

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 4th APRIL 2002

**PRESENT: Councillor W.Hepplewhite (Chairman)
Councillors E.W.Armstrong, M.Gustard, W.Kennedy, R.Olaman & M.Oliver.**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillors G.Gustard & A.Westmorland

2. MILLENNIUM WINDOW - ST.ANDREWS CHURCH :

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Cate Watkinson of the Newcastle Arts Centre, one of the artists selected to submit a design for the window. Ms.Watkinson explained that in keeping with the millennium brief, her design was based on a "time" theme and depicted the changing seasons. She produced a computerised example of how the finished article would look "in situ" and showed samples of the glass to be used and how the window would be manufactured.

Members asked a number of questions, and expressed satisfaction with the design, which it was agreed met the criteria which had been set out in the brief. The Chairman explained to Ms Watkinson that at this stage, the other design was not available, and would be subject to a similar inspection by members. This would be followed at a later date by a meeting in Church at which the Vicar and members of the Parochial Church Council would be able to consider both designs simultaneously, and at which it was hoped that a final decision would be made. Ms Watkinson expressed a wish to be present at this meeting, when she would answer any questions which might be forthcoming.

The Chairman thanked Ms Watkinson for her attendance, and congratulated her on the quality of her design, whereupon she left the meeting. Following further discussion, it was

**Agreed : a) That a special meeting be called immediately upon receipt of the second design.
b) That in the meantime, the Clerk ascertain the procedure for obtaining from the Diocesan authorities, the necessary faculty for the installation of the new window.**

3. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2002 be Approved and Signed as a correct record, subject in Minute No. 12 (c) to the addition after "A19 trunk road" of the words "road B1285"

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :

a) Minute No.2

The Clerk reported having written to the District Council with a request to clear this area as suggested by the Police. To date, no response had been forthcoming.

b) Minute No.7 - District of Easington Standards Committee

The Clerk reported that in view of the impasse which existed over Parish/Town Councils' representation on this Committee, a further meeting would be held on 25th April at which further consideration would be given to the method of deciding the 2 representatives which had been allocated.

c) Minute No. 10 (a) - Local Strategic Partnership - Parish Councils' Involvement

The Clerk and Councillor Kennedy jointly reported on their attendance at a meeting on 20th March to consider the appointment of 3 Parish/Town Councillors to sit on the Partnership, together with 1 representative to sit on the Community Network Panel. Lengthy fruitless discussion took place on the method of selection, and it was decided to convene a further meeting, at which such selection would be carried out following a postal ballot. The Clerk further reported that this meeting would be held on Wednesday 1st May.

d) Minute No. 12 (c) - Traffic Noise A19/B1285

The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the Highways Agency indicating the criteria for determining the use of noise mitigation measures. The letter suggested that a quieter surface material would be used when the next programme of re-surfacing was carried out, but that this was not likely to take place for another 5-10 years.

e) Minute No. 10 (c) - Public Footpaths Nos.2/3

The Clerk reported having sent specifications to three contractors in connection with the necessary maintenance on these two paths, and tenders for the work were awaited.

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

Following further consideration of the Model Code of Conduct (copies of which had been sent previously to each member), it was

Resolved : That the Council of the Parish of Dalton-le-Dale formally adopt the provisions of the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001.

Members present signed their Undertakings of Acceptance, countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer, and it was

Further Resolved:

That Councillors G.Gustard and A.Westmorland who were absent from the meeting be authorised to sign their undertakings at the next meeting of the Council.

The Clerk then advised that members would be required to submit within 28 days certain information for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests, and that the necessary documentation would be issued in the near future.

6. GARDEN COMPETITION 2002 :

Further consideration was given to a proposed revised format to the competition, in particular to the form which it would take, judging, procedures for obtaining entries and advertising etc. Following

lengthy discussion, it was

Agreed : a) That the competition be free, and comprise three categories :

i) Jubilee Garden

ii) Modern Garden

iii) Traditional Garden

and that 1st and 2nd prizes be awarded in each category

b) That the competition be widely advertised in the press, libraries, public houses, public notice boards and on the internet

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Letter of Appreciation.

The Clerk read a letter from Mrs. Jenny Olaman expressing the appreciation of herself and her husband for the card and basket of flowers which had been presented to them on behalf of the Parish Council on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

b) DEFRA - Support for Parish Councils

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Minister of Rural Affairs, confirming continued support for parish council, following reports in certain sections of the press suggesting that the Government was looking to abolish them. **The letter was Noted.**

c) Audit Commission - External Audit Arrangements from April 2002

The Clerk reminded members that the previous system of external auditing by the Commission for smaller parish councils had now been discontinued, to be replaced by less onerous internal and external checks. The internal checks were now in place, being carried out by two members who were not signatories to payment cheques issued by the Council, but there was still some ambiguity in the requirements for the external arrangements, on which clarification was being sought. **The Clerk's report was Noted, and further details were awaited.**

d) Standards Board for England

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged for Wednesday 22 May at Shildon Civic Hall (6.30 p.m.) at which the Head of Policy & Guidance of the Standards Board would discuss the legislation with Parish Council representatives. The Clerk further reported that he and the Chairman would attend this meeting. **The letter was Noted.**

e) Resident's letter of appreciation

The Clerk read a letter of thanks from a resident in response to the action which had been taken following a request by him for the Council to assist in carrying out maintenance work on the public right of way near his home. The Clerk had explained that the Council had no authority to finance this work, and had sought the assistance of the Probation Service's Community Service Programme. **The letter was Noted.**

f) Dog Waste Bins - Servicing

The Clerk reported having signed the contract renewal agreement with the District Council for the weekly servicing of the dog waste bins in Dene Road and in the St.Andrew's recreation area. **The Clerk's action was Noted and Confirmed.**

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given to Payment of Invoices Nos. 1-5 in the sum of £758.11 as set out in Appendix 1

9. PLANNING MATTERS:

The following new planning applications were Noted without comment:

- a) Proposed two storey side extension & extension to living room at 1 Salcombe Close.
- b) Proposed private garage & car port at "Ashdene" Dene Road

10. REPORTS:

a) Councillor Olaman reported that following the replacement of the swings at the St.Andrew's recreation area for the Easter holidays, he had once again begun to experience problems with youths gathering in the evenings, and that the swings were continually being wrapped around the crossbars to prevent their use. The matter had been reported to the Police, but despite their best efforts, this had little effect.

b) Councillor Olaman asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to the District Council in respect of the work which had been carried out to remove the accumulation of litter from the bankside adjoining the B1285.

11. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

a) Councillor Armstrong reported having received literature from the Open Spaces Society, and he felt that membership of this body would be beneficial to the Council in helping to safeguard and improve its open areas.

Agreed: That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements to join this body.

b) Councillor M.Gustard reported that the interior light in the bus shelter near the entrance to Dalton Heights estate was faulty and the Clerk undertook to arrange for its repair.

c) Councillor M.Gustard informed the meeting that she understood that there were some plots of land for sale between Dalton Heights and the Times Inn, and the Clerk was instructed to investigate this matter.

d) A member referred to an incident which had taken place in the late evening of Tuesday 2nd April

when a car was driven along the footpath at the eastern end of Dalton Grange estate and had crashed into a resident's garden. The incident had been sufficiently serious to warrant the use of the Police helicopter, and in anticipation of public demand, the Clerk was instructed to write to the County Council to seek some form of barrier at either end of the footpath in order to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

e) A member referred to the recurring parking problems on Stockton Road near the shops and the filling station, and the Clerk was instructed to request the Police to ensure drivers' adherence to the parking provision already in place.

f) The Chairman requested a progress report on the arrangements for the proposed Jubilee celebrations in June. Councillor Oliver explained that she was to arrange a meeting with members of the Maintenance, Publicity & Communications, and General Purposes Group in order to discuss a format for the event, prior to meeting with the W.I., Community Association and Parochial Church Council.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting scheduled for Thursday 2nd May would be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, and would be preceded by the Annual Meeting of Electors, which would commence at 6.30 p.m.