

***DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL***

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 7th FEBRUARY 2002**

**PRESENT: Councillor W.Hepplwhite (Chairman)**

**Councillors G.Gustard, M-Gustard, W.Kennedy, R.Olaman, M.Oliver, A.Westmorland**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :**

**Councillor E.W.Annstrong**

**2. POLICE REPORT:**

Acting Sergeant West reported that a garage on Overdene Estate had been broken into and a number of items stolen. To date, no-one had been apprehended. There had been one case of an abandoned vehicle in St.Cuthbert's Terrace, which had been used in a recent crime, the culprit having been arrested. He undertook to investigate members' complaints that a derelict building at the bottom of the Cragdale Villas track was being used for drug taking activities.

**3. MINUTES:**

**Agreed : That the Minutes of the following meetings, copies of which had been sent previously to each member, be Approved and Signed as a correct record:**

- a) Council Meeting held on 6th December 2001
- b) Special Council Meeting held on 10th January 2002

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :**

i) Council Meeting - 6th December 2001 :

a) Minute No. 11 - Hedgerows

The Clerk reported that only one quotation had been received for the work of re-instatement, and that he had taken further advice from the County Council. This had revealed that the specification of such works requiring grant aid assistance had been reviewed, and that a copy of the new requirements was to hand. County had indicated that it was unable to quote for the work itself, being the grant aid body, and in view of this, the Clerk sought members' wishes as to whether, before any further action was taken, the farmer should be approached to ascertain whether he might wish to undertake the work himself, using funding from the Countryside Stewardship scheme.

**Agreed : That the farmer's wishes in this matter be requested.**

b) Minute No. 13(a) - Sewerage Matters

The Clerk read to the meeting a letter from the Head of Planning at Easington District Council in response to a request for clarification on a number of queries relating to the adequacy of the sewerage system in the village, especially in the light of the forthcoming development at Dalton Flatts. It was felt that the reply did not fully answer the points which had been made, and it was

**Agreed : That a copy of the response be sent to Northumbrian Water for its further comments.**

c) Minute No. 13(b) - Conservation Status

The Clerk reported on detailed correspondence which had been received from the County Council, explaining the reasons for its rejection of the Parish Council's application for conservation status for the village. He reported having received no response from the Council for the Protection of Rural England on this matter, and it was

**Agreed : That a further approach be made in order to seek support for the application.**

d) Dalton-le-Dale Community Association-Financial Assistance

**Councillor Hepplewhite declared an interest in this item, and vacated the Chair.**

**Agreed : That Councillor A.Westmorland take the Chair during discussion on this matter.**

**(Councillor A.Westmorland in the Chair)**

The Clerk read to the meeting a letter from Councillor W.Kennedy as Secretary of the Community Association in response to the Council's request for some clarification of previous correspondence seeking farther financial assistance in the sum of £2000. Councillor M.Gustard amplified the contents of the letter by pointing out that the initial request was made in the light of the feasibility study which was being carried out, inter alia to select an architect to submit initial proposals for the design of the new hall, the selection process having been finalised that afternoon. The study was ongoing, and would inevitably incur further costs. She emphasised that the request was merely to ask the Council to act as a guarantor in this situation, and that the Council's approval if granted, would only be taken up should the need arise, and then only on the clearly stated reasons given at the time. She further made reference to a recent report in the Sunderland Echo in connection with the progress being made on the project, which had referred to "the village" rather than to "the parish" and she felt that it should be firmly pointed out that the community hall was a parish-wide scheme, and not just for the village itself.

**Agreed : That Approval be given to the request by the Community Association for the sum of £2000 to be made available in accordance with the conditions stated.**

**(At this point. Councillor W.Hepplewhite resumed the Chair)**

ii) Special Council Meeting - 10th January 2002 :

a) Minute No.4 - Public Health Concerns

Members noted with approval, information from the District Council indicating that Northumbrian Water had given an undertaking not to treat the fields at Dalton-le-Dale with the fertiliser which had given rise to complaints over recent weeks, for a period of 3 years, following which discussions would take place to seek other methods of treatment.

**5. THE WAY FORWARD :**

Arising from Minute No.3 of the special Council Meeting on 10th January, consideration was given to the proposal to appoint two member groups to deal with the Council's subjective activities as outlined in the Minute, and how this could best be progressed without the need to convene additional meetings. Discussion ensued, and it was

**Agreed : a) That two groups of 4 members be appointed as follows :**

**Group 1 - Planning, Conservation, Regeneration, Health & Safety :**  
**Councillors G.& M.Gustard, W.Hepplewhite & E.Armstrong**

**Group 2 - Maintenance, Publicity & Communications, General Purposes:**  
**Councillors W.Kennedy, R.Olaman, M.Oliver & A.Westmorland**

**b) That relevant correspondence and information be copied to group members between meetings, and recommendations made to the Council for consideration and appropriate action.**

**6. MILLENNIUM WINDOW - ST.ANDREWS CHURCH :**

Members considered as Appendix 1 the report by the Clerk regarding the selection of two artists to be invited to submit designs for the new window following consultation with the Vicar, members of the Parochial Church Council, and Canon W.Hall of Durham Diocese. Canon Hall had reported having contacted the two ladies concerned, and on his recommendation, it was

**Agreed : a) That Approval be given to the appointment of Helen Whittaker of Barly Studio, Dunnington, York, and Cate Watkinson of Newcastle Arts Centre.**

**b) That Approval be given to the payment to each artist of a design fee of £400 plus expenses to a maximum of £100**

**7. QUALITY PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS - CONSULTATION:**

The meeting considered as Appendix 2 a report by the Clerk setting out the necessary information to allow a response to be given to DEFRA by the deadline date of 14th February if members so wished. The report explained that the consultation had arisen from the proposals for Quality Status set out in the Government' Rural White Paper. Discussion ensued during which the Clerk summarised the nature

of the consultation exercise, the Council's wish to attain such status was confirmed, and it was

**Agreed : That the Clerk be authorised to respond to the consultation as appropriate.**

## **8. MODEL CODE OF CUNDUCT - Local Government Act 2000 :**

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the requirements of this legislation, and explained that the Code would have to be formally adopted by the Council no later than 5th May 2002. In order to facilitate this, a copy of the provisions would be sent to each member in due course. The report of the Clerk was Noted.

## **9. DISTRICT OF EASINGTON - Standards Committee:**

The Clerk reported on the composition of this Committee which had been established under the provisions of Section 53 of the Local Government Act 2000, and which was now being extended under the Relevant Authorities (Standard Committees) Regulations 2001 to include representation by parish/town councils. The effect of this would be that the Committee would be formed of 4 members of the District Council, two independent (non-political) members, and two parish/town councils' representatives (minimum requirement 1 representative), at least one of whom must be present when parish/town council business was being considered. The Clerk further reported that at the request for nominations by the Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils during the January recess, the name of Councillor W.Hepplewhite had been submitted for consideration. At a subsequent meeting of the Association, it had been agreed that the District Council should be pressed further for equal representation on the Committee by the Association, i.e. 3 members each. This request had been rejected by the District Council, and the matter was still in abeyance.

**Agreed : a) That the nomination of Councillor W.Hepplewhite for membership of the Standards Committee be Approved.**

**b) That the report of the Clerk be Noted and further developments be awaited.**

## **10. GOLDEN JUBILEE - 3rd June 2002 :**

Further to the letter received from the Secretary of the Women's Institute suggesting a form of celebration to mark the Jubilee, the Clerk reported having written to the Community Association and the Parochial Church Council to ascertain possible support for a joint event, and that responses were awaited.

**Agreed: a) That the report of the Clerk be Noted.**

**b) That in the event of the enquiries being positive, the members of the discussion group dealing with Maintenance, Publicity & Communications and General Purposes (Minute No.5 above) give some prior consideration to this item and report to the next meeting.**

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE:**

### a) North Area Forum

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Forum would be held in Seaham Leisure Centre on Wednesday 13th February 2002 at 6 pm.

### b) Durham Association - Subscription Fees 2002/2003

The Clerk reported having been notified that subscriptions had been increased by 4 and that the Council's liability for the new financial year would be £103.50 as opposed to £99.60 for 2001/2002.

### c) Tidy Easington District Committee

The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the District Council expressing concern at the absence from recent meetings of the Parish Council's representative.

**Agreed : That as a result of the inability of the present representative to attend meetings on a regular basis. Councillor R.Olaman be appointed to act on the Parish Council's behalf; and that in the event of his absence, the Clerk be authorised to deputise.**

### d) Stay Warm Scheme

The Clerk reported receipt via the District Council of details of this scheme which claimed to offer beneficial terms for the supply of gas and electricity to the over sixties. Details had been passed to the W.I., Community Association and the Parochial Church Council. The report was Noted.

### e) Inter-Parish Sports Event

The Clerk reported details of a briefing meeting to discuss the proposed schedule of activities for this year's event. The correspondence was Received.

### f) Royal Garden Party

**Agreed : That the Chairman of the Council be nominated for attendance at the Garden Party in July in accordance with the invitation received from the Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils.**

### g) Durham County Tidy Village Competition 2002

**Agreed : That the Parish Council enter this year's competition in the Small Village category, and that a contribution of £30 be made towards the administrative expenses of the organising committee.**

## **12. PLANNING MATTERS:**

The following new applications were received :

a) Proposed replacement tanks & pump islands at New Seaham Service Station for Esso Petroleum Company Ltd.

b) Proposed installation & operation of 2 underground electricity cables and 1 fibre optic at former railway line west of Seaton and Murton and land west of Hawthorn electric substation for National Grid International

The Clerk explained that application (b) had been provided as a matter of information for an adjoining parish, and would not impact in any way on Dalton-le-Dale.

### **13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :**

**Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos. 46-54 in the sum of £2438.89 as set out in Appendix 1 attached**

### **14. REPORTS :**

Councillor M.Oliver reported briefly on the recent meeting of the Police Liaison Committee at which the Best Value Performance plan was considered together with an Accountant's Review.

### **15. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :**

a) In response to a member's enquiry, the Clerk undertook to investigate the delay in the manufacture of the two Notice Boards which had now been on order for some time.

### **16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :**

It was Noted that the next Meeting of the Council was scheduled for Thursday 7th March 2002 commencing at 7 p.m.