

# 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 **11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022** at Dunham Village Hall, the meeting commenced at **7:00pm**. To comply with Covid Omnicom Plan B laws, the meeting was conducted with all those present wearing facemasks, socially distanced and window and doors to the room open to increase air flow.

**Council Members & Officer Present**

Cllr Madeline Barden	Chairman
Cllr Kathryn Watkinson	Vice-Chair
Cllr Vera Ballinger	Cllr Emma Thorpe (from item 05/22)
Cllr Carole Booth	Cllr Lucy Atkinson (from item 08/22)
Cllr Adrian Stapleton	Cllr Rachel Bean
Cllr Ian Oldfield	
Current Vacancies	Darlton: 2
Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

**Also, Present**

0 Members of the Public  
 Dist Cllr Shirley Isard (from item 09/22)  
 County Cllr John Ogle

➤ Public Forum  
 None.

01/22 To receive apologies for absence  
 None.

02/22 To receive declarations of interest  
 None.

03/22 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.

04/22 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

**Dist Cllr Isard** – Sent apologies and arrived for the final agenda item.

**Dist Cllr Stanniland** – Had hoped to attend but sent the following report after the meeting as he was unwell:

- I have submitted a call-in form for the Ragnall Development. As it was first proposed in September, I may be a little late to get them, so I will update you as and when I know.
- Bassetlaw have changed their bin policies. No wheelie bins that have raised lids will be collected from Feb 1st. Hopefully many know about this already, but wouldn't want anyone in the Parishes to be caught out.
- The Local Plan is back open for consultation due to a few amendments. Nothing effects Tuxford and Trent ward in this and remains as it was.
- My next surgery will be in East Drayton. I'll circulate dates ASAP.
- I will be delivering an update to the entirety of Tuxford and Trent (via a leaflet) of recent happenings at the District Council.

**County Cllr Ogle** – Gave a summary about the District Council Planning Enforcements review. Cllr Barden chased County Cllr Ogle for an update on the Councillors' Divisional Fund application, Cllr Ogle requested the Clerk to resend it. Cllr Ogle asked for the email chain on the Fledborough Broadband and he will attempt to escalate the issue.

05/22 Finance:

1. To Approve Payments:  
 The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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None

**Total Payments**

**£0**

**Receipts:**

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bassetlaw District Council	Dist Cllrs Grant – Wildlife Project	£250.00

**Total Receipts**

**£250.00**

**Bank Balance**

**£27,048.64\***

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. \* £5,000 Wildlife & Environmental Project Budget, £450 Grant Funds currently raised and Ring-Fenced for the project. The County Council Local Communities Fund Grant Application has been submitted, pledges of financial support from Dunham Bridge Company, Acer Landscapes and Cllr Bean's business.

**Reptile Gardens Financial Update:**

The Clerk and Chairman gave an update on the progress made on the lease for Reptile Gardens, after discussion, of the contents of the email to Jones & Co Solicitor's, Cllr Barden called for a vote, all members in favour, **resolved to 1)** issue a deed of surrender to both Coopers Ltd and with Gauntley's Ltd as the sub-lessee to Coopers. **2)** A 6-year lease please with an option to renew in year 6. Rental amounts to be reviewed annually, with regards to the lease end date, it would be reviewed again in Jan of the final year of the lease, with a new amount for the start of the new lease. **3)** No successor in title provision. **4)** new tenant cannot assign the lease to, or transfer to a third party. **5)** The tenant is responsible for annual hedge maintenance and any change of use to the land, including the planting of trees or installation of ponds must be requested to the parish council for permission first. **6)** Initial Rent to be on 1st Apr 2022, £300 per year, rental reviews to be annual, informing the tenant in January each year of the new rental amount, to be effective from the on the 1st April each year, based on either CPI for the previous 12 months (Jan-Dec) or commercial land rental value for the area. (The council will look into it each January and inform Country Kitchen, then if they decline to continue the lease, they have Jan to Mar to leave the site and restore it to a grass paddock.) in reality it is likely to be only a small increase each year. **7)** The rent to be payable by bank transfer/electronic banking on 1st Apr each year, no late payments or waiting for/handling cheques.

**2. To Approve 2020/23 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 £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 (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	£488	£2.22	£1.48
Notts County Council Lengthsman Scheme Grant	£3,700	£16.83	£11.22
Land Rent	£278	£1.26	£0.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,469</b>	<b>£20.46</b>	<b>£13.64</b>

Inflation CPI for the previous 12 months was 5.1%. 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 £15,006 = to Band D at £65.75 per year (£5.48 per month). **Action**, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council. It is worth noting that this is only an increase per year at band D of £3.70 and at band A £2.47. The parishes have approximately 300 properties, 1741 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.

### 3. To Approve 2022/23 Confidential Staffing Element of the Budget

After discussion of the information regards staff salaries from NALC and the satisfactory performance of the Clerk undertaking their role, Cllr Barden called for a vote, all members in favour, **resolved** to approve the increments the as detailed in the attached private & confidential report.

### 06/22 To Receive a written application for the office of Parish councillor and to potentially Co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy

A written application has been received from Mrs Rachel Lovett. After discussion, the chairman called for a vote, all in favour **resolved** to co-op Mrs Lovett. Cllr Lovett to be posted the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and the 'registration of interests' forms for signing and returning to the Clerk. **Action**, the Clerk to inform Bassetlaw District Council.

### 07/21 To Progress the Jubilee Wildlife & Environmental Project

The Clerk has submitted the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage to the Notts Local Improvement Grant Application, is resending the Notts County Councillors application to Cllr Ogle. Cllr Bean's business have agreed to pledge £250 and Acer Landscapes have agreed £100. The Clerk is to accept the donation of £1,000 from Dunham Bridge Co and ask the Village Hall for their £1,000 contribution.

Cllr Barden advised that the member of the public assisting with the design and research for the project is currently making progress. Cllr Thorpe showed the Council the design for the leaflet and will proceed to have Vista Print Ltd print this in due course ready for Cllrs to distribute.

### 08/22 To Receive an update on Fledborough Broadband

The following questions have been answered by the Notts County Council Broadband Engagement Officer:

- *Q: Is Lot 10 included on Project Gigabit within the timescales of Nov 2022 procurement with the Oct 2023 start date?*
- *A: [Project Gigabit - Summer Update 21 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) includes the deployment data. If you head to the link and ctrl + F, search lot 10, and it'll take you to the line of the deployment data associated with Notts. The lots are split into regional procurements:*

Regional Supplier Procurements				
Phase 2	Procurement start date <sup>9</sup> Subject to change	Contract commencement date <sup>10</sup> Subject to change	Modelled number of uncommercial premises in the procurement area <sup>11</sup>	Indicative contract value <sup>12</sup>
Nottinghamshire and West of Lincolnshire (Lot 10)	November 2022	October 2023	93,000	£90m - £152m

- *Q: Do local people need to do anything? Produce any information or data?*
- *A: Not at this stage. The Open Market Review will collate information from network providers regarding what services are available, and what commercial plans they have, if any, which would deliver services.*

- Q: Will they say Fledborough is too expensive a job to include in Lot 10?
- A: Not at this stage. The Open Market Review will collate information from network providers regarding what services are available, and what commercial plans they have, if any, which would deliver services.
- Q: Is there anything else at all that can be done to improve broadband speeds as an interim measure?
- A: External to group schemes delivered using subsidy from the voucher scheme it would be the broadband USO. The service provider for Notts is BT ([Universal Service Obligation \(USO\) for Broadband \(bt.com\)](https://www.bt.com)). Please note that if residents can access a reliable 4G home broadband then they will be not be eligible to access the scheme. If the total cost of the connection is sub-£3,400 then no further contribution is required. From the service providers website:

## Will I need to pay anything?

Possibly. It depends on how much it will cost to upgrade your local network.

If the total cost is £3,400 or less (exclusive of VAT) per premises in your area, you won't have to pay for the work.

But it could be a lot higher. If the build is more than £3,400 per premises, you'll need to pay excess costs to get a connection.

The way these costs are worked out has changed for some customers. We'll calculate the total excess cost of the build and divide that between the eligible premises. If that amount is below £5,000 per premises (on top of the £3,400), we'll automatically split the costs. So you'll only pay to connect your address.

If the excess cost is above £5,000 per premises (on top of the £3,400), you'll need to raise the full build cost to get a connection.

If you do need to pay anything, we'll give you a quote so you can decide what to do.

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](mailto:enquiries.broadband@nottsccl.gov.uk) or by phoning 0115 977 2532.

Cllrs Atkinson and Bean understandably expressed their dissatisfaction with the situation and have requested one final push at answers to see if anything else can be done. After discussion with County Cllr Ogle the Council **resolved** that the Clerk shall send the history of the broadband issue, with a summary to Cllr Ogle to escalate the matter with the relevant authorities and ask for clarification on the following points:

- find out from Callum/Openreach if the Children's home has full direct fibre to the property?
- arrange for Openreach to provide the full detail/breakdown of the final costing report so that the PC can fully see the detail of why the final cost was so high?
- Ascertain if it was possible to challenge the decision in 2016/17 that Notts County Council declined to provide the funding for full direct fibre to all homes in Fledborough parish.
- Find out if Openreach's funding gap of £371,287 (which already has central govt and Notts CC top up potential £60k funding taken into account) can be funded by any other grant sources?
- Ascertain what else can be done regards assurances over Project Gigabit which suggest that the whole of Nottinghamshire, and therefore Fledborough included is expected to be fully upgraded to full direct fibre to every home, with installations starting in Oct 2023, is this scheme on target and is there a way to find out when Fledborough is likely to be upgraded as part of this scheme.

In the meantime, Cllr Atkinson is also trying to ascertain from the Children's Home head office, if they have direct fibre to the premises or is it broadband via the coper wires from the home to the fibre box in Fledborough.

### 09/22 To Receive Councillor's/Clerks' Reports including Road Traffic Accidents:

- **Noting of Accidents – None**

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:

**Outstanding Items (chased monthly with the Highways Manager and being discussed with the new area manager at the site meeting with Cllrs Barden & Ballinger on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov) Highways Manager Response in italics:**

- **Signage on The Green** – The Highways Manager looked at the blind corner of The Green/Horne Lane and the cars parking near the junction increase the safety problem. The Highways Manager will arrange to

repaint white the road markings and write a double dotted line on the road. 23.12.2021 - *The renewing of the white lining on the carriageway at the junction of Horne Lane/The Green has been ordered. This type of work is due to commence in the Spring of 2022.*

- **Dunham The Green, Potholes** – When Cllr Barden met the Highways Manager looked at the Potholes, took note of these to be repaired. It was clear to see that the east side of the carriageway running north/south of The Green was badly in need of repair. This side was particularly bad because traffic heading both north and south was forced to travel on the east side because of parked cars. Unfortunately, the problem of vehicles going onto the verge of the road on the south side of the Green couldn't be resolved. We know that it happens because residents park their cars outside their homes leaving insufficient room for other vehicles to pass, but putting dropped kerbs either end would mean that the verge would be regarded as road worthy and this would not be the case. 23.12.2021 – *The potholes on The Green discussed at the site meeting have been recorded and will be inspected in due course.*
- **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, request that Highways Manager provides a copy of the report. 23.12.2021 – *The flooding issues at 4 Long Row Cottages are currently being investigated and if I receive any further updates, they will be forwarded to the Parish Council.*
- **Children Playing/Playground Signage REF HAMS 4302792** - the Parish Lengthsman advises that on Low Street near the Village Hall, there is no Children Playing/Playground Signage. Reported to Highways Manager 19.04.21. Highways Manager agreed no signage was there so this would be looked into for potential signage installation. The Highways Manager asked Ruth Eyre Highways Liaison Coordinator (HLC) to provide the PC with an update. 01.10.2021 HLC asked for a google earth map of the location of the play area, map emailed to HLC. 07.12.21 HLC confirmed this is submitted on the Highways Programme for 2022/23.
- **Overgrown Pavement, Laneham Road between Gauntley's to the junction with Dunham Road, Laneham Ref CSC361621705** – The pavement is overgrown with vegetation like a lawn in places. Photos and description of the problem has been sent to Notts County Council to request pavement is cleared. 23.12.2021 – *we are aware of this and the work prioritised, however, there is no firm date for works to commence as yet.*
- **Damaged County Council Road signs in Fledborough, Ref CSC353240786** are still outstanding, reference number says that the job is closed as complete but no work has been undertaken, to be escalated to the newly appointed Highways Manager. 23.12.2021 – *the works have been issued for the leaning sign and will be carried out in due course.*
- **Building Waste on Pavement outside Reigate - BDC Ref 2002504 Notts CC Ref CSC385542875** – The waste left on the pavement outside 'Reigate' (between little stirrup and Ingham Villa) on Main St Dunham is increasing, there is bags of hardcore marked 'help yourself'. Request that the matter is reported to Bassetlaw Council as Fly-tipping and Highways as a pavement obstruction. *Item Closed. The items have been removed from the pavement.*

#### New Items:

- **Cllr Bean** – Has reported the Fledborough Potholes to Notts County Council again.
- **Cllr Watkinson** - Ref **CSC392736342** – Reported to Notts County Council that street light no 5 is flashing. The footpath that has been cleared in Dunham to St Oswalds Park, ref **CSC371013990** has lots of brambles left all over the floor by the County Council Contractors meaning dog walkers cannot go through, the clerk agreed to chase the Rights of Way Officer at County Council to have the contractors return to remove the debris.
- **Cllr Ballinger** – Is continuing to contact Unity Bank over access to the account, the waiting times are still too excessive at present. Cllr Ballinger also reported to Notts County Council to ask about the salting frequency of the road, 3 members of the parish council skidded on the road on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan so it is not known if the road salter attended. The Clerk is also going to chase for a reply from Highways Manager.
- **Cllr Oldfield** – Expressed his dissatisfaction at the Bassetlaw Planning Committee Process and the decision to approve the White Swan Planning Permission. Cllr Oldfield explained that the widening of the

entrance makes the crossing gap in the footpath dangerous for pedestrians. Cllr Oldfield plans on discussing the plans further with District Cllr Stanniland.

- **Cllr Thorpe** – Advised that there's a leak on the noticeboard at Fledborough, it appears that when it rains it gets in through the top and distorts the pinboard, damages all the notices on display and exacerbates the condensation. The Clerk was ask to approach S.Ashworth Diggers Ltd (SADL) to investigate and see if he can find and repair the source of the leak. For access to the noticeboard, Cllr Atkinson is happy for SADL to contact her.

10/22 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8:50pm.