**Dalham Parish Council Website – Proposed content updates and additions for discussion**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Currently** | **Proposal for discussion** |
| *Home page*  Dalham is a small, picturesque village in west Suffolk between Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket with a population of approximately 210 people. Situated on the banks of the river Kennett, Dalham is surrounded by beautiful rolling countryside with a good choice of walks.  Although small, Dalham has a few facilities. The village pub is called the Affleck Arms. The pub serves a range of beers and food. There is a restaurant as well as a rear garden patio and a front garden on the river. Dalham also has a modern purpose built village hall. The church is called St Mary's Church. Visit the [Dalham village website](https://dalham.com/) to find out more about the village.  Photograph of the Dalham village signPhotograph of St Mary's Church | *Home page [revised draft]*  Dalham Parish Council is an elected body that forms part of our Local Government in Suffolk.  Councillors work to support and improve life of those living and working in the Parish, and ensure that the village voice is heard on issues including:   * Planning, development and listed building consent * Conservation and tree preservation * Access to local services * Community life, topical issues and local concerns   This website provides an overview of the function of the Parish Council. It provides access to records of the business of the Council including meeting notices, agenda, minutes and latest news.  We have also included links to a range of resources and contacts that may be helpful to those living and working in the Parish.  To contact the Dalham Parish Council, please email the Clerk:  Antonia King Clerk to Dalham Parish Council  [dalhamparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dalhamparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk)  [Photos removed from home page and placed in Gallery] |
| *Dalham [no page currently]* | *Dalham [new page]*  Dalham is a small, picturesque village in west Suffolk between Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket with a population of approximately 210 people. Situated on the banks of the river Kennett, Dalham is surrounded by beautiful rolling countryside with a good choice of walks in and around Dalham and neighbouring villages.  Although small, Dalham has a number of facilities including the Village Hall, which schedules [regular community events](https://dalham.com/regular-sessions/) and classes, the local pub ([Affleck Arms](https://dalham.com/affleck-arms/)) and a magnificent fourteenth-century church ([St Mary the Virgin](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1916/)) i which continues to be a focal point for the village. It also has a historic [windmill](https://dalham.com/windmill/) and [malting kiln](https://dalham.onesuffolk.net/the-village/dalham-malt-kiln/).  The village is in a [Conservation Area](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/conservation-areas/). This means that it is an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. As a consequence, there are some extra planning controls and considerations in place to protect the historic and architectural elements which make the village and surrounds such a special place.  Within the village there are many traditional thatch cottages, built as early as the 16th century. A number of these cottages are listed buildings. You can look up these buildings on the [National Heritage List for England](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/)  Various photographs from around the Village can be found in the [Gallery](https://dalham.onesuffolk.net/the-village/gallery/). |
| *Dunstall Green [no page currently]* | *Dunstall Green [new page]*  Dunstall Green is a small hamlet 2km east of the main settlement.  [text to add about Dunstall Green] |
| *About the Parish Council*  Chair - John Riddell  Councillor - Isobel Aylott  Councillor - Mark Corby  Councillor - David Fitch  Councillor - Ian Petchey  Councillor - Ann Ward  Councillor - VACANCY  Parish clerk - Antonia King  Email: [dalhamparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dalhamparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk)  Register of Interest forms can be viewed on the West Suffolk website.  **How often do elections take place?**  Councillors are elected for a period of four years. The next election will take place in May 2027.  **How often does the Parish Council meet?**  The Council usually meets every two months in January, March, May, July, September and November. As of March 2023, meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of the month. Additional planning meetings may be held if planning applications come in between meetings.  There is also an Annual Parish Meeting which usually takes place in May. This is an open meeting for all electors of Dalham and an opportunity to ask questions relating to village affairs.  **What does the Parish Council actually do?**  The Parish Council is responsible for setting the precept. This is money that the Council receives to cover the cost of the services it provides and any staff costs. The precept is one element of the Council Tax householders pay. The Councils employs a clerk to oversee its day to day affairs.  The Council is responsible for the following property in the village:   * The village sign * Three notice boards * The kissing gate and metal seat * The stone plaque in The Street * The litter bin and 4 grit bins * The defibrillator * The vehicle activated sign * The Malt Kiln Information sign and the QR footpath signs   The Council employs a local contractor to cut the verges in Dalham and Dunstall Green.  The Council acts as a link with other local government organisations like West Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council. Any problems in the village such as blocked drains, potholes, broken stiles on footpaths or faulty street lights are reported by the clerk*.* | *About the Parish Council [revised draft]*  Parish Councils are the smallest unit of local government and the closest to their electors. Councillors are elected and work to support and improve the area they represent.  Following the uncontested election for Parish Councillors for Dalham Parish Council on 4 May2023, six Councillors have been duly elected as Councillors for Dalham. Councillors are elected for a period of four years, with the next election scheduled to take place in May 2027.  The Chair of the Parish Council is John Riddell. The Clerk is Antonia King.  Details of all Parish Councillors can be found here [go to new page].  **What does the Parish Council actually do?**  The Parish Council works to support and improve life of those living and working in the Parish, and ensure that the village voice is heard on issues including:   * Planning, development and listed building consent * Conservation and tree preservation * Access to local services * Community life, topical issues and local concerns   Importantly, the Parish Council is responsible for setting the precept. This is money that the Council receives to cover the cost of the services it provides and any staff costs. The precept is one element of the Council Tax householders pay. The Councils employs a clerk to oversee its day to day affairs.  The Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee on planning applications, listed building consents and tree preservation orders that are submitted to West Suffolk Council as they relate to the Parish. Accordingly, these applications are frequently discussed at Parish Council meetings. Further information about the role of the Parish Council in dealing with planning applications can be found on the following [briefing note](https://dalham.onesuffolk.net/assets/Parish-Council/Planning/The-Role-of-Dalham-Parish-Council-in-Dealing-with-Planning-Applications.pdf).  The Parish Council employs a local contractor to cut the verges in Dalham and Dunstall Green, instructing as to the frequency and depth of the cut.  In addition, the Parish Council manages a small number of assets on behalf of the village (such as the village sign and noticeboards). Further details are provided below.  The Parish Council aims to provide villagers with a link to with local government organisations like West Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council.  Any problems in the village such as blocked street drainage, potholes, broken stiles on footpaths may be reported to the Clerk, although we do encourage villagers to report issues directly with Suffolk County Council. Further details can be found [here](https://dalham.onesuffolk.net/useful-information/reporting-a-highways-or-public-rights-of-way-problem-to-suffolk-county-council/).  **What does the Parish Council not do?**  The Parish Council is your local voice and provides a means to escalate issues or concerns to local government or various public agencies.  It is however not responsible for:   * Planning decisions – the Parish Council is a statutory consultee but does not make a planning decision * Planning enforcement – any enforcement of planning decisions is the responsibility of West Suffolk Council * Speeding enforcement – while this is a topical issue for the village and the Parish Council is working on measures to reduce speeding in the village, enforcement is a police issue * Potholes and other highways issues – we encourage villagers to reach out to Highways directly to report major issues   **How often does the Parish Council meet?**  The Council usually meets every two months in January, March, May, July, September and November. As of March 2023, meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of the month. Additional planning meetings may be held if planning applications come in between meetings.  There is also an Annual Parish Meeting which usually takes place in May. This is an open meeting for all electors of Dalham and an opportunity to ask questions relating to village affairs.  **What assets does the Parish Council oversee?**  The Council is responsible for the following property in the village:   * The village sign * Three notice boards * The kissing gate and metal seat * The stone plaque in The Street * The litter bin and 4 grit bins * The defibrillator * The vehicle activated sign * The Malt Kiln Information sign and the QR footpath signs |
| *Parish Councillors [no page currently]* | *Parish Councillors [new page]*  Suggest each councillor has a small black & white photo with their name and a short bio, including details around when they stepped on the Parish Council, key interests and projects being worked on. This is always a fine balance, as you don’t want to give too much away on a public profile, but doing this will help people put names to face and I think encourage more communication with us all. One page to list us all.  *Example*  *A person wearing glasses and a plaid shirt  Description automatically generated*  David Fitch  David joined the Parish Council in 2017, and been resident in the village since 2014. Now retired, he has been involved in a range of village initiatives including the refresh of the village emergency plan. He is interested in nature and the countryside, and enjoys the many walks that Dalham and surrounds has to offer. |
| *Projects [re-purpose Quiet Lanes]* | *Projects*  The Parish Council is involved in a range of local projects and initiatives. Recent activity includes the following:   * Quiet Lanes [hyperlinked to content below] * [to list]   **Quite Lanes**  Suffolk County Council recently offered its support to Parish Councils for a locally driven, centrally funded scheme designating certain roads as Quiet Lanes. These types of lanes do not impose any traffic restrictions but seek to inform road users of the presence of walkers, cyclists, horse riders etc and to show more respect for vulnerable road users. Nearly 400 lanes within Suffolk have been put forward for designation, with the aim of creating a network of Quiet Lanes across the County.  The main purposes of Quiet Lanes are that they offer a safer environment for non-motorised travellers and can help to protect our rural environment. They are not intended to be used as a traffic calming measure but seek to improve road safety and encourage walking and cycling, bringing benefits to well-being. Advisory signs are placed at either end of Quiet Lanes to show motorised users clearly that the road is a shared space.  Dalham Parish Council successfully put forward a proposal regarding establishing a Quiet Lane on Denham Road from near the village towards Dunstall Green Road. |
| *Community groups* | *Community groups [new page so that these come off the main menu]*  Detailed below are a list of community groups and services that may be helpful to villagers:   * Arthritis Action Groups * Befriending Network * Newmarket Day Centre   If you wish to have your Community group referenced on this website, please reach out to the Clerk. |
| *Planning* | *Planning [update to existing page that has the 3 PDF notes]*  Parish Councils, such as Dalham, do not have any statutory responsibility for services such as planning. This remains, in the majority of cases a statutory responsibility of the District and Borough Councils as the Local Authority. For Dalham this is West Suffolk Council.  **How to search for planning applications at West Suffolk Council**  To search for an application:   * go to the [West Suffolk Council](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/) site and click on the “Planning and building regulations” tile for information. * to view or comment on planning applications, go to the [West Suffolk planning applications – public access system](https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications). You can search by keyword, application reference, postcode or address.   **Planning briefing notes**   * Planning applications and How to Respond * The role of Dalham Parish Council in dealing with planning applications * Trees in a Conservation Area |