

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 7th MARCH 2002

PRESENT: Councillor W.Hepplewhite (Chairman)

Councillors E.W.Armstrong, G.Gustard, M.Gustard, W.Kennedy, M.Oliver, A.Westmorland.

1 resident of the Parish

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillor R.Olaman

2. POLICE REPORT:

P.C.Avent reported that following the discussion at the February meeting, Police had inspected the building in question. Certain items had been found, but nothing to suggest any connection with the drugs use which had been alleged. Periodic surveillance would continue, and in the meantime, it was suggested that the District Council be asked to clear the area.

3. MINUTES:

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 7th February 2002 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each Member) be Approved and Signed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :

a) Minute No.4(a) - Hedgerows

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a third quotation, so that the necessary application could be submitted to the County Council for grant aid. He further advised that the farmer had given his assent to the Parish Council to proceed with the project.

Agreed :

- **That a copy of the revised specification supplied by the County Council be forwarded to the contractor W.Marley, so that progress could be made with this project**
- **That in view of the Chairman's impending absence on holiday, the Clerk and Vice Chairman be authorised to take the necessary action.**

b) Minute No.4(c) - Conservation Status

The Clerk and Chairman reported jointly on their recent attendance at a meeting of the Durham Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, at which they had advised of the Council's unsuccessful application for conservation status. The Clerk reported having written to CPRE to seek

advice on a possible further submission.

c) Minute No.6 - Millennium Window

Councillor M.Gustard reported on the recent visit to the Church by Cate Watkinson, one of the two artists selected to submit designs for the window. The Clerk reported having so far been unsuccessful in contacting the other artist, but attempts would continue. The reports were Noted.

d) Minute No. 15 - Notice Boards

The Clerk reported that the notice boards were ready for erection, and that a meeting was to be arranged to determine their precise location. The Clerk further reported that in discussion with Adshell, he had provisionally requested permission to make use of the unused timetable cabinet situated inside the bus shelter to the north of the entrance to Dalton Heights estate for the purpose of displaying Council notices. This had been agreed, and the District Council had undertaken to make the key available for this use. Additionally, Adshell had indicated that a similar cabinet could be provided in the shelter to the south of the Esso petrol station on Stockton Road at a cost of £190.

Agreed : That the report of the Clerk be Noted.

5. At this stage, the Chairman indicated that Councillors G.& M.Gustard had advised that they wished to leave the meeting at 8.30 pm in order to attend another engagement, and they had requested permission to bring forward Item No 13 listed on the Agenda in order to report to members on their discussions within the planning and conservation sub-group. In order to assist members, copies of their report had been circulated prior to the meeting. They also requested early consideration of Item No. 12 so that they could take part in the discussion.

Agreed : That Standing Orders be suspended to allow these items to be considered "out of order"

Item 13-Reports :

Discussion took place on the document, during which Councillor G.Gustard reported having made contact with a design agency, which he felt would be able to prepare a design for the village in accordance with the recommendations made by the group.

Agreed : That the recommendations made by the Planning, Conservation and Regeneration Sub-Group be Approved in Principle, and that further investigations be undertaken to determine their feasibility.

Item 12 - Planning Matters :

The following new applications were considered :

a) Proposed bedroom, lounge, utility room extension and double garage at 1 Bumside Cottages for G & L.Scollen

(Councillor E.Armstrong declared an interest in this item, and took no part in the subsequent discussion).

The Chairman reported having consulted with the planning officer dealing with this application, who had conceded that the proposed extension was a sizeable one. He allowed Mr.Scollen who was present at the meeting, to outline his proposals, and he submitted a copy of the plans which members were able to inspect. A lengthy discussion ensued during which details of the materials to be used were questioned, together with the extent to which the proposed extension would be visible from the road. After further submissions, it was

Agreed : That the application be Noted and Approved, subject to all aspects of the proposed development being in accordance with planning law.

(At this stage. Councillors G.& M.Gustard left the meeting)

b) Proposed side extension at "Briardene" Dene Road for Mr.& Mrs.Robinson.

c) Proposed rear extension at "Joylynn" Dene Road for Mr.K-Lee

d) Proposed new garage and conversion of existing garage to habitable room at 21 Dalton Heights for Durham Miners Association.

Agreed : That the applications be Noted and Approved

6. ETHICAL CODE OF CONDUCT - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 :

The meeting considered as Appendix 1 the report by the Clerk on the implications of this legislation.

Agreed : That in view of the lengthy agenda for this meeting, and given that the deadline for adopting the legislation was not until 5th May, the item be deferred to the April meeting of the Council.

7. DISTRICT OF EASINGTON - STANDARDS COMMITTEE :

The Chairman reported on his attendance at a recent meeting of the Easington Area Association of Parish & Town Councils, at which consideration was given to the representation of parish councils on the Standards Committee. The District Council's proposal was for a representation of 2 parish councillors (minimum requirement 1 representative) in addition to the 4 district councillors and two independent (non-political) members presently in office. The Association felt that this proposal was inadequate, and had pressed for additional representation. The matter was still under negotiation.

Agreed : That the Chairman's report be Noted, and that his nomination for Membership of the Standards Committee, previously advised to the Area Association, be re-iterated.

8. GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - JUNE 2002 :

Following the initial approach by the W.I. suggesting a celebratory event during the weekend of June

1st/2nd/3rd, the Clerk reported that he now understood that the Parochial Church Council wished to support such an event, and that accordingly, members' farther wishes were requested. It was suggested that the members of the Maintenance, Publicity & Communications and General Purposes Sub-Group engage in discussions with the other community groups in the village in order to progress matters. Councillor Oliver undertook to take the lead role in facilitating these discussions, and the Clerk agreed to perform the necessary administrative duties.

Agreed : That the proposals indicated be implemented.

9. GARDEN COMPETITION 2002 :

Following discussions at previous meetings, in which it was accepted that the format of the Garden Competition needed to be revised, discussion ensued as to the type and scope of the project which was best suited to the parish's needs, and accordingly, it was

Agreed : That this matter be considered fully at the April meeting, and that members be invited to submit ideas as to how the competition can be improved.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) District of Easington - Local Strategic Patnership/Community Network Panel

The Clerk reported receipt of an invitation for the Council to be represented at a meeting on 20th March at which the involvement of Parish and Town Councils on these two bodies would be considered and determined.

Agreed : That Councillors Kennedy and Westmorland, together with the Clerk attend this meeting on the Council's behalf.

b) New Ethical Framework - In-House Training

The Clerk reported correspondence from a firm of solicitors advertising their services in this connection. He pointed out that the Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils was in the process of arranging a seminar on this topic, and that the cost of arranging private training could not be justified.

Agreed : That the correspondence be Received, and that details of the County Association's initiative be awaited.

c) Duham County Council - Public Footpaths Nos.2 & 3

The Clerk reported that the County Council had submitted a list of suitable contractors in connection with the proposed improvements to these footpaths, and that he was in the process of obtaining quotations for the work, prior to making a grant application under the County's Parish Paths Partnership. The report was Noted.

d) Standards Board for England

The Clerk reported correspondence from the Durham Association indicating that it was intending to

arrange a meeting in April at which representatives from the Standards Board would speak with Parish/Town Councils. No further details available at this stage, but the Clerk advised that he had responded positively to the invitation to attend. The report was Noted,

b) Age Concern - Community Links

The Clerk reported having passed correspondence to the Community Association from Age Concern, which was seeking to gather information on groups involved in activities where the over 50's and the younger generation (5-24 years) take part in shared activities.

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos. 55-59 in the sum of £535.42 as set out in Appendix 1 attached.

12. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

a) The Chairman reported that a number of bales of straw had become entangled in the branches of the tree which had fallen across the beck, and the Clerk was asked to make arrangements for their removal.

b) Further concern was expressed at the amount of dog waste on the St-Andrew's recreation area, despite the provision of a new disposal bin, and it was suggested that the District Council's dog warden might be requested to carry out a monitoring exercise.

c) Concern was expressed at the growing level of traffic noise emanating from the A 19 trunk road, causing annoyance to residents. The Clerk was instructed to approach the Highways Agency to request that during the next scheduled resurfacing programme, consideration might be given to the use of the new type of material designed to reduce traffic noise.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Thursday 4th April 2002 commencing at 7 p.m.