

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 4TH OCTOBER 2001

PRESENT : Councillor W.Hepplewhite (Chairman) Councillors E.W.Armstrong, G.Gustard, M.Gustard, W.Kennedy, R.Olaman, M.Oliver, A.Westmorland

1. POLICE REPORT :

In the absence of Sergeant Stephen Taylor, P.C.Janet Hutchinson reported that the preceding month had been very quiet, with no reported crime. There were no ancillary questions from members, and the officer left the meeting.

2. TIDY GARDEN COMPETITION - PRIZE PRESENTATION :

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting, Mr.Jonas Todd who had judged the competition for many years, together with two of the prizewinners. Mr.Todd again referred to the increasing quality of the gardens within the parish, making his task even more difficult, and he complimented the winners on their success. The Chairman presented the awards as follows :

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1st | Mr.J.Monarch | "Dun Roaming" Dene Road |
| 2nd | Mr.H.Robinson | "Brookside" Dene Road |
| Most Improved | Mr.D.Gowans | 44 Dalton Heights |

3. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 6th September 2001 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member) be Approved and Signed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING :

a) Minute.No.4(a) - Public Notice Boards

The Clerk reported that he had been advised that the cost of manufacturing and erecting two boards would be £190 each, excluding the cost of treating with appropriate preservative.

Agreed : That Approval be given for the purchase of two notice boards as indicated, and that the Clerk arrange for the proposed locations to be agreed by the District Council and the relevant public utility undertakings.

b) Minute No.4(b) - Traffic Calming

In responding to members' concerns over the delay in the installation of the two additional humps on the service road, the Clerk reported having taken up the matter with the County Council's Highways

Section. He understood that the humps would be put in place during the week commencing 5th November

c) Minute No.9 - Land to east of "Coniscliffe"

The Clerk indicated that there was no further progress to report in this matter and that the Government Inspector's report was awaited

d) Minute No.10 - Internet Access

Councillor Westmorland and the Clerk reported jointly on progress with this matter more particularly with the arrangements for the appropriate operating licence and service provider software. Both of these were in course of being sought. Councillor Westmorland sought approval for the pre-payment of the cost of the necessary items totalling £298.45 to be made to L.A.Technology, on receipt of which the equipment would be released for installation. This was

Agreed.

e) Minute No.11 - Northumbrian Water

The Clerk reported that arrangements had been finalised for the special meeting of the Council proposed for Thursday 8th November, at which Mr.Lee Edwards, Technical Support Team Leader of Northumbrian Water would respond to members' concerns regarding the village's sewerage system

f) Minute No.15(a) - Trees

The Clerk reported that a site meeting had been arranged with Gary Shears, the District Council's Tree & Woodland Officer on 15th October, to discuss various concerns regarding fallen trees alongside the beck, and the road safety hazards caused by overhanging trees and undergrowth.

g) Minute No.15(b) - Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk unveiled the two bins which had recently been purchased for siting in the village. At the Clerk's request, it was

Agreed : That Approval be given to the signing of a maintenance agreement with the District Council for the servicing of the bins.

5. STAINED GLASS WINDOW - ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH :

Councillors Gustard, Gustard and Oliver reported on the inaugural meeting of the Committee which had been set up by the Council to consider a design brief for the window. A copy of their written report and initial ideas was handed to each member, and was unanimously accepted and approved as a basis for discussion and further consideration in association with (he committee which it had been suggested be formed by the Parochial Church Council. The report of the Committee was Noted, and the input of the P.C.C. was awaited.

6. HEDGEROWS :

The Clerk reported that he was now in receipt of particulars relating to the grant aid scheme

administered by the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, to be considered alongside the County Council's method of funding. A further report would be given at the November meeting.

7. BEST VALUE PROGRAMME :

The Chairman reminded members that this matter had been raised previously by Councillor Kennedy, but that consideration had been delayed by her absence from the last meeting. Councillor Kennedy spoke at some length on her ideas, and how they could be brought to fruition. The main points made were :

- a) That the Council and its members should take active steps to become more available, open, and accountable to the residents of the parish.
- b) The Council should outline and publicise its aims and objectives, and emphasise their benefit to the community.
- c) The Council should set targets, and produce annual reports to compare progress.

During general discussion, it was acknowledged that members should become pro-active rather than re-active, and in order to initiate further consideration, it was

Agreed : That the Clerk research the Minutes for the past year to identify matters of concern, and that a special meeting be held in order to consider how these might have been dealt with, and how such matters might be approached in future.

8. EASINGTON ECONOMIC AUDIT & COMMUNITY APPRAISALS :

The Chairman and Clerk reported jointly on a questionnaire in connection with this project, which they had completed as a matter of urgency in order to meet a deadline date. The aim of the project was to identify the services and facilities within the various parishes , as well as to highlight any shortcomings or deficiencies which might be perceived and to seek views on the future of Dalton-le-Dale. A copy of the document had been passed to the newly constituted community association for its attention.

In order to administer the project, consultants had been engaged to study the findings and recommend accordingly, and the Clerk reported a telephone conversation with an officer, during which it was suggested that a special joint meeting of the Parish Council, Community Association, Women's Institute and Parochial Church Council might be held, at which the consultants could be questioned on their specific requirements. Following discussion, it was

Agreed : That the Clerk prepare a report on the consultants' precise requirements, and that the matter be discussed in Council prior to wider consideration being given.

(At this stage, Councillor G.Gustard left the meeting)

9. AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2001:

The meeting considered as Appendix 1 details of the Auditor's Report for the year. The information

given in the report, together with the Clerk's comments were Noted. The Clerk reported that since the Agenda was prepared a further NALC circular on new Audit procedures had been received, and full details of these would be given at the November meeting.

10. CLERK'S CONDITIONS OF SERVICE :

The meeting considered as Appendix 2 a report by the Clerk on the increasing level of work required of parish councils, and requesting that consideration be given to an increase in the number of hours worked from the present seven. (The Clerk withdrew from the meeting while this matter was being discussed)

Following discussion, it was

Agreed : That the number of hours worked by the Clerk each week be increased from 7 to 10 with effect from 1st November 2001.

11. CORRESPONDENCE :

a) District of Easington Consultative Panel

The Clerk reported for information, that the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Thursday 11th October at 2 pm in the Council Offices.

b) District of Easington - North Area Forum

The Clerk reported for information, that the next meeting of the Forum would be held on Wednesday 17th October in the Frederick Street Primary School. South Hetton.

c) East Durham Community Transport

The Clerk reported for information that a conference would be held in the Hardwick Hall Manor Hotel, Blackball on Wednesday 17th October from 10 am to 2.30 pm to consider transport issues within the district.

d) Precept 2001/2002 - 2nd Half Year

The Clerk reported that the second instalment of the annual precept had been paid into the Council's bank account

12. PLANNING MATTERS :

The following new applications were Noted :

- a) Proposed 1st floor side extension - 15 Falmouth Close
- b) Proposed 1st floor side extension - 7 Galfrid Close
- c) Proposed utility room extension - "Hazeldene" Dene Road
- d) Proposed conservatory - "Olcote" The Dene
- e) Proposed phase 1 factory outlet shopping etc - Dalton Flatts

The Clerk informed the meeting that a Local Inquiry had been arranged for Tuesday 23rd October to hear the appeal by Miss D.Curtis into the rejection by the District Council other request for a Purchase

Notice in respect of land opposite Dalton Bridge, a rejection which had been upheld by the Secretary of State.

13 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given for payment of the following Accounts:

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|---------|
| 025 | J.Abbot | Clerk's Salary-September 2001 | £233.36 |
| 026 | J.Abbot | Postages/Printing/Telephone etc-Sept 2001 | £28.82 |
| 027 | W.Hepplewhite | Chairman's Allowance 2001/2002 | £400.00 |
| 028 | Glasdon UK Ltd. | Dog Waste Bins | £137.59 |
| 029 | J.Todd | Judge's Fee - Garden Competition | £55.00 |
| 030 | J.Abbot | Trophies - Garden Competition | £32.00 |
| 031 | J.Monarch | 1st Prize - Garden Competition | £30.00 |
| 032 | H.Robinson | 2nd Prize - Garden Competition | £15.00 |
| 033 | D.Gowans | Most Improved - Garden Competition | £10.00 |
| 034 | LA Technologies | Computer Equipment (Internet) | £298.45 |

14. REPORTS:

Because of pressure of time, it was Agreed that the reports of the Chairman and Councillor Oliver on their attendance at the District Council's recent consultative meetings and the Police Liaison meeting respectively, be held over to the November meeting.

15. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

a) The Clerk reported having received correspondence from John Cummings M.P. and the Secretary of the Easington Constituency Labour Party seeking the Parish Council's support for the establishment of a Primary Health Care Trust for the Easington District.

Agreed : That the Clerk's action in having responded positively to this request be Endorsed and Approved

b) The Clerk reported that at the request of Councillor Olaman, he had arranged for the removal of the swings from the St.Andrew's play area for the winter season.

c) Councillor Armstrong reported damage to the roadside fence on either side of the entrance to his property, and the Clerk was instructed to arrange for its repair.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Thursday 1st November 2001.