

DALHAM and DUNSTALL GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 09th April 2025**

Councillors present: John Riddell (Chair), Isobel Aylott, Mark Corby, Ian Petchey, Ann Ward and Francine Wilkins-Smith.
Also present: Antonia King (clerk) and 10 members of the public.

- 1. Chair's welcome and opening statement** – The Chair opened the meeting at 8.00pm.
- 2. To receive Apologies of Absence** – None received, all councillors present.
- 3. To receive Declarations of Pecuniary and local Non-Pecuniary Interests** – None received.
- 4. To receive comment from the members of the public present** – 10 members of the public were present.
 - a) On the agenda under discussion – Concerns were raised over matters relating to:
 - Signage – the signage at Sounds End is not adequate, and the signage in place offers conflicting information for drivers.
 - Vehicles are exiting and entering the village (Lidgate Road) at speed.
 - Vehicles are travelling at such speed (Lidgate Road) that they are skidding off the road in poor weather condition.
 - In poor weather the Lidgate Road is prone to flooding, the bow waves caused by speeding traffic is eroding banks and frontages to houses along that stretch of road.
 - As a popular village for visitors we have a responsibility for walkers/pedestrian safety.
 - Parked cars along Gazeley Road are forcing pedestrians into the road.
 - Gazeley Road has a problem with drivers speeding down the hill and into the village.
 - Stores Hill suffers from vehicles leaving the Affleck Arms at speed/high revs.
 - Stores Hill has HGV lorries (MEAD) freewheeling down into the village.
 - Large HGV lorries coming through the village struggle to navigate the sharp bend by the bridge and are damaging trees and verges.
 - Request for a weight limit be enforced to deter HGV's.
 - When the SID machines are in place, it is perceived that they are effective at slowing the traffic down.
 - Requests for more SID machines at the entry and exit points of the village.
 - Request that speed bumps are not used as a traffic calming option.
 - Request for chicanes similar to Ashley village – the chair advised that Suffolk Highways do not support physical traffic calming measures on B roads. Ashley is in Cambridgeshire where policies differ.
 - b) Matters regarding Dalham in general – None received.
- 5. To receive and consider matters relating to the following:**
 - a) **To consider and discuss the speed information gathered from the SID machine specifically when it was located on Stores Hill and Sounds End** – Cllr Ward presented the information gathered from the SID machine from the various locations below:
 - Village Hall - Northbound
 - Old Chapel - Northbound
 - Gazeley Road - Southbound
 - Village Hall - Southbound
 - Old Chapel - Southbound
 - Sound Ground – Northbound

So signed by the Chair at the meeting on May 14th 2025

The data shows the 85th percentile speeds ranging from 31mph (Village Hall Southbound and Old Chapel Southbound) to 35mph (Sound Ground Northbound).

Average speeds range from 21mph (Village Hall Northbound) to 29mph (Sound Ground Northbound).

Maximum speeds recorded range from 50mph (Gazeley Road Southbound) and 80mph (Old Chapel Northbound).

Cllr Ward advised that based on these statistics, Suffolk Highways would not consider Dalham to have a speeding problem given that the 85th percentile is below 35mph. Dalham is therefore limited as to what measures can deploy to control traffic speed.

A copy of the report can be found using the following link: [09th April 2025 » Dalham and Dunstall Green Parish Council](#)

- b) To decide if the data collected warrants the need for a Highways Speed Survey and the additional costs the speed surveys will incur** – It was noted that County Councillor Drummond had offered part of his locality budget 2024/2025 to cover the costs of a survey (approx £390). The clerk is to ask if he will honour this offer from his 2025/2026 budget.

It was agreed that a speed survey would be undertaken along Lidgate Road as the perceived speed of vehicles entering and exiting the village at particular times of the day was problematic.

- c) To discuss the various traffic calming options that would be available to the village and the associated costs** – Cllr Riddell outlined the costs and options open to the village following advice from Highways (see Meeting Reports for detailed information). It was agreed that the best options available to the village would be:

- Increased signage particularly 'Pedestrian in the Road'.
- Community Speed Watch group.
- Speed survey for accurate information.
- Strategic car parking to slow traffic.
- More SID machines.

The clerk will contact Highways to establish if anything can be done to deter large Highway maintenance HGV coming through the village. Width restrictions or weight restrictions due to the pinch points by the bridge and Malt Kiln in particular.

- d) To discuss the national 20's Plenty campaign and understand the general feeling within the village to the concept** – A poll was taken from the members of the public present, 7/10 were in favour of the campaign. It was agreed that the village would be canvassed for their support. Cllr Aylott is to draft a survey.

- e) To receive an update and any further volunteers to help run a village Community Speedwatch** – The clerk reported that Dalham did not have enough volunteers to be able to run a CSW group. 3 volunteers came forward from the members of the public present. The clerk is to send them the application form.

- f) To note the petition put forward by MP Nick Timothy calling for parish and town councils to be empowered to take responsibility for problems such as speeding and road safety** – This was duly noted.

- g) To discuss the possibility of purchasing a further SID machine and the costings involved** – From the quotes received it was agreed that Elan Cite would be the preferred option. The RFO advised that due to financial constraints, the best course of action should be a speed survey to establish exactly how much of a problem the village has and set up a CSW group to target certain areas and times of the day as a deterrent before taking on the expense of another SID machine.

6. Planning Applications to be considered by the council:

- a) DC/25/0416/HH and DC/250417/LB

Proposal: Application for consent - electric vehicle charging port to side elevation

So signed by the Chair at the meeting on May 14th 2025

Location: Lane End 1 Church Lane Dalham Suffolk CB8 **Items for discussion at the next meeting:** No concerns were raised, and the council agreed to fully support the application.

7. **To receive any items of correspondence not previously circulated** – None received.
8. **Items for discussion at the next meeting** – Fencing/boundary restrictions within the village conservation area.
9. **Next meeting - Wednesday 23rd April 2025, 7.45pm Dalham Village Hall – Planning.**
10. **There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.51pm.**

Signed (Chair) Dated