

**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 **18<sup>th</sup> Jul 2023** at Dunham Village Hall, the meeting commenced at **6:30pm**.

<b>Council Members &amp; Officer Present</b>	Cllr Madeline Barden	Chairman
	Cllr Lucy Atkinson	Cllr Kathryn Watkinson
	Cllr Rachel Sergison	Cllr Vera Ballinger
	Current Vacancies	3
<b>Also, Present</b>	Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
	1 Members of the Public	
	Emma Griffin	District Cllr
	John Ogle	District Cllr

➤ Public Forum

The member of the public shared their views on the National Grid pylons consultation. The Council agreed to publish a link to the National Grid consultation website on the Council website and asked the member of the public to both email their views to National Grid and to Cllr Barden, the Council will be drafting and sending in its comments before the end of the month.

49/23 To receive apologies for absence  
After discussion, the council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllrs Bean, Booth & Thorpe.

50/23 To receive declarations of interest  
None.

51/23 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.

52/23 To receive reports from County and District Councillors  
**Dist Cllr Stanniland** – Did not attend.  
**Dist Cllr Griffin** – Cllr Barden advised Dist Cllr Griffin about the Trentside Pears Group and how Cllr Bean had registered to speak at the planning meeting, and had been denied the opportunity to speak by the Chairman of the Planning Meeting, that a subsequent complaint about this to Bassetlaw Council has not been acknowledged. Cllr Barden agreed to send the email chain of the complaint to Dost Cllr Griffin to escalate.  
Cllr Barden also made Dist Cllr Griffin aware of the background to the planning application on The Green to replace a property which had been demolished in 1981 and had had continuous full planning permission until 2022 when the land was sold to the new owner, how the plans had been then declined without any tangible justification for using flooding as a reason. Cllr Barden agreed to send all the information onto Dist Cllr Griffin to investigate.  
**County Cllr Ogle:** Advised that the County Council head office is relocating and the old premises will be sold in due course. Cllr Barden congratulated County Cllr Ogle on his appointment to the Chairman of the County Council.

53/23 Finance:

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Holmes Groundcare	7	Apr Grass Cutting Play area	£92.70
Rospa Playsafety	9	May Annual Independent Play Inspections	£201.00
Holmes Groundcare	10	May Grass Cutting Play area	£139.05
Sovereign Wedo Ltd	11	Zipwire Service & Tightening	£908.16
AJ Gallagher Ltd	12	Insurance Renewal 2023	£1,163.00
Holmes Groundcare	13	Jun Grass Cutting Play area	£92.70
Lengthsman	14	B&Q Fence Paint	£20.00
<b>Total Payments</b>			<b><u>£2,616.61</u></b>

<u>Receipts:</u>		
<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
None		
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b><u>£0</u></b>
Bank Balance		<b><u>£29,372.71</u></b>

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. \* £519.25 Wildlife & Environmental Project Budget, Grant Funds currently raised and Ring-Fenced for the finalisation and ongoing maintenance of the project. Three wildlife boards and a wildlife interpretation board to be ordered by Cllr Barden.

54/23 To Receive an update on Fledborough Broadband with Evolve Ltd

Cllr Bean gave an update by email, Evolve Ltd advised at the end of May “We have progress, finally! 15 out of the 18 properties are now eligible for funding, so we’ve resubmitted our application and will confirm when received back. We are hoping that the remaining three will also be included. We will then need to administrate contracts and vouchers for connected properties.” Cllr Atkinson advised that a further email from Evolve Ltd arrived yesterday advising that they are still waiting to hear on the new funding stream from Central Government. 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](mailto:enquiries.broadband@nottscc.gov.uk) or by phoning 0115 977 2532.

55/23 To Discuss Potential Christmas Lamppost Decorations

Cllr Bean advised by email that Etsy could do Xmas ones, but the maximum size would be 11inch / 280mm round and for 50, the cost would be £390.00. The Clerk was asked to arrange for Cllr Bean to email a link to the Etsy decorations so that the Cllrs can all have a look and make a decision about purchase at the next meeting.

56/23 To Note in the Minutes the response to any planning applications via the scheme of delegation

The Council **noted** the following which have been responded to via the scheme of delegation:  
**22/00453/FUL & 22/00454/LBA Domestic Conversion of Vacant Former Church Building to Two-Bed House with Associated New Build Garaging:** The Council responded as follows: *‘The Council has no objections and supports the application; it always welcomed the building being reused. The Historical Churches concerns are with the interior which in truth doesn’t impact on the external perspective i.e., the visual appearance in the village. There are no public footpath issues through the land surrounding the church building.’*  
**23/00816/HSE + 23/00894/LBA Demolish Cart Shed and Erect Single Storey Extension the Granary, Broad Gate Darlton -** The Council responded as follows: *‘The Council has no objections and supports the application; it has no negative visual impact onto the village.’*

57/23 To discuss a response to the National Grid Consultation

Since the previous meeting the parish council responded via the scheme of delegation as follows (italics from National Grid) and also discussed the following at today’s meeting:

- **National Grid Consultation – North Humber to High Marnham Power Lines -** *National Grid Electricity Transmission is consulting on proposals for upgrading the electricity network between the North Humber and High Marnham. The existing power lines do not have sufficient capacity for all the new sources of electricity that National Grid expect to connect to the network over the next ten years and beyond. proposals include building approximately 90 kilometres (km) of new 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead electricity transmission line between two new substations – one to the north of Hull near Creyke Beck and one at High Marnham. Between 1 June 2023 and 27 July 2023 National Grid are holding our first stage of public consultation on their early proposals.*  
*New pylons and conductors (electrical wires) would be located along the route of the proposed new overhead line. National Grid are considering the use of traditional 400 kV lattice steel pylons, which are typically 50 metres in height, with approximately three pylons located per kilometre on a straight section of the route. The aim is for the proposed upgrade to be operational by 2031.*  
*National Grid have already have carried out engineering and environmental assessments to identify an emerging preferred corridor, within which the new reinforcement could be located. They have also considered aspects such as residential properties, existing overhead lines and sensitive features from a biodiversity and ecology, historical*

environment and heritage, and landscape and visual impact perspective.

National Grid want to hear directly from the public on their views, Feedback from this consultation, along with technical work and our ongoing environmental assessment, will help to shape their plans. National Grid will share updated proposals at a second stage of consultation planned for autumn 2024, where we will present more developed plans. Following this, they will finalise proposals and will report all feedback and on responses to your comments in a Consultation Report which will be submitted with National Grid's application for development consent. The consultation runs until 27<sup>th</sup> July. The public and Parish Councils alike are encouraged to send all their views and ask questions by contacting National Grid at:

Email [contact@nh-hm.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@nh-hm.nationalgrid.com)

Postal Address: send a letter to **Freepost NH TO HM** (no stamp or further address details are required)

Phone: You can also get in touch to speak with a member of their team by telephone on **0800 051 4430**. Lines are open Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:30pm.

If you feel your land may be affected by these proposals, National Grid's dedicated Land Team will be pleased to speak with you. You can contact the North Humber to High Marnham Land Team at Dalcour Maclaren by calling 01270 904929, writing to Unit 1, Staplehurst Farm, Weston on the Green, OX25 3QU, or by emailing [NH-HM@dalcourmaclaren.com](mailto:NH-HM@dalcourmaclaren.com)

After a very thorough discussion, the Cllrs will work with the Chairman at drafting a suitable response to the consultation from the Parish Council before the end of the month.

58/23 To Receive Councillor's/Clerks' Reports including Road Traffic Accidents:

- **Noting of Accidents** – a car was burnt out at Lisa's café.

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 final resolution for information purposes.	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 the field. A scheme that will be considered for funding for the next financial year, commencing April 2023.	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 2023/24, I'll need to arrange to meet the owner of the land. 09/05/2023 Cllr Atkinson confirmed the new owners have recently moved in and she will pass on the details to the Drainage Manager. 22/05/2023 the Drainage Manager advised 'be attending to assess the levels tomorrow. Still not had any details through re land ownership but I can sort that through the Land Registry if necessary.' 14/06/2023 – Drainage Manager update: 'We assessed the levels. They're not great and it seems that standing water at some point around the junction area may be inevitable after rainfall, but there should be sufficient to work with to at least try and alleviate the flooding issue. I now need to attend with our cctv operator to camera upstream from the existing pipe outfall. That will enable us to finalise a design. I hope that will be in the next few weeks but I've already had

			to push it back a fortnight due to other issues that have arisen over the last week. Scheme delivery is provisionally scheduled for early November.'
<b>Dunham</b> 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. 10/01/2022 The Clerk chased the Highways Manager for an update. 22/02/2023 Highways Manager advised “County Cllr Members requests are due to be accepted/rejected in March, we should have more info then regarding this. <b>10/05/2023 Item Closed</b> - the County Council advised which areas had been put forward and agreed for Cllrs Priorities in 2023/24 and the road from the village to the bridge has not been accepted for work, instead the works on Low St/Cockett’s Hill undertaken in June have been allocated funding.
<b>Darlington</b> – 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 <sup>th</sup> Dec to ascertain what could be potentially done regards signage. 10/01/2022 The Clerk chased the Highways Manager for an update. 22/02/2023 Highways Manager update “The data is back following the site visit and I’ve had a discussion with the colleagues regarding the data from the traffic survey and it does meet criteria for an interactive sign so we will look at getting a sign put in place at this location. This is now with NCC Transport Planning to assess the locations, effectiveness etc. I will hopefully have more information in the coming weeks or perhaps months depending on their workload but it is on their radar now.

			 <p>The signs are like the one above but can differ in design at times, but more often than not they look like the image. 03/04/2023 reply from Highways Manager 'I don't have timescales at the moment unfortunately, this is with NCC at the moment to assess.'</p>
<b>Dunham</b> – A57 start of 30mph – Ref CSC514405382	In 2022 one interactive flashing 30mph speed sign was destroyed by vehicular impact and the other no longer works	NCC to replace one and repair the other	Reported by Cllr Atkinson and then chased again by the Clerk 10/05/2023.21/06/2023 Kim from Notts CC phoned to say that the parts are on long lead time, both signs to be replaced and they're aiming for end of September 2023.
<b>Upper Row, Low St &amp; Cocketts Hill Road surface</b>	Upper Row recently had resurfacing yet Low St and Cocketts Hill in worse state and more traffic	Explanation why Upper Row done and when the other 2 road will be done	<b>Item Closed - 10/05/2023</b> - Both Cocketts Hill and Low Street are in the programme. Upper Row was identified at the same time as the other two sites, but was brought forward as HB Team Three were at the end of their contract and required a seven day scheme to complete the financial year, hence works were undertaken from 23/03/23 to 31/03/23. Both Low St and Cocketts Hill are clearly marked. The programme for these two sites is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Road:24/05/23 to 30/05/23</li> <li>• Hill Top farm Road:31/05/23 to 08/06/23</li> </ul> The sites were deliberately programmed to follow each other in order that the traffic management / diversion routes could be combined, as such their scheduled dates have at no time changed."
<b>Dunham</b> 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 advised "the public highway should remain available for public use, and if

			<p>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. 10/01/2022 The Clerk chased the Highways Manager for an update asking what can be done about the signage. 22/02/2023 Highways Manager Advised "we have spoken to our legal team, approached owner of the church this morning. If they do not cooperate, we will enforce the removal of any obstructions." 31/03/2023 Highways Manager advised 'We have received a document from the owner of the church and this has been passed through to my managers for assessment. There should hopefully be some sort of resolution in this sooner rather than later, our right of way team is now involved as this may well be a right of way issue rather than adopted highway but I'm no clearer on this at this present moment." 05/05/2023 Chased, reply "I need to discuss with my manager and we're both out of the office</p>
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			<p>now until Wednesday". 10/05/2023 "we had internal discussions with legal and NCC and it was deemed the land, unless it can be proven otherwise is part of the adopted highway and will remain as such. The owner of the church has been made aware in a formal response. It's probably just a case that our inspectors remove the sign but I'll need to read the County Manager's response to make sure she's not already covered that ground."</p> <p>01/06/2023 County Highways Manager advised "I have e mailed the owners asking for the signs to be removed. If they are not, I will remove them in 14 days. I am presuming that there is no physical barrier to the use of the footpath just the advisory signs?</p> <p>If the path is blocked, I will refer it to NCC to ask that they take legal action. I have spoken to the owner this morning and they have agreed to alter the sign to say only that the church is no longer open and is a private residence only. I believe this is correct.</p> <p>I trust that this will now be acceptable.</p> <p>05/06/2023 The hedges either side of the path are becoming overgrown, and have been reported to NCC for investigation and appropriate action. The County Manager has advised that she has spoken with the owner who has agreed with the County Council to change the wording of the signage, the County Council have now agreed for this to happen and the wording to be "<b>the church is no longer open and is a private residence only</b>" the Parish Council feel that this is a psychological barrier and will make people think they cannot walk up there too and from Church Walk. The Clerk explained this to the County Manager, and suggested that as the owner has to amend the sign, it might as well say "<b>the church is no longer open and is a private residence however, pedestrians are still welcome to walk through to church walk/A57</b>" The County Manager disagreed and said "I think to be honest that is asking too much." The Clerk explained this to the Chairman of the PC and the Clerk was asked to challenge this again and go back to the County Manager and request that they reconsider. The County Manager replied and refused to budge on the matter, and has washed their hands of it and their final response was "<i>I see what you mean but we can only do so much as a Highway Authority. The signs as you say is factually correct, any</i></p>
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			<i>embellishment I'd say sits with the goodwill of the owner of the Church now. Maybe the Parish Council can broker a sit down and foster ongoing relationships?"</i> However, highway access is not a parish council matter.
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**New Items:**

- **Cllr Barden** – Gave updates from the Bassetlaw South East Forum, the STEP project and the EDF meetings. Cllr Barden noted that PC Mitchell is leaving soon and will be replaced in due course with a new local policeman. Cllr Barden requested that the Lengthsman strims back any vegetation encroaching the pavement from the end of the former council houses in Ragnall, down the road, round the bend towards the church. Around the bus stop on Laneham Road, Dunham, and around all gates surrounding the playpark at Dunham. Also can the Lengthsman check as many styles/gates/bridges etc on public footpaths in the parishes as much as possible to ensure they are kept clear of vegetation and are maintained in good order.
- **Cllr Watkinson** – New headteacher starts at Dunham School in Sept. Cllr Watkinson agreed to email the Clerk details surrounding the history of previous requests for a bus stop for the secondary school children and the reasons why it is needed, so that a new request can go to the Highways Manager. Cllr Watkinson agreed to speak to a local farmer about the possibility of paying them from the Lengthsman scheme to flail certain hedges which need cutting back for visibility reasons.
- **Cllr Ballinger** – Attended the NALC new Cllr training and is about to go with Cllr Barden to the Chairmanship training. The potholes around The Green have been filled in by Notts CC. Parking is an issue at a property in Dunham, the Council agreed that the Clerk is to ask the Police to take a look and discuss with the resident about a suitable potential alternative location to park their vehicle.
- **Cllr Atkinson** – Gave an update from the village hall committee's recent meeting and the recent Trentside Pears Group. Cllr Atkinson requested the Lengthsman strims around the drains and drainage grips in Fledborough.

59/23 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9:25pm.