

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 Sep 2024** at Dunham Village Hall, the meeting commenced at **6:30pm**.

Council Members & Officer Present

Cllr Madeline Barden
Cllr Vera Ballinger
Cllr Carole Booth
Cllr Ben Lee
Cllr Ian Oakden
Current Vacancies
Ed Knox
John Ogle

Chairman
Vice-Chair
Cllr Kathryn Watkinson
Cllr Rachel Bean

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Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
County Cllr

Also, Present

➤ Public Forum
None.

54/24 To receive apologies for absence

After discussion, the council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllr Atkinson. Cllrs Thorpe & Sergison did not attend.

55/24 To receive declarations of interest

None.

56/24 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.

57/24 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

Dist Cllr Griffin – Did not attend.

Dist Cllr Stanniland – Did not attend.

County Cllr Ogle – Discussed the Bassetlaw District Council Ward Review, One Earth Solar Farm and the D2N2 Mayor backtracking on their stance on financial support for the highways.

58/24 Finance:

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Holmes Groundcare Dunham Play Area	Grass Cutting Jul & Aug	£185.40
123.Reg	Website Domain Hosting (by PayPal Direct Debit)	£14.39
WeLoveKeys Ltd	A444 Noticeboard Keys x 4	£61.07
DOT Village Hall	Defib Pad Replacement	£49.03
S.Ashworth Diggers	Remedial Repairs Dunham & Darlton Playparks	£290
Total Payments		£599.89

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
OneEarth	Solar Community Grant	£4,000
National Grid	Survey of Reptile Gardens	£750
Total Receipts		£4,750
Bank Balance		£35,186.84

3. To approve the funding of the Wildlife Public Information Boards

Cllr Bean has obtained a quote for the wildlife area public information boards from Noticeboards Online, the net cost breakdown cost for 3 x Frames, graphics and 3 x aluminium boards and installation are as follows:

- 3 x Lecterns £3,594.00
- 3 x Printed Aluminium Panels £597.00
- 1 x Artwork (designed with Meadowmakers on this) £350.00
- Installation costs – S.Ashworth Diggers £600

- Total Cost net of VAT £5,141

After discussion, the Council **resolved** that the remaining wildlife grant fund, environmental project fund of £4,379.25, together with £145 VAT to be reclaimed for 2024/24, National Grid Survey Donation £750, together with a 10% variance, be allocated to the project. Cllr Bean to proceed with the order and installation of the items from Noticeboards Online with S.Ashworth.

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.

59/24 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:

National Grid Electricity Transmission – North Humber to High Marnham - The Council **resolved** to comment as follows Dunham and District Parish Council have the following concerns:

“Statements

- We regard this proposal as the wrong route
- There has been a significant emphasis placed on Leverton Windmill, which does already have pylons nearby
- It's too close to Dunham Primary School
- The attempt to reroute with lines close together hasn't been achieved, so it fails on both fronts. (And why would you want lines close together?)
- Laneham village has significant flooding, and this is set to continue, even worsen over the decades with climate change.
- The two consultation documents had different tones: the first document placed more emphasis on communities, concluding **‘This will be fully considered through the development of the Project, whilst maintain the principles used to develop the current graduated swathe, for instance, the avoidance where practicable of areas of highest constraint such as settlements’**; whilst the second document ignores the settlements and quotes the Electricity Act **‘have regard to the desirability or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and shall do what is reasonably can be mitigated any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.**
- Downplaying or not mentioning wire scape in the second document puts a completely different slant on the revised proposal and thereby strengthens the case for taking the eastern proposal.
- We are awaiting feedback on our suggestion of turning the substation 90 degrees, thus reducing the negative impact. It may be slightly more expensive, we don't know, but considering the overall impact this expanded substation is going to have on our environment, we would consider an additional expense as more than acceptable.
- Cost was mentioned but it was explained the expenditure for the two proposed routes were similar

Queries

- Questioned why the straighter/more direct route hadn't been taken?
- Would it help if we listed our historic and much-loved old monuments/buildings?
- St Gregory's Church – Fledborough
- St Oswald's Church – Ragnall
- Viaduct – Fledborough
- 17 century barn – Ragnall (only 3 in Nottinghamshire)
- Grade II listed building in both Ragnall and Fledborough
- With this revised proposal, how many villages would have lines running to the east and west of their communities?
- With both National Grid and One Earth Solar Farm wanting to use the same land, any negotiations and potential changes that resolve their problems could have negative impacts on our villages. Can we have an assurance from National Grid that both National Grid and One Earth need to be mindful/sensitive of the outcome/impact of any agreements on the local communities?
- Why did the emphasis shift from the highest consideration ‘settlements’ which clearly references people, to the land and airstrips?
- Why have they just discovered the airstrips and how often are they used anyway?
- The green spaces have always been there, why do they carry greater significance now?
- Why has wire scape lost its consideration in the second document?

There may be additional points that have not been referenced above: please feel free to take this into account when reconsidering/evaluating your revised proposal.

As we stated at the meeting, we would very much appreciate sight of the revised route before submission, to allow ourselves time to assess what that impact might be. We know you cannot provide all the details, indeed the rationale for your decisions, but simply sight of the route would be extremely helpful for us as amateurs to prepare a response.

As we said at the beginning, we thank you for your time last week and the opportunity to explain our views face to face: hopefully the meeting allowed you to assess our feelings on the proposal and the reasoned rationale behind our points.

Any information you can share at any time would be greatly appreciated (and as you know – read!).”

- **24/00956/HSE - Removal of the Existing Conservatory to the Front Elevation and Replace with a Single Storey Extension, South Grange Woodcoates Road Darlton** - The Council responded that: “it has no objections and supports the application.”

60/24 To Decide whether to respond to the Bassetlaw Ward Boundary Review

After discussion, the council **resolved** to send in a response from the Council, Cllr Barden to collate and email the Clerk to submit. Individual Cllrs will also send in their views. Response sent in from the Parish Council:

- “We regard ourselves as satellite communities of Tuxford because we share a surgery, comprehensive school, clinics, shops, (particularly food shops), garages, fire service, and some cultural aspects. However, we have never asked the District Councillors to take any issues that might arise from sharing the above resources, to the Tuxford Town Council. So, our connection is there, but we have not exercised or needed to comment on the service provision. Nor has anything been fed back to our communities from the Tuxford Ward.

NB All the parishes are invited to join the South East Forum (administered by BDC) where issues relating to villages in the south east of Bassetlaw, can raise topics of mutual interest.

Therefore, we recognise that the issues that might arise from a more urban community, are not necessarily the same as those experienced in a rural community, suggesting there is no obvious reason to be connected.

- Previous representation (I.e. the two councillors) has had mixed effectiveness. For a long time, a married couple represented Tuxford Ward and as such did not provide independent/alternative thinking or action. (Basically, one of the couple did all the work). Now we have two independent councillors who split their roles: one having a more strategic role, and the other a more ‘hands on’ role. The flaw in this arrangement is that although of the same political party, their thinking may differ and that which is fed from the ground up, may not be allowed to filter through to the decisions made at the ‘higher’ level.
- The other flaw in the existing arrangement is that it is possible for two councillors to be elected of differing political parties and although unlikely, it is clear there would be inherent problems with such an arrangement.
- Combining our existing villages to those of East Drayton, Laneham, Stokeham, Rampton and Woodbeck mean we share issues of a rural nature.
- Most of the villages share the issue of the River Trent and potential flooding (a risk that increases each year). And we have already offered Dunham on Trent as a service point for Laneham, Dunham, Ragnall, Fledborough and Marnham, for some mitigating flood materials, mainly sand bags.
- We also already attend some social events at Laneham, such as the Film Club and Coffee mornings, there may well be others. We share a Parochial Church Council with East Drayton, which is the one remaining active church in our area.
- We also share issues around establishing new energy providers in the area, such as nuclear fusion, hydrogen, solar (in a big way) as well as existing provision via gas and animal waste. All of these have massive impacts on our small rural communities, transforming the agricultural element of our communities into industrial villages. A transformation not really shared with Tuxford since it is more urban.
- We also share transport/highway issues with most, if not all these communities, some of which arise from the closure of the Power Stations, encouraging the development of new industries in our area.
- Our negative comment on the proposed change is the imbalance of workload on one district councillor servicing 11 wards albeit there are 6 Parish Councils. Nevertheless, covering the geographical area will be much harder/time consuming than creating a meaningful relationship with one administrative council.
- Our concern therefore is that the service provision from one district councillor could be less effective than the current arrangement, resulting in a more distant and poorer relationship with Bassetlaw.
- **In conclusion, we are in favour of the proposal with some reservations.** The Trent Valley is a fast-changing place with new and expansive industries developing. All of which will impact on us all, and puts a greater emphasis on maintaining and in reality, improving the relationship we have with the District Council.”

61/24 To Agree access for a non-intrusive survey at Reptile Gardens

After discussion, the council **resolved** to sign and return the survey paperwork to National Grid.

62/24 To sign the replacement lease for Darlton Playpark

After discussion, the council **resolved** to sign and return the paperwork to Strawson's solicitors accepting the terms and conditions. The declaration section requires the PC to have a solicitor witness the documentation. The Council agreed for Cllr Barden to sign and the Clerk to witness the main document. The Declaration document, Cllr Watkinson to approach Jones & Co Solicitors to sign it as it states it needs a solicitor's witness on this particular document.

63/24 To Receive Councillor's/Clerks' Reports including Road Traffic Accidents & County Council Highways Matters:

- **Noting of Accidents** – Two accidents on the A57, cars crashing into Coronation Terrace again. 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
Darlton – Highways Safety issues & speeding A57	A local resident of Darlton 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 Darlton 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. 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.</p> <p>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.' 22/09/2023 – Highways Manager advised <i>'Unfortunately this is now with NCC and we'll only find out more once they've assessed. I'll forward your email on in the hope to get some information.'</i></p> <p>18/10/2023 – Update from Highways Manager <i>"I have actually since emailed colleagues again to try and find out timescales, I'll await their response and hopefully be able to provide some clarity. I have previously requested this information with no avail but hope to apply some pressure to get this planned in."</i></p> <p>15/11/2023 Clerk chased Highways Manager for an update.</p> <p>22/11/2023 update from Highways Manager "I have spoken to LTP at NCC and this is on the list for inclusion in next year's 2024/25 programme by way of LTP and Programme Development Team. If you require any further information, Paul Hillier has said he is happy to answer directly: paul.hillier@nottsc.gov.uk" 25/03/24 update from Paul <i>"The proposal has been included in the proposed works programme for 24/25 but, as yet, this programme has not yet been formally approved. I don't know when approval is scheduled but it shouldn't be too long. As soon as it is, I will issue our design/construction company, Via EM, with an instruction to install it, at which point it will be for them to schedule it into their workload."</i></p> <p>09.05.24 Via Programme Assistant <i>"We received the task order for the installation of an interactive speed sign at the end of April, it has been passed through to our design team and usually takes a minimum of 6 months to fulfil. I have spoken with the project manager, and at the moment there isn't an exact timeframe, but I have asked him to let me know when there is one. It will be installed before the end of March 2025, and when I have a more exact date/month, I will let you know."</i></p>
Dunham – Laneham Road	No Bus shelter	School Children (7 at present) have no shelter	25/10/2023 - Transport Facilities Assistant advised <i>'Thank you for your request for a bus shelter to be installed</i>

			<p>at BA0745 Cartwright Close on Laneham Road, Dunham on Trent. As you may be aware, Nottinghamshire County Council has an extremely limited capital budget for investment in bus stop infrastructure, and this means only a limited number of new bus shelters can be installed each year. As a result, we are required to ensure that the limited funds are utilised to benefit the maximum number of passengers and to focus on supporting access to local bus services (rather than bus services dedicated for school children). At this particular bus stop, whilst it is used by school buses once a day, it is not served by any local bus services. It is therefore with regret that I'm afraid the County Council would not be a position to invest in a bus shelter in this location.</p> <p>I note that you enquired about the costs involved in providing a bus shelter in this location to help decide if the Parish Council could bid for funding to fund part or all of the investment. I've reviewed the site and concluded that significant civils works would be required to provide adequate hardstanding on which to install a bus shelter. It is also possible that land will need to be acquired beyond the highway extent to ensure a sufficient width of hardstanding can be maintained. The bus shelter would cost approximately £3.5k but I would estimate civils works of at least £5k and possibly up to £20k if one was to provide an uncontrolled dropped crossing point on both sides of the road plus the necessary hardstanding. I am really sorry not to be providing a more positive response but hope the above explains our position and provides the information you were seeking.' Cllr Watkinson to draft a response disputing the use of the bus stop, stating it is used by others, Clerk to then email this back to NCC and Cc in Cllr Ogle who will raise this bus shelter as a safety scheme issue. 21/11/2023 Cllr Watkinson emailed Cllr Ogle the required information with photos. 5/12/2023 Cllr Watkinson emailed County Cllr Ogle the required information on 21st Nov. 11/07/2024 - Clerk Chased Cllr Ogle for update.</p>
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Darlton – A57	missing/damaged chevron signs on these S bends between Darlton & Tuxford (just before gliding club heading towards Tuxford).	Cars keep ending up in farmers' fields as if they don't know the road and there are no signs, they are not aware of how tight the bends are especially at night.	Reported on 21/01/2024 by Cllr Watkinson CSC578961577 – Needs sign replacing. 11/07/2024 - Clerk Chased Highways Manager for update.
Ragnall Main St	Wobbly loose 40mph sign	Sign dangerous, flaps about in the wind.	Reported on 20/05/2024 by Cllr Bean CSC616035119 – Sign needs securing/repairing. 11/07/2024 - Clerk Chased Highways Manager for update.
Darlton – A57	White lines missing/faded on A57 from Darlton towards East Markham	Makes it dangerous driving at night. NCC need to repaint the white lines	Reported on 20/05/2024 by Cllr Bean CSC616035119 – White lines need repainting. 11/07/2024 - Clerk Chased Highways Manager for update. 22/7/24 Highways Manager advised “white lining to be done overnight during 5 nights from 7 th Oct 2024”
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.

New Items:

- **Cllr Ballinger** – Excessive car parking on the roads surrounding the Green. Cllrs to keep an eye on the situation to see if it reduces, once building works are completed.
- **Cllr Lee** – Advised he has weedkilling qualifications and equipment. The Council requested Cllr Lee weed killing along the pavement/curb side on Dunham/Laneham Rd from the end of the houses towards Laneham to opposite the junction with Dunham Rd in Laneham and also along Main St near the Church in Ragnall.
- **Cllr Barden** – Vegetation/earth has encroached again onto the pavement along the road near the church in Ragnall, Lengthsman to clear away.
- **Cllr Booth** – The Ginnel to St Oswald's Park has grown back the vegetation, request for the Lengthsman to strim and sweep it clear.

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