



Dalham and Dunstall Green Parish Council

May 2023 Newsletter



Outcome of parish council elections on May 4th

Our existing councillors Isobel Aylott, David Fitch, Ian Petchey, John Riddell and Ann Ward were all nominated for re-election this year, and as no other nominations were received and this was less than the total number of vacancies, all were re-elected unopposed on May 4th. Jackie Bolton and Rachael Padman decided not to seek re-election, having each served for well over a decade on the council already. The council wishes to express its gratitude for their hard work over many years, including in previously chairing the council. In particular, we would like to thank Jackie for ably representing the interests of Dunstall Green during that time, and to Rachael for obtaining and maintaining the vehicle activated sign now used to monitor and deter speeding in the village.

Annual Parish Meeting on May 10th

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council were held on Wednesday May 10th at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. John Riddell was re-elected as the chairman of the Parish Council for another year. In order to fit better with other commitments by individuals attending meetings, parish council meetings will in future be held on the third Wednesday of July, September, November, January and March respectively, at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, unless otherwise notified. Following strenuous but unsuccessful efforts to recruit a new parish clerk, our current clerk Antonia King has agreed to continue in that role, something which we are extremely grateful to her for.

New councillor and councillor vacancy

Following his earlier expression of interest in the role, Mark Corby was co-opted at the Annual Meeting as a councillor to fill one of the vacancies following the retirements of Jackie and Rachael. The council accordingly has one remaining vacancy for a councillor and intends to co-opt one more councillor if a volunteer can be found. The council would be especially interested in seeking a volunteer from Dunstall Green, given Jackie's retirement. Could any interested person please contact our parish clerk via the parish council's email, the address of which is provided later in this newsletter.

Speeding in the village and ANPR cameras

As villagers will be painfully aware, there is an ongoing issue with speeding in the village, particularly along the Lidgate road section of the B1085 from the Affleck Arms southwards to the village limits. There has been at least one recent accident in the village as a result, when a parked vehicle was hit and damaged by a passing car. The council has attempted to reduce speeding through various measures, including additional 30mph road markings and the use of the parish council's automatic vehicle activated sign which measures and flashes up to drivers the speed they are travelling at. However, the VAS records, and reports from villagers, show that speeding has

continued to be a problem. Consequently, following a request from the council, Suffolk Highways has installed an Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera on this section of road to record speeding drivers and identify them through their number plates. Repeat offenders will receive warning letters from the police. The ANPR system is mobile and hence used by other villages as well as Dalham, but will be in place at unpredictable intervals over the next few months. The parish council intends to monitor the effectiveness of this, and to lobby for measures to be taken against speeding drivers by the police.

Yellow lines near the Affleck Arms

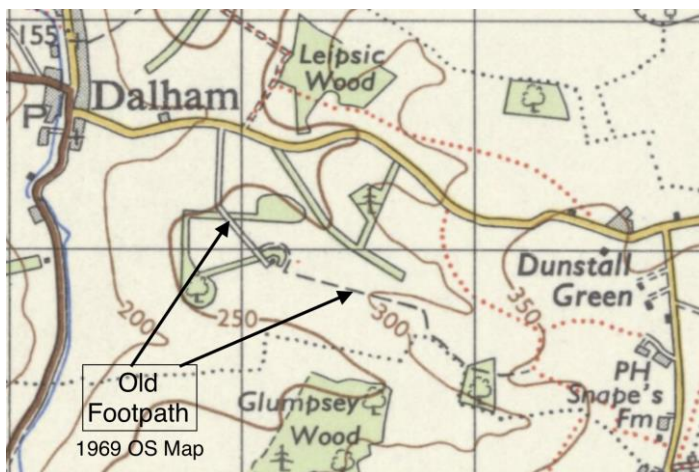
As noted in the last newsletter, issues with obstructive and illegal parking adjacent to the bridge by the Affleck Arms, and the road junctions nearby, prompted a request from the parish council to Suffolk Highways to draw up a scheme to prevent this, which was duly circulated for public consultation to villagers. This was discussed at a lively and very well attended parish council meeting in January of this year.

The response of villagers was almost universally strongly negative on the use of yellow lines in the village and as a result the parish council asked Suffolk Highways to withdraw the scheme, which they have done. The council continues to discuss with Suffolk Highways the option of using road signage to slow down traffic on Stores Hill and the repainting and extension of single white lines on Stores Hill and in the immediate vicinity of the bridge, which may help to address safety, speeding and illegal parking issues whilst meeting villager concerns. The council secured an 'ICE' warning sign for the top of the hill on the Denham Road, which was installed in March.

Footpaths

The parish council is intending to seek the recognition of the old path leading from Dunstall Green to the Denham Road near the Old Schoolhouse in Dalham as a public footpath. Whilst this track was shown on old maps of the area, it has not been added to the definitive record of Public Rights of Way. The route is shown in 1969 OS Map (right).

In order to achieve this, we will need to make an application supported by evidence of usage by those living in the parish. We are therefore interested in hearing from those who used this path in the recent past. Could anyone with relevant information please contact our parish clerk by email at dalhamparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk



In addition, the Parish council has now added QR codes to footpath fingerposts in the parish to provide walkers with links to the Discover Suffolk website detailing the circular walks in the area. We hope to carry out a programme to replace damaged footpath posts in the parish over the summer.

Malt Kiln information board

Finally, following the clean up of the Malt Kiln last year, the council has (with the permission of the owners) put up a small information board next to the Dalham Malt Kiln providing some details about the structure and its history and a link to further information about it on the Dalham village website. Thanks are due to Ian Petchey for leading this initiative and to West Suffolk for assisting to fund it.

