

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 12th Sep 2023 at Dunham Village Hall, the meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

Council Members & Officer Present	Cllr Madeline Barden	Chairman
	Cllr Kathryn Watkinson	
	Cllr Emma Thorpe	Cllr Vera Ballinger
	Cllr Rachel Bean	Cllr Carole Booth
	Current Vacancies	3
Also, Present	Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
	0 Members of the Public	
	Lewis Stanniland	District Cllr
	John Ogle	District Cllr

➤ Public Forum
None.

60/23 To receive apologies for absence
After discussion, the council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllrs Sergison & Atkinson

61/23 To receive declarations of interest
None.

62/23 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.

63/23 To receive reports from County and District Councillors
Dist Cllr Stanniland – There will be a Bassetlaw Ward area review and a polling station review in 2024. There's no RAAC concrete identified in any of the BDC council housing. Bassetlaw are hosting a Wilko's redundancy support event. Dist Cllr Stanniland agreed to look into planning application 23/00785/FUL Proposed 2 No Two Storey Semi-Detached Dwellings Land Formerly Known as Rose Cottage the Green Dunham (Resubmission of 22/00417/FUL), which has been declined for planning again, the Parish Council supports the application and doesn't understand the planning authority's thinking on this decision. Dist Cllr Stanniland will try to ascertain the reason for the declined planning and should the applicants resubmit again, see if a committee decision could be made rather than decision by an officer.
Dist Cllr Griffin – Did not attend.
County Cllr Ogle – Cllr Ogle discussed with the Council the cumulative effect of traffic by the Pears site. Cllr Bean agreed to email Cllr Ogle the details and request that Cllr Ogle asks all the Highways Officers, to look at the wider area/plan of the whole Pears site whenever they are commenting on traffic/highways issues relating to smaller individual planning applications on the Pears site.

64/23 Finance:

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cllr Atkinson	15	B&Q Laminator	£34.99
Pintail Studios	16	Wildlife Project Plaques	£140.00
Lengthsman	17	B&Q & Amazon Topsoil & Paint	£22.68
Holmes Groundcare	18	Grass Cutting July	£46.35
Cllr Barden	19	Chairmans Allowance – Gift to Retiring Cllr	£10.90
Lengthsman	20	Amazon Wood filler Darlton Play Park	£4.95
Total Payments			<u>£259.87</u>

Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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None

Total Receipts

£0

Bank Balance

£26,022.63

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. * £379.25 Wildlife & Environmental Project Budget, Grant Funds currently raised and Ring-Fenced for the finalisation and ongoing maintenance of the project.

2. To choose a suitable Hugo Fox subscription package

Hugo Fox was the only known community/parish council free website and is now charging an annual fee. It is still cheaper than all other known providers. After discussion the Council **resolved** unanimously that the PC would sign up to the Silver Package at £19.99 per month.

65/23 To Receive an update on Fledborough Broadband with Evolve Ltd

Cllr Bean advised a further update from Evolve Ltd advising that they are still waiting to hear on the new funding stream from Central Government, however, the area project is 'paused' for the time being. Cllr Bean is going to email Evolve and Notts CC to ask if all properties in Notts are being upgraded automatically by 2025 to full fibre, to see if this is the reason for the pause.

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

66/23 To Discuss Potential Christmas Lamppost Decorations

After discussion, the Council resolved not to proceed with paid decorations and may look to an alternative. The matter to be finalised at the November meeting.

67/23 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:

- **23/00785/FUL - Proposed 2 No Two Storey Semi-Detached Dwellings Land Formerly Known as Rose Cottage the Green Dunham (Resubmission of 22/00417/FUL)**- The Council responded as follows: *"The Parish Council supports the application and there have been 9 planning applications made on this site since the original house was demolished in the early 1980's, 8 of which were approved until the last application in February of this year (2023).*

As a parish council we welcome the site being developed, as it is, it is an eyesore, fully overgrown with temporary iron fencing across the front of the site. Both the parish council and the local residents of The Green, Dunham-on-Trent have long wanted to see this site restored as a home, sensitively developed in accordance with the other properties around The Green and the history of the village.

There is no one style of development around The Green; however, the proposal is in keeping with the general character of the traditional buildings in the immediate vicinity and subject to the use of appropriate facing materials would be sympathetic to the character and appearance of this part of the village.

The house is a replacement to a home which previously existed on this site; therefore, it is classed as infill and should be supported as an application because, it is one more home towards the remaining target for more properties, set by Central Govt and it is not affecting the Countryside."

- **Joint Response to National Grid Consultation – North Humber to High Marnham Power Lines & the Planning Inspectorate EN020034 - North Humber to High Marnham - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation** - The Council responded as follows:

"Consultation process

In the first instance, for a company of your standing, breadth and expertise, we were amazed at how poorly the consultation process was handled. We know that you had intended to 'consult' back in October of last year, which was then postponed to March 2023 and finally undertaken in June 2023. And yet with all this fore knowledge on your part you decided to give local communities just days' notice, which was very patchily delivered.

Your lack of knowledge regarding local communities is difficult to comprehend. You used no social media, no flyers through the letter boxes, no posters on the notice boards and never thought to use existing networks that could have helped you i.e., local parish councils. You could have put information on our media pages, we could have put up posters, we could have organised meetings. And you had the time to do so: you knew what you were going to do and could easily have accommodated parish council meeting cycles.

The actual consultation meetings set up were not really about consulting, more about selling. What we were given was more a fait-accompli - this is the preferred route.

Discussing the route with the National Grid staff it became clear that the development/ enlargement of the High Marnham site had not been finalised. As a result, the actual path the pylons would take couldn't be clarified because it would change according to the siting of the power station. So, what was the point of consulting without this integral piece of information?

Impact

A run of pylons will unquestionably have a long-lasting negative impact on the local environment and landscape: this is very much at odds with the terms set out in the Electricity Act 1989, which states that when developing transmission network proposals, NGET must do so in a way which considers people, places and the environment - the desirability of preserving amenity duty. This proposal will degrade our environment. This proposal will have a significant impact not only on our landscape but also the wellbeing of local residents. To put our area into context we have additional environmental impacts from the welcomed STEPS programme at the West Burton Power Station site, the unwanted J G Pears development at the old High Marnham Power Station site with their own expansion and proposed 'new energy proposals'. (We already have the misfortune to have Pears and their negative impact on our landscape and residents), plus the potential site development at the old Cottam Power Station. In fairness most of these will impact on our local roads but put together with now National Grid landscape changes, our area feels under the cosh!!

Solutions

Your website informs us that building new high voltage power lines and pylons comes at a significant cost and impact on the environment.

Your new major research project developing electrically-resistant cross arms is what we would like. It can be retrofitted onto existing pylons as a way of upgrading the voltage and doubling the power in the transmission line.

We are told that the benefits are:

- conductors can operate at highway temperatures and higher voltages, effectively doubling the power in the transmission line
- reduced outages due to conductor swing in high winds
- up to 30% reduction in tower size and footprint for new transmission lines
- Let's talk more about these options.

At no point in the consultation process was there talk of running the cables under the river Trent. There would be no payments to farmers, there would be no negative impact on the landscape, there would be no negative impact for residents: if a solar farm can lay a cable from Morocco to Cornwall, putting an electricity cable down the Trent should be a walk in the park.

It is clear that as a private entity you need to deliver this development at the lowest cost: you have to be mindful of shareholder values and reduce costs to consumers. But it is grossly unfair that a relatively small number of customers i.e., ourselves, will have to bear a loss of amenity for the benefit of everybody else. We want a less visually intrusive solution, at a cost shared by all customers. An extra cost of £3 billion is cited in the consultation document and is a significant amount of money, but shared amongst millions of consumers, it would write off the initial cost gradually over several decades and would not in the end amount to a sizeable increase in peoples' bills.

We acknowledge the need, we all want improved green electricity, we know we all need to be flexible but.... your approach is 'they already have pylons, so what's a few more'.

Our voice is not as loud as a town, we don't have the numbers of population to shout out our displeasure, but in the end it's all about individuals, whether we live in a pocket of hundreds or thousands, no one wants more pylons scarring their landscape.

- **23/00801/FUL - Proposed Construction and Operation of an 8 MW Electrolytic Green Hydrogen Production Plant, with Associated Infrastructure Including HGV and Multi Cylinder Pack (MCP) Loading Areas, Vehicle Maintenance Unit, Staff Welfare Facilities and Control Room, 11KV Customer Sub-Station, Boundary Fencing, Internal Access Roads, Landscaping, External Lighting and Works - Land at High Marnham Power Station Power Station Access Fledborough Road, High Marnham Newark Nottinghamshire NG23 6SE - Dunham and District Parish Council discussed this application and resolved that the proposal was NOT SUPPORTED.**

The entrance to this site sits within 100 meters of the village of Fledborough, a small, rural and farming village. High Marnham Power Station became its neighbour in 1959 until its demise in 2012. During this time, it employed local people from the nearby villages and towns and its locality enabled it to use the road network along with the railway and the river Trent.

This whole site has been purchased by the JG Pears Group and with no current master plan for the whole site, it is being developed piecemeal with their existing operations extending from Low Marnham into High Marnham. This Planning Application is the latest request and follows successful applications for:

- Storage Building, Class B8
- Construction and Operation of a Solar Photovoltaic Farm
- A Gate House and a Weigh Bridge
- Despatch Warehouse, Class B8 and Packaging Plant, Class B2

The Parish Council wishes to make comments on their decision based on the following Planning Considerations:

- Transport
- Major Accidents and Hazards

TRANSPORT

Based on the submitted Transport Plan, all the traffic will access the site to and from the A57 via Ragnall and Fledborough and is a huge concern. Both are rural villages and nearly all the homes sit close to, or are on the roadside. The noise and pollution generated by these lorries, in addition to the additional traffic that is expected to be generated by the further development of this site will have a detrimental impact on these villages and the people who live there. The developer's application states this is a "greener energy source", this additional traffic travelling on our roads, navigating sharp bends and blind corners through our rural villages, is not "greener" for them, it's creating a nuisance because of the noise, pollution and general road safety.

From the application, it doesn't seem to appear that the developers have looked at alternative transport links. They have stated that the A57 junction is not currently at capacity and submitted transport figures from 2022. At that time, this site was not operational and when it is, those figures will be somewhat different. There are many factors that affect the efficiency of that junction (known locally as Dunham crossroads) such as school times at Dunham school, staffing at Dunham Toll Bridge and holiday times. Recently, the Parish Council have also collected figures of traffic leaving the entrance of the proposed site both North and South. We believe that these are more accurate of road activity today and should be considered when factoring in the expected traffic movement of this development and the other developments on this site and the impact it may have on this road. See annex 1.

Regarding alternative transport and to truly promote "a greener energy source" we would have expected JG Pears to have investigated the possibility of using the river Trent, east of the site or the trainline that lies to the west. There are also alternative routes they could use, there is a height restriction at Tuxford, if any vehicles are below this, then this should be considered rather than just opting for the more direct one through our villages.

MAJOR ACCIDENTS AND HAZARDS

With regards to the Major Accidents & Hazards Assessment the Parish Council has the following concerns:

- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue need to be consulted to assess how they would respond to an incident at the site and for them to raise any concerns they may have regarding roads passing through built up areas particularly local villages who have already expressed their concerns to the parish council.
- The site is not at risk of flooding, but there needs to be adequate assessment of the risks of extreme rainfall at the site and how they expect to deal with this.
- The development should follow the suggestion from the report of storing the Ammonia in 2 tanks and reduce the incoming Ammonia tankers to a volume of 9 tonnes.
- The risk of loss of containment of Potassium Hydroxide from the electrolyser due to a fault or accident, including on the highway, has not been assessed
- There is a need to address the potential impact of fugitive emissions of Ammonia during maintenance to avoid nuisance odours.
- Are there provisions for Ammonia detectors to be placed at locations further from the plant, such as the site boundary or nearby villages?
- The Parish Council wants further clarification on the intention to only run the Ammonia cracker for 3 years.

Taking into account the severe negative impact this development will have on the people living and working around it, the families and businesses that will be affected by noise, smell, traffic, possible safety concerns and the visual impact on both sides of the river Trent, **can we suggest a decision is not made until the government review of the site is finalised and the JG Pears Group have submitted a "Master Plan" of the whole site.**

This planning application is a further application for the JG Pears operation in the locality and has aims for additional development proposals such as battery storage. It is considered that this will be a further nuisance site which will affect a large number of people and this is why we cannot support this application.

Annex 1:

Date	31st Aug 2023		31st Aug 2023		4th Sept 2023		6th Sept 2023	
Time	1100-1200 (1 hr)		1200-1300 (1hr)		0800-0900 (1 hr)		1300-1400 (1 hr)	
Day	Thurs		Thurs		Tues		Weds	
Type of Vehicle	Heading North (Ragnall/A57)	Heading South (High Marnham)	Heading North (Ragnall/A57)	Heading South (High Marnham)	Heading North (Ragnall/A57)	Heading Sth (High Marnham)	Heading North (Ragnall/A57)	Heading Sth (High Marnham)
Bikes	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Motorbikes	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
Cars/Taxis	24	19	13	17	40	30	16	21
LGV/HGV	15	16	7	12	13	11	15	8
Tractor with Slurry	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Tractor (agricultural)	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
Total	40	36	22	34	55	44	36	33

68/23 To Consider responding to Bassetlaw's Vision 2040: Consultation

After discussion, the council **resolved** that Cllrs Bean & Barden will draft a suitable response for submission.

69/23 To pay the Village Hall to replace the Defibrillator battery and pads


After discussion, the council **resolved** to refund the Village Hall the cost of replacement pads and battery, whenever necessary, on provision of the invoice to the Clerk, this refund arrangement will continue automatically whilst ever there is a defibrillator in place at the Village Hall.

70/23 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	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

		<p>funding for the next financial year, commencing April 2023.</p>	<p>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.'</p> <p>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.'</p> <p>07/11/2023 – Drainage Manager update: 'We'll be looking to set up a site meeting soon to start planning for this work, which is provisionally scheduled for late October/early November.'</p>
<p>Darlington – Highways Safety issues & speeding A57</p>	<p>A local resident of Darlington advised potential speeding issues on A57 in the village and poor signage.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>28/11/2022 The Highways Manager agreed to visit W/C 5th Dec to ascertain what could be potentially done regards signage. 10/01/2022 The Clerk chased the Highways Manager for an update.</p> <p>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>

			 <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>
Dunham – 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.
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.	09/08/2023 response to complaint to CEO of Notts County Council <i>"Thank you for contacting Nottinghamshire County Council. I am sorry that you feel that the service you have received from NCC/Via has not been up to the standard you expect and I can appreciate that this matter has been protracted, however your patience is appreciated. Following extensive investigation and on legal advice, a letter was sent to the church owners on May 2nd confirming that the footpath was Public adopted Highway and unless any evidence was subsequently received it would remain so. Although this could be challenged in future, this is the current legal stance and will remain so until any challenge is forthcoming. The footpath has regularly (most recently 28th July) been inspected to ensure that it remains open to the public and will continue to be. Access is not restricted in any way and the sign that is in place, I can confirm, has been altered to satisfy our legal advisor. With the above said I am happy that officers from Via EM have carried out their roles in line with our duties as a highway authority and unfortunately do not feel that we can offer anything further with our powers as that authority at this time. If you feel though that the County Council can provide further help to the Parish Council in the way of a meeting with affected parties, then please let me</i>

			<p><i>know and I can attend alongside the parish council to any meeting that is arranged."</i></p> <p>12/09/2023 The Council resolved that the Clerk shall write back to the County legal team to ask if it is acceptable for the Parish Council to install its own signs on the gates to say "<i>the church is no longer open and is a private residence, however, pedestrians are still welcome to walk through from/to church walk/A57. Access to the Churchyard is via the Green.</i>" If the County Council agree, the Clerk is to write to the PCC to get permission for this.</p>
Ragnall – Drain outside No 20	Road Drain blocked and never cleaned	Resident at No20 reported it to NCC and they advised " <i>it is not on their list and therefore unable to do the job</i> "	04/09/2023 Reported again online portal ref CSC544248545 and emailed County Cllr Ogle to investigate and escalate.
Dunham – Laneham Road	No Bus shelter	School kids (7 at present) have no shelter	12/09/2023 email to Highways Manager to ask for the site to be considered for a shelter.

New Items:

- **Cllr Ballinger** – Advised that carparking at Riversdale is still blocking the pavement. The Clerk agreed to chase Notts Police for an update.
- **Cllr Watkinson** – Requested that the PC chases the County Council about a bus shelter for Dunham Road and if they will not fund it, what the cost would be if the PC funded or co-funded the cost of it to the County Council.
- **Cllr Bean** – Advised various areas have been added to the Lengthsman's regular rounds for Fledborough and the BCVS grant information has been passed onto the village hall.
- **Cllr Thorpe** – Bassetlaw DC have agreed that the grassy area outside Byron Close in Darlton can be re-wilded, the Wildlife Project manager has been advised.
- **Cllr Barden** – advised Cllrs to think of ideas for another project, following the success of the wildlife project for the next agenda, one potential idea was to pay for someone to run a café event at the Village Hall similar to Bookies & Cookies at Laneham or C&T at Rampton.

71/23 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8:40pm.