

Dalbury Lees Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of **Dalbury Lees Parish Council** on Monday 16th of March 2026 held at 7.30pm, at Dalbury Lees Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. S Morris(Chair) · Cllr. M Butterworth · Cllr. J Archer

Clerk: C Bryant · 4 Members of the public

South Derbyshire District Councillor Andrew Kirke

17/26

APOLOGIES

Cllrs. Clarke and Timmins sent apologies, as did County Councillor Martyn Ford and District Councillor David Muller.

18/26

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Archer reported his interest as an allotment holder and disclosed his dispensation.

19/26

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A parishioner spoke about their planning application (DMPA/2025/1676) and the substantial changes that had been made since the prior refusal, outlining the project to the council and noting that they had engaged with the planning officer regarding the changes.

A parishioner spoke about the Connect Fibre communication that had been received and passed on their own research regarding Project Gigabit. Councillors asked that the clerk be updated and that further reports could be heard formally at the next meeting.

A parishioner asked about a local planning issue and the council discussed compliance and enforcement.

20/26

UPDATE FROM DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Kirke gave apologies on behalf of Martyn Ford, who is unwell, and reported that County council-tax increase has been set at 4.99%, including the 2% adult social care levy. Severe potholes at Foxfields and elsewhere have been reported.

Concerns were raised regarding a fallen village sign and damaged fingerpost; responsibility lies with District and County respectively, and Cllr Kirke will confirm both have been logged. Ongoing issues with pothole repairs were discussed, with concerns about the quality and longevity of works. Flooding at Heage Lane remains unresolved, with responsibility unclear between agencies; Cllr Kirke advised that several actions are ongoing to address the issue, potentially involving drainage and pumping infrastructure.

Cllr Kirke reported that Local Government Reorganisation is progressing, with consultation underway. District Councillors' terms, due to end in 2027, are likely to be extended by approximately one year pending elections to a shadow authority, with the new authority expected to come into operation in 2028.

Regarding the proposed school at New House Farm, Cllr Kirke advised that the scheme, previously at risk, is now being reconsidered following intervention from the local MP and challenge to the data used to assess need.

The Local Plan Part 1 Review has recently completed its Regulation 19 (publication stage) consultation, with the next stage being submission for examination. This includes proposals for strategic development land south of Mickleover, where supporting infrastructure such as a new road link between the A38 and A516 is being considered, subject to further evidence and transport modelling.

- CLOSURE OF THE PUBLIC SESSION -

30/26

PLANNING MATTERS

a. To discuss planning applications received in advance of the agenda, including:

1. Relocation & redesign of a previously approved garage & erection of a single storey side extension.

Somerton House, Unnamed Road, Dalbury Lees, DE6 5BE

Ref: [DMPA/2025/1676](#) | **No Adverse Comments**

21/26

MINUTES

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th of January as accurate.

22/26

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Butterworth reported that he would repair the notice board at Dalbury having already prepared a replacement panel. He advised that litter-picking equipment had been obtained from the District Council, including two litter pickers, bags and high-visibility vests. One litter picker has been issued on a permanent basis to a resident who regularly undertakes litter picking. It was noted that surveillance cameras had been installed in an attempt to address littering, but no incidents were captured due to a road closure at the time. One litter picker remains available in the phone box, where signage has been installed, and it was agreed this should also be included in the village newsletter.

Cllr. Timmins sent his apologies and reported that mowing of the green had been completed.

23/26

MAINTENANCE

To discuss and approve any necessary maintenance, including:

- a) It was resolved to defer review of the status of posts on the green for replacement.
- b) Noted that there is now an allotment plot free and that the water had been turned on.

24/26

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

- a. It was resolved to note the accounts presented.
- b. It was resolved to approve the transaction summary.
- c. It was resolved to approve the bank reconciliation.
- d. It was resolved to approve presented invoices for payment.

25/26

DALC MEMBERSHIP

It was resolved to renew DALC membership, without the optional training fee.

26/26

SLCC CONTRIBUTION

It was resolved to contribute, alongside other councils, to the clerk's SLCC membership in the amount of £25.

27/26

INTERNAL AUDITOR

It was resolved to appoint East Midlands Audit Ltd. as the internal auditor.

28/26

CLERK SALARY

It was resolved to defer this item to the next meeting and, in the interim, ensure that the clerk's wages meet minimum wage.

29/26

PHOTO COMPETITION

It was resolved to approve and plan a parish photo competition.

31/26

ONGOING ISSUES AND UPDATES

- a. The council discussed parish calendar items and actions from previous resolutions.
- b. Website content and provision was discussed, councillors to receive web credentials to update the parish blog.

32/26

CORRESPONDENCE AND ISSUES RAISED

No further correspondence was received by the council.

33/26

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Items for inclusion on the next agenda were reported to the clerk.

- THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 20:33 -