

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 **13th Jan 2026** at Dunham Village Hall, the meeting commenced at **6:30pm**.

The Council received the sad news of the death of Carole Booth. Carole served as a member of Dunham Parish Council from 2017 until her recent illness in 2025 and is much missed by everyone who knew her.

Council Members & Officer Present	Cllr Ben Lee	Chairman
	Cllr Lucy Atkinson	Cllr Ian Oakden
	Cllr Rachel Bean	Cllr Madeline Barden
	Cllr Rachel Sergison	Cllr Pam Hutley
	Cllr Kathryn Watkinson	
	Current Vacancies	2
	Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Also, Present	Warren Limber	County Cllr
	0	Members of Public

➤ Public Forum
None.

61/25 To receive apologies for absence
The council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllr Ballinger.

62/25 To receive declarations of interest
None.

63/25 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.

64/25 To receive reports from County and District Councillors
Dist Cllr Griffin – Did not attend.
Dist Cllr Stanniland – Did not attend.
County Cllr Limber – advised that a consultation is being held regards re-opening Rufford ford, upgrades to takes place on the A6097 and A614. Cllrs to check the yellow salt grit bin levels and inform Cllr Limber if they require topping up. The County Cllrs Divisional Fund has £1,300 left for local groups to apply for. Cllr Atkinson advised Cllr Limber of the state of Fledborough Access road and asked whether properly sealed pothole repairs would take place. Cllr Barden asked Cllr Limber what would be done about the condition of the A57 from the bridge to Dunham Crossroads.

65/25 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 – One Month	£97.34
S.Ashworth Diggers	Playground Repairs to Rotaspin Handles	£110
Cllr Lee	Expenses Catering for Remembrance Event	£40.52
Meadowmakers	Wildlife Project Meadow Maintenance	£1,200
Total Payments		£1,447.86

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
None		
Total Receipts		£0
Bank Balance		£33,883.93

3. To Approve the next financial year's Budget & Set a Precept:

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk circulated the draft budget statement with potential precept requirements for the next financial year 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 £38, 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	£38	£0.17	£0.11
Bassetlaw Street Cleaning Grant	£576	£1.68	£2.52
Notts County Council Lengthsman Scheme Grant	£3,700	£10.81	£16.22
Land Rent	£506	£1.48	£2.22
Total	£4,820	£14.04	£21.07

Inflation CPI for the previous 12 months was approximately 3.5%. 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 Lee called for a vote, all members in favour, **resolved** to 1) approve the budget, 2) to set a precept at of **£19,120** = to Band D at £83.80 per year (£6.98 per month).

Action, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council.

In 2025/26 the Band D amount was £83.60 per year (£6.97 per month).

In 2024/25 the Band D amount was £77.58 per year (£6.46 per month).

It is worth noting that this is only an increase this year at band D of **96p a year (8p per month)**

The Dunham & District parishes have approximately 310 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.

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.

66/25 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.

- **25/01182/HSE Erect Two Storey Side Extension Goodhouses Farm Goodhouses Farm Access Darlton Road Darlton** – The parish council responded as follows: *“the Council supports the application; it has no other comments to make”*.
- **25/01302/FUL - Erection of a 400kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Substation with one 400/275kV Supergrid Transformer (SGT) and One 400/33kV SGT and Construction of 16 Bays, Gantries, Control and Amenities Building, Permanent Access Road, Diesel Generator, Parking, Drainage, Lighting and CCTV Landscaping and Biodiversity Enhancement and Security Fencing. Land Adjacent To High Marnham Power Station Power Station Access Fledborough Road High Marnham** – The parish council responded as follows: *“the Council responds as follows, Noise*

Both transformers should include acoustic enclosures.

The noise impact assessment recommends that only one of the transformers should have acoustic enclosures. The assessment does not include users of the cycle path on the disused railway line as noise receptors and only took measurements at two locations. To avoid reducing the amenity value of the cycle route, both transformers should include acoustic enclosures.

Cultural Heritage

The proposed entrance would require removal or alteration to the former power station entrance fencing. A separate entrance would be preferred or planning conditions applied. The proposed entrance is on the driveway to the former power station which includes white painted metal estate fencing. This fencing is one of the few tangible cultural heritage assets remaining from the former power station and should be protected. Should a separate entrance not be feasible, then any removed fencing should be reused, along with additional matching fencing, to keep the substation access road in keeping with the driveway fencing. Details should be included as a planning condition.

Highways, Transport and Access

The existing road entrance is not suitable for high volume construction traffic. A separate entrance would be preferred or conditions/restrictions applied. The entrance to the cycle path is located approximately 100m to the north of the entrance to the site. The national speed limit applies and there is restricted visibility due to the curvature of the road and two railway bridges. There is limited space between the road and the entrance to the cycle path. Using the existing entrance risks harm to the users of the national cycle network route that includes the former railway line and the road passing the site entrance, as well as reducing the amenity value of the cycle route. A separate entrance to the south would be preferred where there is better visibility. Should a relocated site access not be possible, conditions should be applied to the construction traffic management plan, such as a construction access point, temporary speed limits close to the site such as a 30mph limit in Ragnall, a 40mph limit in Fledborough, and a one-way system in place during weekends and school holidays. Dunham and District Parish Council should be consulted on the details of the construction traffic management plan.

Cumulative effects

The cumulative effects of approved planning applications must be taken into account, especially for the construction traffic management plan, noise impact assessment, and the effect on the national cycle route. One nearby (<1km) BESS application has been approved, 24/01138/FUL, and another, 25/00639/FUL, is awaiting decision. Both of these applications would also use the same construction traffic route. There are also two NSIP’s, one in the late examination stage, that would also use a similar construction traffic route. Restrictions/conditions to the construction traffic management plan, as outlined above, would mitigate the cumulative effect, at least to some extent. The BESS applications themselves would produce transformer noise which would be cumulative to the existing substation and planned 400KV substation. Requiring acoustic enclosures of both substation transformers would be an appropriate condition to mitigate the cumulative effects. The national cycle route 647 runs past the approved BESS application, the BESS application awaiting decision, and the proposed substation. Traffic restrictions, and improvements to the screening, and landscaping of the application would reduce the cumulative impact of the developments to the users of the cycle route.

Landscape and visual

The proposed entrance would not be in keeping with the existing landscape character. A separate entrance would be preferred or planning conditions applied. An entrance parallel to the road would not blend in well with the existing landscape; a separate entrance to the substation would be more in keeping. The planned entrance off the former power station drive, compared to a new entrance, would be less visually amenable to the current landscape setting. The proposed entrance would alter the existing culturally significant estate fencing. Any road or access parallel to the main road would not be in keeping with the existing roadways and hedges, which run parallel to the road and associated with field access. Having an access road run parallel to the main road would not be in keeping with the landscape character of the surrounding area, especially where access could be made parallel to the road. Any road running parallel to the main road would also alter the existing estate fencing, as mentioned in cultural heritage. Should an alternative entrance not be practicable, then screening of the planned entrance to the north should include planted banks/berms. Such planting should include tree species

as seen to the north of the existing driveway. The perimeter fence, where not electrified, must be powder coated RAL 6005 Moss Green.

The planning application, 23/00313/FUL, required as a condition, that the palisade fencing be painted moss green. This decision was in the interests of the character and appearance of the area. The existing palisade fencing installed by Network Rail in the surrounding area is also Powder coated Moss Green. In the interests of the character and appearance of the area, all fencing, excluding electrified fencing, must be powder coated RAL 6005 Moss Green, and ideally galvanised before coating. North of the substation must include planted berms/mounding, along the northern extent as a minimum. The National Grid guidelines for substations “the Horlock Rules” suggest that mounding must be included. The use of mounding/berms would reduce the visual impact of the substation on the users of the national cycle route, and local residents using the road. If practicable, some banking/mounding should be used on the north facing side of the substation for visual and acoustic screening. Planting and screening to the west of the site should include trees with a variety of maturity and species. There must be the inclusion of evergreen (non-deciduous) to the west of the site to screen the substation from the national cycle route and transiting residents of Ragnall, Fledborough and High/Low Marnham. Planting on/around the berms should include trees in different stages of maturity; i.e. from 1–10-year-old specimens. The parish council would appreciate being include in the decision of the species of planting.”

67/25 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
Dunham – Coronation Terrace A57	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 refreshed, unfortunately I do not have a timescale at this present time.” “ 09/07/2025 – Chased Again 19/08/2025 – Assistant District Manager advised “these are being chased up, but unfortunately I have no timescale at present time for the works.” 13/01/2026 – Chased Again
Pavement Siding Up Request - Dunham A57 at the junction with Laneham Road to the junction	Pavement encroached with earth and grass, preventing safe access for pedestrians, particularly wheelchair users, pushchairs/prams	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’	13/11/2024 – Request sent to Highways Manager. 12/03/2025 – Clerk Chased Highways Manager for an update. 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.” 09/07/2025 – Chased Again 10/07/2025 – Reply “This is still a low priority. I’ve asked for an update on timescales.”

with Upper Row	and mobility scooters.		13/07/2025 – Chased Again
SLOW Markings on Road near Bend in Fledborough	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.	“SLOW” Markings identified for installation on the road surface in 2026 NCC programme of works	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 & Highways Manager emailed to ask for an update on the markings.05/11/2025 Highways Manager update <i>“If approved, which isn’t guaranteed at this stage but will be clearer in the new year – it would likely be Q3/Q4 so you’re looking at October 2026-April 2027 realistically.”</i>
Safety sign close to the bus stop at Darlton	overgrown hedge obstructing sign	County Council to cut away vegetation from the sign.	Reported 11/11/2025 - online Ref no CSC754290847 – 13/01/2026 Cllr Atkinson advised the vegetation had not been cut back.

Cllrs Updates:

- Cllr Atkinson – Will reply to the village hall committee about submitting a grant form to ask for a replacement front cover to the Defib box. The policies/procedures of the Village Hall are currently under review with RCAN.
- Cllr Lee – Noted that the County Council have planted trees in certain verges. The hire of the hall for the life celebration of former Cllr Booth was discussed, the PC agreed to cover the costs of the hall hire.
- Cllr Oakden advised the council of the issue of quad-bikers tearing around private land in Fledborough and would like it on the next agenda to discuss it with the Police.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8:31pm.