

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 **10th Jan 2023** at Dunham Village Hall, the meeting commenced at **6:30pm**.

Council Members & Officer Present

CLlr Madeline Barden
CLlr Vera Ballinger
CLlr Lucy Atkinson
CLlr Emma Thorpe
CLlr Carole Booth
Current Vacancies
Ed Knox

Chairman
Vice-Chair
CLlr Adrian Stapleton
CLlr Rachel Lovett
CLlr Rachel Bean
1
Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Also, Present

0 Members of the Public
County Cllr
Wildlife Project Manager

John Ogle

➤ Public Forum

None.

1/23 To receive apologies for absence

The Council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllrs Oldfield and Watkinson.

2/23 To receive declarations of interest

None.

3/23 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.

4/23 To Progress the Jubilee Wildlife & Environmental Project

Cllr Barden welcomed the Wildlife Project Manager who gave a summary of the work so far. Bulbs have been planted at Woodcotes and Trees have been planted at Whimpton Moor and Ragnall, with 60 trees to plant at the Celebration Day, on Sat 18th February at the rear of the village hall. The Retford Lions will come with some trees at the same time.

Wildlife homes are now ready to be installed. The ponds are planned to be made at the end of Feb in Whimpton Moor, Ragnall and Dunham. A local farmer has agreed to help the Project Manager with the meadow cutting on the larger sites. Cllr Bean requested the Project Manager cuts the paths in the meadows 2 persons in width for side-by-side walking. Approximately 10 acres of land in total is covered by the project making wildlife corridors across the four parishes.

The Project Manager will work on designs for suitable information banners at the sites for the public to view, and later this year, permanent plaques dedicating the sites will be installed. The Project Manager also agreed to design a visual map of the 4 parishes indicating the locations of the sites.

Cllr Thorpe agreed to produce the invite leaflets for the Celebration Day and Cllrs will arrange to distribute these to all homes. A further information leaflet will then be produced and distributed after the Celebration Day which will include the map.

The Village Hall will be booked between 14:00 and 16:00 for the Celebration Day, Cllr Thorpe will put together a collage of the day/wildlife project to displaying at the Village Hall. At the end cakes and tea to be served. Cllrs agreed to bake a good-sized selection of cakes to cater for all those attending. Small gift bags will be provide to the children who are helping plant the trees which will include packets of wildflower seeds and leaf shaped wooden school bag tags. County Cllr Ogle was invited to attend as the representative of the County Council who helped contribute to the project.

Cllr Thorpe agreed to pass on the email chain to the Clerk, regards a partnership agreement between Bassetlaw District Council and the Parish Council over a potential wildflower meadow of the grassy area of Byron Close. The Clerk agreed to chase Dist Cllr Staniland.

5/23 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

Dist Cllr Stanniland – Sent Apologies

Dist Cllr Isard – Sent Apologies.

County Cllr Ogle: provided an update to the Council, which included:

- An update on local policing. Cllr Ogle encouraged cllrs to look at the Bassetlaw Police Page regards the lack of coverage in the area by a dedicated local police person and suggested the Council may wish to write to Inspector Hayley Crawford the District Commander for East Bassetlaw. Cllr Bean agreed to look into this and draft a suitable letter.

6/23 Finance:

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Holmes Groundcare	Grass cutting Dunham Play Area Nov	£46.35
MeadowMakers	Final Invoice Setting up Wildlife Project	£1,250.00
Total Payments		<u>£1,296.35</u>

Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Member of Public	Allotment Rent Horne Lane 2022/23	£7.00
Notts CC	Final 25% Wildlife Grant	£1,250.00
Total Receipts		<u>£1,257.00</u>

Bank Balance **£30,981.28***

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the draft budget statement with potential precept requirements 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. * £2,336.50 Wildlife & Environmental Project Budget, Grant Funds currently raised and Ring-Fenced for the finalisation and ongoing maintenance of the project.

2. To Approve 2023/24 Budget & Set a Precept:

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the draft budget statement with potential precept requirements for 2022/23 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 £34, 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 (National Association of Local Councils) and the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) 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	Annual Precept Saving per home @ Band D	Precept Annual Saving per home @ Band A
Bassetlaw Concurrent Grant	£34	£0.15	£0.10
Bassetlaw Street Cleaning Grant	£512	£2.23	£1.49
Notts County Council Lengthsman Scheme Grant	£3,700	£16.13	£10.76
Land Rent	£328	£1.43	£0.95
Total	£4,574	£19.94	£13.30

Inflation CPI for the previous 12 months was approximately 11%. 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.

After discussion of the budget options, Cllr Barden called for a vote, all members in favour, **resolved** to 1) approve the budget, 2) to select option A setting a precept at of £16,358 = to Band D at £71.33 per year (£5.94 per month). **Action**, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council. Last year the Band D amount was £65.75 per year (£5.48 per month).

It is worth noting that this is only an increase per year at band D of £5.58.

The parishes have approximately 300 properties, 174 are in bands A to C, which 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.

In comparison with other parishes in Bassetlaw, this is still a modest precept, for example, at Band D, last year in 2020/21 West Stockwith electorate 265, precept was £131.89 a year, Torworth electorate 208, was £151.92, they are smaller than Beckingham & Saundby with an electorate of 1110. Misterton which has an electorate of 1770 was £128.50.

7/23 To Receive an update on Fledborough Broadband with Evolve Ltd

Cllr Bean gave an overview on the progress to date. Evolve Ltd advised that the Govt Voucher scheme has relaunched with £4,000 funding per property. The portal is now live and Fledborough has been accepted onto the scheme. The works are planned to commence in March 2023.

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@nottsccl.gov.uk or by phoning 0115 977 2532.

8/23 To Note in the Minutes the response to planning applications 22/01620/OUT & 22/01462/HSE via the scheme of delegation

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

22/01462/HSE - Four Sevens Marnham Road Ragnall: "The Council makes a neutral response but strongly recommends that drainage/sewerage is correctly looked into and considered as part of the proposed works. The plans show the extension over the existing drains and these needs to move as we believe there were issues with Ragnall drains within the last 6 years, due to capacity, particularly when heavy rain goes into the system and the pumps not being able to cope, Chestnut cottage bought their own pumps and protected most residents' properties from becoming flooded (on that stretch of the village). It needs to be carefully planned so that the proposals do not have a detrimental impact onto the sewerage system and cause any flooding issues."

22/01620/OUT Outline Application with Some Reserved Matters (Approval being Sought for Access) for One Residential Dwelling Including Formation of New Entrance onto Upper Row (Renewal of P.A 9/01322/OUT Garden to The Mount Upper: "The Parish Council having reviewed the latest plans, can see this is an updated plan based up on plans previously passed in 2004 after appeal, and has been resubmitted 2017, 2019 and now 2022. Since it is an infill and the application has been passed several times and there hasn't been any significant change of circumstance in the last three years. Provided the use of the main sewage system won't cause a problem, the Parish Council therefore supports the application."

9/23 To Receive Councillor's/Clerks' Reports including Road Traffic Accidents:

- **Noting of Accidents** – 17.12.2022 – Collision Debris found on the road but no known details of the vehicle(s) involved. 27.12.2022 – a vehicle smashed through one of the barriers and toll booths at Dunham Bridge. 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:

County Council Item	Issue/Detail	Potential Solution	Progress Made
Fledborough Flooding - 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 Drainage Manager met a colleague from the Design Team on site. We spoke to the resident affected whilst there. We'll need to return to take levels but I think that the solution is to create a ditch around the outside of the field. This will require liaison with the owner of	12/01/2023 - My colleague was unable to get hold of the survey equipment to enable us to take the levels. However, I have drafted my programme for next year and the scheme at Fledborough is on it. We'll need to take the levels prior to the scheme taking place and not doing them this week won't delay scheme delivery. At some point in the new financial year I'll need to arrange to meet the owner of the land.

	the final resolution for information purposes.	the field. A scheme that will be considered for funding for the next financial year, commencing April 2023.	
Dunham Children Playing Sign, Low Street nr Village Hall - Ref HAMS 4302792	There is no signage in place alerting motorists of children playing/playing field.	The Highways Liaison Officer has agreed to the installation of an appropriate sign by the County Council.	15/06/2022 – The Highways Liaison Officer has advised a ‘children playing’ sign on Low Street will be provided this current financial year – I’m sorry I can’t be more specific on timescales, as there have been a number of staff changes in the section that deals with these so I can only say that it will be provided in due course.
Dunham Road Resurfacing, A57 towards Dunham Bridge, County Cllrs Priorities.	County Cllr Ogle advised he is working with the County Highways Manager regards road resurfacing priorities and the A57 from Dunham to the bridge has been identified as a potential location for this work.	County Council to potentially resurface the road which is in a very poor condition on the Nottinghamshire side in comparison with the Lincolnshire side of the bridge.	15/11/2022 – No update as yet from County Cllr Ogle. 10/01/2023 – Cllr Ogle asked the Clerk to Chase the Highways Manager.
Dunham 3 Street Lights– Laneham Rd, near junc Cockett’s Hill & Country Kitchen. Ref No’s: 6267463 6269817 6269820	The last 3 street lights have been out of action since September 2022. Reported at the time by a member of the public and escalated to the County Council by the Clerk.	Notts County Council to repair the lights.	19/12/2022 The Clerk chased the Highways Liaison Office and Highways Manager for an update. 10/1/2023 – Item Closed lights repaired.
Darlington – Highways Safety issues & speeding A57	A local resident of Darlington advised potential speeding issues on A57 in the village and poor signage.	Notts Police to come do speed checks and Notts County Council Highways Manager to look at what additional signage could be possible, particularly any which encourages drivers to slow down and make them aware of the playground and school children crossing.	16/11/2022 PC Glenn Turner advised that he would speed check again before Christmas and choose a spot to deploy the speed gun so that any vehicles we pull over are done safely and we have to risk assess each location to ensure we don’t cause a collision. 13/01/2023 PC Mitchell advised the Speed Camera Team have assured me they will put Darlington on their list of places to conduct road safety campaigns in the future as a positive improvement for the village and also a visible and proactive deterrent to the motorists who speed through it. 28/11/2022 The Highways Manager agreed to visit W/C 5 th Dec to ascertain what could be potentially done regards signage.
Dunham Public Highway Access from A57 past St Oswalds Church Door to Church Walk	Since May 2022 the public have experienced issues with the new owner of the Church when walking along the public highway, off putting signage and self-closing devices have been installed.	Notts CC to liaise with the Church owner to ensure access to the public highway by members of the public is maintained and there is no hinderance of any kind to the public from the church owners.	Since May 2022 the County Council have advised that “The whole path from the A57, under the church, in front of the church door and onto Church Walk is a public highway of Notts County Council. These areas must remain available for public use. 06/07/2022 The Highways Manager wrote to the Church Owner to explain why the highway must remain open and

			<p>advised “the public highway should remain available for public use, and if works are to be carried out to the building which requires a temporary closure to the public highway”. 25/08/2022 The Highways Manager advised “I can confirm that the new owner of the church has not contacted me at all, nor have they contacted my colleagues in Co-ordination about a temporary closure of the public highway. I am in the process of issuing an Enforcement Notice” 05/09/2022 The Highways Manager Advised “Enforcement Notice has been posted today to the church owner. I have allowed 14 days for the public highway to be reopened (by 20th Sep). 11/10/2022 the Notice was ignored and the signage still in place. 27/10/2022 the Highways Manager advised “I have a meeting tomorrow with a colleague in legal so will provide a further update once I’ve spoken with him”. 15/11/2022 the Highways Manager emailed the church owner with the legal team’s response “It is confirmed that the signage displayed on the gates is misleading and deters people from using the public adopted highway, in this case ancient highway, under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. As the Highway Authority, we have a duty to assert and protect the public’s right to safely pass and repass and is engaged where public highway rights exist. Therefore, the signs do dissuade members of the public from using the public highway and should be removed immediately. 19/12/2022 The self-closing devices were removed but the inappropriate signage remains, the Clerk chased the Highways Dept for an update on what they will do next.</p>
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New Items:

- **Cllr Atkinson** – Has reported the incorrect name of the road in Fledborough to Google Maps and asked for a future agenda item regards lamppost Christmas decorations.
- **Cllr Booth** – Thanked the new Lengthsman for all his hard work so far.
- **Cllr Ballinger** – Is going to write to Notts NALC to suggest that future training should be in a more central location in the County, rather than Nottingham city and is going to contact Unity Trust Bank again regards access to on-line banking authorisation.
- **Cllr Bean** – Provided a detailed update on the various planning applications from Pears regards the former High Marnham Power Stn site and is going to contact the Normanton on Trent Parish Council to see what they have done regards comments and objections against the proposals.

10/23 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9:15pm. The Clerk agreed to email a list of the 2023/24 meeting dates to the Cllrs.