

Dalbury Lees Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of **Dalbury Lees Parish Council** on Monday 18th of May 2026 held at 7.30pm, at Dalbury Lees Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. S Morris (Chair) · Cllr. J Archer · Cllr. Y Clarke · Cllr. C Timmins
South Derbyshire District Councillor Andrew Kirke · Derbyshire County Councillor Martyn Ford
Clerk: C Bryant · 1 Members of the public

34/26 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

It was resolved to elect Yvonne Clarke as Chair and Sarah Morris as Vice Chair.

35/26 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. M Butterworth as well as SDDC Cllr. D Muller.

36/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. J Archer declared his interest as a tenant of the allotment and also his dispensation to remain and vote on allotment matters.

37/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the proposed solar farm and the condition of signage in the hollow, which has been down for two years.

38/26 UPDATE FROM DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Report from County Councillor Martyn Ford:

County Councillor Martyn Ford advised that the Government's decision regarding local government reorganisation is still awaited, though it is anticipated mid-year. A further consultation period is expected to follow, leading to shadow elections in May 2027, with the new unitary arrangements scheduled to take effect in 2028.

Regarding the Castle Way solar proposals, Cllr. Ford noted that a previously planned meeting had been cancelled. He reassured the Council that county councillors across the affected areas remain concerned about the sheer scale and potential impact of the proposals, adding that a follow-up meeting will be arranged in due course.

Finally, Cllr. Ford highlighted upcoming bridge works near the A38. These works are expected to cause traffic restrictions and disruption for approximately one year. Residents are encouraged to check the news section of the County Council website for regular updates.

Report from District Councillor Andrew Kirke

District Councillor Andrew Kirke provided an update from the recent annual meeting of South Derbyshire District Council. He informed members that the Council is currently reviewing legal advice regarding whether geographically separate solar sites should be treated as a single, combined infrastructure project.

In planning matters, the Regulation 19 consultation concerning development south of Mickleover is now underway; this includes proposals for a new road link connecting the A516 and the A38. Cllr. Kirke concluded his report by noting ongoing local planning items.

- CLOSURE OF THE PUBLIC SESSION -

39/26 MINUTES

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th of March as accurate.

40/26 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillors discussed local matters including the poor condition of the commemorative tree and the parish Christmas Tree; the council discussed replacement and likely costs.

41/26 MAINTENANCE

It was resolved to replace the Christmas Tree on the green (and apply for a grant to Cllr. Martyn Ford towards the cost) and to clear the track at a cost of £200.

42/26 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

- a) It was resolved to note accounts presented, including end of year.
- b) It was resolved to sign the transaction summary.
- c) It was resolved to sign the bank reconciliation.
- d) It was resolved to approve invoices for payment.

43/26 CLERK PAY

It was resolved to increase the Clerk's pay to SCP 16, £15.82.

44/26 PARISH MAP

It was resolved to attempt to find the original digital map and reproduce a hard copy. The clerk will arrange a suitable date for a public event once the map files have been located.

45/26 IT SURGERY

It was resolved to hold an IT surgery in June.

46/26 PHOTO COMPETITION

It was agreed to run a parish photo competition.

47/26

FIBRE UPDATE

The Council received a report following the March Connect Fibre meeting. The proposed broadband route is set to extend from Kirk Langley to Lees, with draw ropes already installed in preparation for the upcoming fibre works. Openreach mapping and survey work is currently underway, and Ravensdale has been identified as the furthest property on the proposed route.

Residents are invited to register their interest and can expect to be contacted within six to nine months. Indicative details provided at the meeting outlined expected speeds of approximately 250 Mbps, an introductory charge of £25 per month rising to £55 per month thereafter, full installation directly to the property, and potential assistance with the remaining term of existing broadband contracts.

Members noted that these details are provided for information only and remain subject to final confirmation by the provider.

48/26

POLICY REVIEW

- a) It was resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations.
- b) It was resolved to adopt the Code of Conduct.

49/26

PLANNING MATTERS

The Council noted that planning reference 2026/0336 did not relate to the parish. Other planning applications and decisions received since the previous meeting were reported to the Council.

50/26

ONGOING ISSUES AND UPDATES

A status update regarding the website was received and the parish calendar discussed.

51/26

MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for the 2026/27 year were agreed as follows: July 20th 2026, September 21st 2026, November 16th 2026, January 18th 2027, March 15th 2027.

52/26

CORRESPONDENCE AND ISSUES RAISED

No correspondence was presented to the council

53/26

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Items for inclusion on the next agenda were relayed to the clerk, including a review of the Risk Assessment and a Risk Management Policy.

- THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 20:53 -