

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 5th SEPTEMBER 2002

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

1 resident of the Parish

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillors E.W.Armstrong & A.Westmorland

2. RESIDENTS' REPRESENTATIONS:

a) At the Chairman's invitation, the resident present made a strong request for the provision of better pedestrian crossing facilities in Stockton Road between the shops and the petrol filling station. It was acknowledged that this particular location was very busy and particularly hazardous, involving traffic emerging from the garage and from Doreen, Jubilee and Queens Avenues, often with impaired visibility caused by parked vehicles on the west side of the road. It was pointed out that the existence of the nearby pedestrian traffic lights and the recent provision of a central bollard might dissuade the Highway Authority from taking further action, nevertheless, in view of the fact that there had already been one fatality, it was

Agreed : That a request be made for the situation to be reviewed, and that the Highway Authority and the Police be invited to carry out a further survey.

b) Councillor M.Gustard advised members that she had expected an attendance by the three youngsters who had done such a wonderful job of arranging a mini soccer tournament during the Jubilee celebrations, and who had expressed an interest in forming a junior team to represent the parish in a local league. In their absence, she felt that the Council should offer its services in assisting with this project, involving seeking the help of an adult to do some coaching, arrange matches, venues etc. Following discussion, it was

Agreed : That every effort be made to assist the three boys in their efforts, and that they be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council to discuss the matter further.

3. MINUTES:

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th July 2002 (copies of which had been sent to each member) be Approved and Signed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :

a) Minute No.4(c) - Floral Tubs

It was Noted that this matter would be considered in Agenda Item No.8

b) Minute No.4 (d) - Parish Boundary Signs/Roadside Fencing

The Clerk reported that in connection with the boundary signs, the County Council had indicated that signs which needed maintenance would be replaced, and that other signs could be renewed at the Parish Council's expense. No estimates of cost were yet available. As far as the additional signs at Stockton Road and on the Graham Way were concerned, the County maintained that these were not recognised signs, and could not be provided. As far as roadside fencing was concerned, the Clerk reported having enlisted the assistance of the ward councillors, and the matter was receiving attention.

Agreed : a) That further efforts be made to secure additional boundary signs and that a site meeting with the County Council be requested.

b) That the present situation be Noted.

c) Minute No.4 (e) - Replacement Telecommunications Tower

It was Noted that planning approval had been given to this application, and it was

Agreed : That the Clerk arrange for residents in the immediate area of the site to be advised of the Council's observations in this matter.

d) Minute No.8 (a) - Visit by Children from Chernobyl

The Clerk reported having received letters of appreciation by those involved in this visit. The report was Noted.

e) Minute No. 11 (b) - Visitor Management in Easington

The Chairman and Clerk reported on their attendance at a meeting in County Hall which had been convened to consider better signposting of visitor attractions in East Durham. The report was Noted.

f) Minute No. 12 (d) - Traffic Speed on Times Inn Bank

The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the Police in connection with a recent survey between 22nd July and 16th August during which 25 drivers had been warned about their speed. The report was Noted.

g) Minute No. 12 (e) - Chairman's Chain of Office - Replacement Ribbon

Agreed that quotations be obtained for a full chain.

5. MILLENNIUM WINDOW - ST.ANDREWS CHURCH :

Concern was expressed at the undue delay in progressing this project, following the report on the visit to the Church by the Diocesan Advisory Committee on 29th July. This meeting had resulted in no firm proposal other than for the successful artist to liaise with a member of the Committee who had expressed personal doubts over the suitability of the design and the method of manufacture. There was also annoyance that despite having followed all of the procedures advised for the project, it had been suggested that these had not been correct. In the circumstances, it was reluctantly

Agreed : That the outcome of the discussions as outlined be awaited.

6. GARDEN COMPETITION 2002 :

The Clerk revealed the results of the competition as follows :

Best Overall	Mr.J.Monarch	"Dun Roaming" Dene Road
Best Front Garden	Mr.E.Steel	"Dalton Lodge" The Dene
Best Hanging Baskets	Mr.& Mrs.Keegan	1 Weymouth Drive Dalton Grange

Arrangements were discussed for the presentation of the awards, and in the light of the comments made by the competition judge regarding the outstanding quality of all of the entries, it was

Agreed : a) That the presentation ceremony take place on Thursday 10th October at 6 p.m.

b) That all of the entrants be invited to attend, and that certificates of merit be presented to those who had not been successful in the main awards.

c) That appropriate publicity be given to the results and the success of the competition.

7. HEDGEROW RE-INSTATEMENT:

Following the previous lengthy discussions which had prevented this work being carried out during the previous year, it was

Agreed : That early arrangements be made to facilitate this work during the Current growing season.

8. FLORAL TUBS:

The Clerk reported receipt from Mencap of a quotation in the sum of £286.50 for the replanting of the nine tubs sited throughout the parish, to incorporate the emptying of the existing troughs, refilling with new compost and a suitable slow fertiliser, and replanting with suitable shrubs, perennials, rockery plants and bulbs to provide year round colour. A quotation for a similar scheme in the sum of £270 had been received from Seaham Town Council. Following discussion, it was

Agreed : That subject to assurances regarding maintenance, the quotation in the sum of £286.50 from Seaham Mencap be accepted.

9. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2001/2002 :

The Clerk outlined the procedure for the audit of the Council's accounts under the provisions of the Accounts & Audit Regulations 1996 as amended by the Accounts & Audit (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2001. In addition to audit by a professional external auditor, and the internal checks currently being carried out by two non cheque signatory members, a third process - that of an independent check by a third party was necessary. A suitable person had been identified, who had agreed to perform this task for a fee of £50, and accordingly it was

Agreed : That approval be given to the appointment of Mr. David Wilson, F.M.A.A.T. of Dalton Accounting Services for the purposes of carrying out the mandatory independent audit at a fee

of £50.

10. FOOTPATHS NOS. 2 & 3 -UPGRADING :

Councillor Olaman and the Clerk reported on their site meeting with the contractor who had completed part of the agreed work on the two paths as approved at the May Meeting of the Council. It was found that the specification had been mis-read, and that the work done on each path had been reversed. The contractor had been requested to submit further quotations for the additional work required, for the tarmac-ing of the dolomite paths to prevent rain water from causing erosion, and for the hard surfacing of the section of path from the end of St.Cuthbert's Terrace to the point at which the footpaths diverged, this section not having been covered by the County Council's initial specification. At the suggestion of Councillor Olaman and the Clerk, it was

Agreed : a) That approval be given to the remedial action as indicated.

b) That the Footpaths Officer of Durham County Council be asked to inspect the site, so as to sanction the further work for grant aid.

11. CORRESPONDENCE :

Receipt of the following items of correspondence was Noted :

- a) Durham Constabulary - Membership of Consultative Groups
- b) Horden Parish Council on behalf of the Local Strategic Partnership - Feedback
- c) North East Assembly - Draft Regional Transport Strategy - Consultation
- d) District of Easington - Planning Matters
- e) District of Easington - Follow up of Correspondence
- f) District of Easington - Chairman's Civic Service
- g) District of Easington - Comprehensive Performance Assessment
- h) Durham County Council - Temporary Road Closure (partial) - The Graham Way
- i) North East Assembly - Regional Planning Guidance for the North East
- j) Durham County Council - Travel Trade News

12. DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL - REGIONAL GOVERNMENT :

The meeting considered as a matter of information (Appendix 1) the text of the Deputy Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons. Noted.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 - ETHICAL STANDARDS :

The Clerk reported receipt via the Durham Association of a Consultation Paper setting out proposals for the framework within which allegations of misconduct by councillors could be handled by Local Authorities. The document was too lengthy for reproduction to each member, and the Clerk undertook to issue one copy for circulation.

14. "YOUR REGION - YOUR CHOICE" :

The meeting considered as Appendix 3 the formal response of the District of Easington to the consultation paper issued by the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions in connection with the proposed Regional Assembly for the North East

In noting the content of the response, members were concerned that there was no reference to the role of parish councils, either in the District Council's document, or the Deputy Prime Minister's statement, and in view of this, it was suggested that the Clerk write to NALC to express this concern.

15. PLANNING MATTERS:

i) The following new applications were Noted without comment:

- a) Proposed conservatory at "Southend" Waring Terrace
- b) Proposed 1st floor side extension at 15 Falmouth Close
- c) Proposed 1s floor side extension/single storey rear extension at 1 Yarmouth Close

ii) The Clerk reported as follows :

- a) Following discussion with the District Council's Planning Section, no further progress had been made with regard to the application for the granting of a Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use (vehicle storage) at Dalton Moor Farm.
- b) The District Council had been requested to take the necessary action in connection with the storage of vehicles on land adjoining the former Church Hall.
- c) No further information was available regarding the use of the area of land to the East of 'Coniscliffe', where it had been reported that a portaloos had been sited. A member further reported that dogs had been barking and causing a nuisance to nearby residents.

16. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT/FINANCIAL REPORT :

i) Agreed : That Approval be given to the payment of Invoices Nos. 31-37 in the sum of £1272.58 as outlined in Appendix 4 to the Agenda

ii) The Clerk reported that in consultation with Barclay's Bank, he had transferred the sum of £30,000 to a Treasury Deposit Account for a period of two months at a gross interest rate of 2.9475 which would yield the sum of £150.20 over the period. Maturity date was 9th September, and it was

Agreed : That the deposit be extended for a further period of two months

iii) The meeting noted in an addendum to Appendix 4 the Statement of Accounts for the period 1st April to 5th September 2002 showing a balance in hand of £39,035.

17. REPORTS:

a) The Clerk reported that following information obtained at NALC's Annual Conference in June, he had made enquiries with Durham County Council regarding possible involvement in a Parish Lengthsman scheme. He had received a positive response, and would pursue the matter and report back as appropriate.

b) The Clerk circulated for information purposes, copies of the Minutes of the meeting at Easington District Council which he had attended together with the Chairman and Councillor Olaman, at which proposals were outlined by British Coal for the pumping and disposal of waste minewater from the former Hawthorn Colliery, and which it was feared might have a detrimental effect on Dalton-le-Dale stream. In the event, the proposals involved disposal by other means, although these were contested by the District Council, and further discussions were ongoing to reach an agreed method.

c) Councillor M.Gustard reported on a recent meeting of the Community Association, at which the architect had produced detailed drawings of his design proposals. These had been well received, although it necessary to convene a public meeting in order to widen the consultation process, and this was arranged for Thursday 19th September.

18. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

a) It was reported that a number of planks on the wooden bridge over the stream had been vandalised, and as the bridge was in the area of Seaham Town Council, the Clerk was instructed to advise the Town Clerk accordingly.

b) Councillor Oliver reported that during the recent visit by the party of children from Chernobyl, she had distributed the decorative mugs which remained from the stock which had been purchased for the millennium celebrations.

Agreed : That the action of Councillor Oliver in this matter be endorsed and Approved.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Thursday 10th October 2002 at 7 p.m., following the presentation of the awards in connection with the Dalton-le-Dale in Bloom competition.