

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING – 4TH JULY 2002

PRESENT : Councillor W.Hepplewhite (Chairman)

Councillors E.W.Armstrong, M.Gustard, W.Kennedy & M.Oliver

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillors R.Olaman & A.Westmorland

2. POLICE REPORT :

P.C's Mariner and Siddle reported on a relatively quiet month in the parish. A number of burglaries had occurred in the vicinity of the pumping station, mainly of electrical equipment, while hypodermic needles had been found at the rear of the Times Inn. Police had been called on one occasion to St.Andrew's Church, though it was found that the cause was the incorrect setting of the burglar alarm. Problems caused by the congregating of young people were continuing throughout the area, although the situation was continually under surveillance.

The Chairman voiced the sentiments of members when he thanked the Police for arranging the recent talk on the drugs problem. Although the talk had attracted no public attendance, despite publicity, a great deal had been learned about the subject and how it was being dealt with, and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of appreciation.

3. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th June (copies 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.9(b) – hay bales in stream

The Clerk reported having written to the farmer as instructed, and on a subsequent telephone conversation. Mr.Shotton had explained that in his view the problem had been caused by a broken fence at the southern end of the land in question, which he claimed should have been maintained by the District Council by arrangement. The situation was Noted.

b) Minute No.7 – Jubilee Football Tournament

The Clerk reported having written letters of congratulation to the three youngsters who had arranged the tournament with such success, and having put to them the idea of forming a parish football team. No formal reply had so far been received, but it was understood that the matter was being considered.

c) Minute No.8 – Floral Tubs

The Clerk reported having written to Mencap seeking a quotation for the cost of replanting the troughs to provide year round colour. The manager of the garden centre was currently on maternity leave, and no response had been received, although it was understood that she was due back to work within two weeks.

Discussion took place in the light of a reduced quotation of £30 per tub from Seaham Town Council, but given that the troughs were currently in bloom, it was

Agreed : That the matter be considered further at the September meeting.

d) Minute No.9(a) – roadside fencing – B1285

The Clerk reported on efforts which he had made to seek some improvements to the fencing to the south of the Times Inn, especially in view of the forthcoming retail development at Dalton Flatts. A letter had been received from the developers indicating that they were unable to consider this request, and consequently, further avenues were being explored. This would include the matter being placed on the Agenda for the next North Area Forum.

e) Minute No.10(a) – proposed replacement telecommunications transmitter

The Clerk reported having passed on the Council's concerns regarding this application, and these had been acknowledged and noted. Further information was awaited.

5. MILLENNIUM WINDOW – ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH :

Given that the next meeting of the Durham Diocesan Committee would not take place until the end of July, it was Noted that there was no progress to report.

6. N.A.L.C. CONFERENCE – CLERK'S REPORT :

Members considered as Appendix 1 the Clerk's report on his recent attendance at the Conference in Preston from 14th- 16th June. The report was Noted.

7. GARDEN COMPETITION – PROGRESS REPORT :

The Clerk reported that there were currently 9 entries for the competition, the deadline date for which was Friday 12th July. Judging was due to take place at the end of the month.

8. CORRESPONDENCE :

a) The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from a couple in Dalton Heights who were to host two children from Belarus as part of the Chernobyl North East visit, with a request for some financial assistance towards the cost of the visit. In view of the decision taken at the June meeting, it was

Agreed : That in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the sum of £50 be paid to Chernobyl North East.

- b) A letter from Durham County Council advising prospective school governors of the need to undertake a checking procedure by the Criminal Records Bureau was Noted and Received.
- c) The Clerk reported receipt of a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Durham branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England which had taken place on 23rd May. As no prior notification of this meeting had been given, the Parish Council had not been represented, and the Clerk advised that he had written to the Secretary requesting Agendas for future meetings. The report was Noted.
- d) Notification from the Leisure Services Manager of the District of Easington of a briefing meeting in connection with the Inter-Parish Fun Day on 20th October was Received.
- e) The Clerk reported that the Countryside Agency was to commence work on the mapping of all open country and registered common land in England, in connection with the statutory right of access legislation. It was suggested that Town and Parish Councils would be consulted and involved in this process, and that further details would be provided in due course. The report was Noted.
- f) The Clerk gave details of a letter from the Women's Royal Voluntary Service seeking financial assistance towards the cost of its work. The letter was Received.

9. PLANNING MATTERS :

The meeting noted that an application for the erection of a conservatory at 53 Escallond Drive had been approved by the District Council.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given to the payment of Invoices Nos. 23-30 in the sum of £1027.24 as outlined in Appendix 2 to the Agenda.

(At this point, Councillor G.Gustard joined the meeting)

11. REPORTS :

a) Pumping of Minewater

The Chairman and Clerk gave a joint report on their attendance, along with Councillor Olaman at a Special meeting of the Cabinet of the District Council at which representatives of British Coal and IMC Consulting Engineers presented a report on their proposals for the treatment and pumping of waste mine water at the former Hawthorn Colliery. The presentation was very technical, but the District Council members present, supported by the Chief Engineer were not in favour of the proposal, and further consultation would be necessary. One satisfactory outcome of the discussion was that the proposed route of the minewater to its disposal into the sea was that the Dalton-le-Dale stream would not be affected. The Clerk undertook to circulate to members copies of the Minutes of the meeting as soon as they became available.

b) Motorway/Trunk Road Signposting

The Chairman and the Clerk reported on their attendance at a meeting at County Hall, at which requests for signage from the A1 and A19 to the attractions of the East Durham Coast were put forward. Representatives from the District Council and a number of Parish Councils made a strong case for such signposting, but County Council officers were most reluctant to offer any undertakings. It was agreed that further discussions take place with the Heritage Coast Initiative in order to codify the attractions which should be highlighted on any future signposting applications.

c) Tidy Easington District

The Chairman reported on his attendance at a recent meeting, at which the Conservation Officer at Castle Eden Dene had given a talk on raising the profile of the Dene. Other topics discussed had been the problem of fly tipping, and the cleanliness of villages throughout the district, during which he had elicited the information that roads in Dalton-le-Dale were swept every 3 to 4 weeks or on request and that it was claimed that litter bins were checked once every day.

12. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS:

a) In answer to a member's query, the Clerk confirmed that the farmer had approved the work of restoration of the hedgerows to the south of Dalton Bridge, but that no further progress had been made since it was presently outwith the growing season. The matter would be considered further at the September meeting.

b) In the light of the recent survey regarding the new community hall, it was Agreed that every effort be made to ensure that the work of the Council was publicised in the north of the parish, especially in the Mount Pleasant area.

c) Arising from the previous item, the Clerk was instructed to renew the efforts which had been made previously to have boundary signs provided at each approach to the parish, so as to clarify the precise definition of the parish area.

d) The Clerk was instructed to draw the attention of the Police Traffic Section to the speed of traffic on the Times Inn bank, which was now being compounded by the increasing numbers of heavy lorries serving the new Dalton Flatts development.

e) The Chairman drew members' attention to some slight damage which had been caused to the ribbon of his Chain of Office, and the Clerk was authorised to ascertain the cost, either of the appropriate repair or the purchase of a new ribbon.

f) A member reported having been approached by a resident asking whether a pedestrian crossing could be provided near the petrol filling station on Stockton Road, in the light of the volume of traffic and parking problems at this location, and especially following a recent fatality. The Clerk was instructed to make the necessary enquiries.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Thursday 5th September 2002.

Agreed : That authority be given to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk to deal with any urgent items of business which might arise during the recess.