllr Hutley regular litter picks.

76/25 To Consider whether to apply again for another £1000 One Earth Solar Grant

The Clerk advised that currently the PC at P12 of 2025-26 has underspent budget as follows:

- Grass Cutting £440 as less cuts due to the long dry non growing spell last year
- S137 budget what we use for defibs, Remembrance Day, poppies etc is £440 underspent
- Insurance £40
- Probably £500 in Playpark once we pay for the swings and any chippings
- £340 for the wildlife meadow following Meadow-Makers reduction in charges.
- £600 Lengthsman due to not needing to buy as many replacement items
- £248 Clerk salary as the predicted annual cost of living wasn't as high this year so there is a little spare there.
- **Total £2,608**
- Approx £35k in reserves.

If in 2026/27 the PC applies for £1,000 more income via the grant, the PC will go into full external audit, this will write off around £350 to £400 of the grant in extra audit fees and make more work for the Clerk depending how much detail the auditor goes into. The £2,608 underspend would go into unearmarked reserves which are currently around £35,000. The PC as a local authority shouldn't horde public funds and apply for grants when the financial need isn't truly there.

The council **resolved** to not apply for a grant in 2026/27 but as soon as the Solar Grant scheme goes live, the Clerk will share a link to their website to all local groups who might wish to benefit from a grant in the local area.

77/25 To Receive Councillor's/Clerks' Reports including Road Traffic Accidents & County Council Highways Matters:

- **Noting of Accidents** – None.

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:

County Council Item	Issue/Detail	Potential Solution	Progress Made
<b>Dunham – Coronation Terrace A57</b>	Cars smashing into the houses on Coronation Terrace	Request for Bollards/Barriers to prevent the impact into the homes.	11/09/2024 – Request to Highways Manager to contact Cllr Watkinson and meet on site to discuss potential solutions. 05/11/24 Chased Highways Manager for an update. 06.11.2024 Assistant District Highways Manager advised “I have contacted Cllr Watkinson to arrange a site meeting over the next 2 weeks.” 15/01/2025 – Chased again. 28/01/2025 – Site visit with Cllrs & Sarah Hird undertaken – Sarah agreed that the only works they can do is to level out one of the manhole covers on the road and install some red surfacing. 12/03/2025 – Clerk chased Sarah for an update on when these works will be undertaken. 13/03/2025 – Sarah update “With regards to the red surfacing, this has been logged under INS 19268956 requesting for the existing to be

			<p>refreshed, unfortunately I do not have a timescale at this present time.” “</p> <p>09/07/2025 – Chased Again</p> <p>19/08/2025 – Assistant District Manager advised “these are being chased up, but unfortunately I have no timescale at present time for the works.”</p> <p>13/01/2026 – Chased Again – no reply</p>
<p><b>Pavement Siding Up Request - Dunham A57 at the junction with Laneham Road to the junction with Upper Row</b></p>	<p>Pavement encroached with earth and grass, preventing safe access for pedestrians, particularly wheelchair users, pushchairs/prams and mobility scooters.</p>	<p>Request for a ‘siding up request’ to Notts CC team who cut away the earth from the pavement between what 3 words locations ‘armrest.vintages.crispy’ and ‘nuzzling.sailing.partners’</p>	<p>13/11/2024 – Request sent to Highways Manager.</p> <p>12/03/2025 – Clerk Chased Highways Manager for an update.</p> <p>13/03/2025 – Highways Manager “This unfortunately is a low priority due to our assessment so won’t be done in the short term. I will request approximate timescales and get back to you.”</p> <p>09/07/2025 – Chased Again</p> <p>10/07/2025 – Reply “This is still a low priority. I’ve asked for an update on timescales.”</p> <p>13/07/2025 – Chased Again</p> <p>14/1/2026 – reply “Unless the situation has changed on site significantly, this remains as a low priority and will not be completed in the short term. This will be compared to other locations within the county, and if there is room after the higher priority jobs it will be looked to be programmed in. <b>But as for now, this is not on our scheduled works nor will it likely be this year.</b>”</p>
<p><b>SLOW Markings on Road near Bend in Fledborough</b></p>	<p>Following a crash between a lorry and a pickup - Member of public asked County Cllr for a highways assessment to identify if NCC could install any signs or road markings.</p>	<p>“SLOW” Markings identified for installation on the road surface in 2026 NCC programme of works</p>	<p>24/09/2025 Via Representative from NCC has been out to check and there are actually signs (see photos) in place on both entrances to the narrow bend. The County Council has recently reviewed the area for 'SLOW' markings on the road to be added to the 2026 programme of works." 24/09/2025 Cllr Limber &amp; Highways Manager emailed to ask for an update on the markings.05/11/2025 Highways Manager update “If approved, which isn’t guaranteed at this stage but will be clearer in the new year – it would likely be <b>Q3/Q4 so you’re looking at October 2026-April 2027 realistically.</b>”</p>
<p><b>Safety sign close to the bus stop at Darlton</b></p>	<p>overgrown hedge obstructing sign</p>	<p>County Council to cut away vegetation from the sign. CSC754290847</p>	<p><b>Item Closed</b> -14/01/2026 Reply “Following a detailed review, I can confirm that the issue was closed yesterday. The photographs attached to the original enquiry were taken from the pavement, which does obscure the view of the sign. However, I have checked the Viasala system and reviewed video footage from six days ago. This footage shows from the driver’s perspective the sign is visible from approximately 70–75 metres away, which exceeds the minimum visibility requirement of 60 metres. I appreciate that this may not be the outcome you were hoping for, and I fully understand your concerns. Please be assured that I will continue to monitor this location throughout the year.”</p>

Cllrs Updates:

Cllr Lee explained that this generic item is not common practice at other parish councils and that please can Cllrs try to give general information updates in between meetings more by WhatsApp and email which don't need a decision from the parish council. Generic Items on the agenda can't be used to make legal decisions.

Cllrs Hutley, Oakden, Bean, Barden and Ballinger – Delivered verbal updates which was acknowledged by the other councillors.

The Clerk will ask the Lengthsman to cut back vegetation around the abandoned unfinished house on the main road in Dunham.

78/25 **Finance:**

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Clerk	Qualsafe Ltd – Defib Kiosk Cover (refunded in March)	£65.94
Dunham Village Hall	Hall Hire 2025/26	£251
Cllr Hutley	Mileage to Rural Action Group Session	£7.42
DefibWarehouse Ltd	Qualsafe Ltd – Defib Kiosk Cover	£150
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£474.36</b>

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Notts County Council	Annual Lengthsman Scheme Grant	£3,700
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£3,700</b>
Bank Balance		<b>£34,827.44</b>

79/25 To Note in the Minutes the response to any planning applications via the scheme of delegation and decide on a response to One Earth Solar Planning Inspectorate Application

The Council **noted** the following which have been responded to via the scheme of delegation:

- 24/00161/ENF - Aria House the Green Dunham Retrospective Application for a Front Boundary Wall –** Bassetlaw Planning have advised: *“The wall as erected encroaches into the adopted public footway which fronts the site, which is an offence under the Highways Act 1980. The legislation used by Bassetlaw District Council to remedy breach of planning control can be found in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). However, the Planning Act seeks to enforce against landowners and therefore as the wall has been erected on an adopted public footpath, and in doing so an offence has been committed under the Highway Act, this matter has been referred to Nottinghamshire County Council as the local highway authority to pursue. Consequently, I can confirm that planning enforcement file 24/00161/ENF will now be closed. Please contact the local highway authority directly in relation to this matter.”* 12/11/2025 Chase sent to Notts Highways Manager to clarify what they are doing to enforce the wall relocation. 21/11/2025 response from Notts CC Highways Asset Manager *“my team will be dealing with this issue; I have spoken to my colleague at Via East Midlands who is working with BDC to resolve the matter. I believe they have a further meeting scheduled and will be able to provide me with an update on the resolution very shortly.”* 13/01/2026 Chase sent to Highways Asset Manager & Cllr Limber. 14/01/2026 reply from Notts CC *“Unfortunately, my colleague Sarah at Via East Midlands, who has been leading on this matter, has had some trouble getting updates from the officer responsible at Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) which has delayed our response. Both NCC and Via East Midlands have reviewed the information we have and are certain that the matter is a planning issue, that needs to be resolved by BDC. BDC previously closed their file but following Sarah’s assertion, BDC were due to reattend site and review the matter. Hopefully, they can then progress the issue under the correct legislation. We will continue to chase BDC and both Sarah and I will ensure we follow up with them.”* – 28/1/26 Reply from BDC Planning Enforcement Officer – *“I have taken further advice on this matter since talking to Sarah before Christmas. As a planning application for the wall was refused, BDC can of course pursue the unauthorised works, however, the Planning Enforcement team do not deal with any boundary disputes. The wall has been built on land which does not belong to the homeowner but to Notts County Council. As such, the homeowner is trespassing on County Council land and should be pursued for such, which only Notts CC can do. If the Planning enforcement team asks for work to be done to remove the wall on land the homeowner does not own, they will be asking and authorising someone to trespass on that land. The Enforcement team cannot give such permission. If the Planning Enforcement team take formal enforcement action for the unauthorised works, this will be served on all interested parties (which would include Notts County Council) and as the owner of the land, Notts County Council would have to demonstrate that they had taken all reasonable and practical steps to resolve the matter. At the moment I don't think Notts CC could say that they had taken all reasonable steps*

to resolve the matter. In the delegated report for this refused planning application (24/01109/HSE), the consultation response from Nottinghamshire County Council Highways Authority stated that "the wall as erected encroaches into the adopted public footway which fronts the site, which is an offence under the Highways Act 1980.

The wall will need to be removed, and any new proposed boundary treatment will need to be positioned fully within the property boundary with no encroachment into the adopted public highway.

The footway will need to be reinstated to its full width to meet the property boundary. "

Notts CC Highways also note that any works within the public highway will require prior approval of the highway authority. It might be necessary to have another call with Notts CC and Viaem regarding this matter."

- **26/00001/FUL Single Storey Rear Extension, Insertion of 1st Floor Window, Raised Rear Patio and Change of Use of Land to Domestic Curtilage/Rear Garden Aria House The Green Dunham** – The parish council responded as follows: *"the Council supports the application; it has no other comments to make"*.
- **26/00001/FUL - Single Storey Rear Extension, Insertion of 1st Floor Window, Raised Rear Patio and Change of Use of Land to Domestic Curtilage/Rear Garden Aria House The Green Dunham** - The parish council responded as follows: *"The parish council has no objections to the proposed extension, but wishes to mention that the wall that was refused retroactive permission for being on the pavement (24/01109/HSE) has still not been removed."*
- **26/00074/COND - High Marnham Green Energy Business Park Fledborough Road High Marnham - Discharge of Conditions 7 (Construction Traffic Management Plan) 14 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) on P.A 22/01071/FUL (The Erection of Unit A - A Finished Product Despatch Warehouse Building (B8 Use) and Packaging Plant (B2 Use) Including Odour Abatement Plant and Solar PV and Unit B - Raw Animal By-Product (ABP) Intermediate Storage Building (B8 Use) Incorporating Mechanical Processing Plant for Crushing, Freezing and Reloading (B2 Use) Including Odour Abatement Plant and Solar PV on Land Comprising Part of the Former High Marnham Power Station at High Marnham** - The parish council responded as follows: *"No comment."*
- **26/00145/COND Discharge of Condition 16 (Biodiversity Enhancement Plan) on P.A 22/01689/FUL A Gatehouse, Weighbridges, Widened Access Road and Vehicle Parking Area High Marnham Green Energy Business Park Fledborough Road High Marnham** - The parish council responded as follows: *"No comment."*
- **26/00186/COND Discharge of Condition 18 (Biodiversity Enhancement Plan) of P.A. 22/01071/FUL - The Erection of Unit A - A Finished Product Despatch Warehouse Building (B8 Use) and Packaging Plant (B2 Use) Including Odour Abatement Plant and Solar PV and Unit B - Raw Animal By-Product (ABP) Intermediate Storage Building (B8 Use) Incorporating Mechanical Processing Plant for Crushing, Freezing and Reloading (B2 Use) Including Odour Abatement Plant and Solar PV on Land Comprising Part of the Former High Marnham Power Station at High Marnham** - The parish council responded as follows: *"No comment."*

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8:30pm.