

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING – 6TH MARCH 2003

**PRESENT : Councillors G.Gustard, L.Keegan, W.Kennedy,
R.Olaman, M.Oliver, A.Westmorland**

1 resident of the Parish

CHAIRMAN : In the absence of the Chairman of the Council, the Vice Chairman, Councillor M.Oliver took the Chair.

(Councillor M.Oliver in the Chair)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillors E.W.Armstrong, W.Hepplewhite, G.Gustard

2. POLICE REPORT :

The Clerk reported that Sergeant Stephen Taylor had indicated that as a result of a promotion, he was being transferred to Police Headquarters in Durham, and would no longer be able to attend meetings of the Council. New arrangements were not yet in place, and as a consequence there was no Police presence at the meeting. The Clerk further reported having written to Sergeant Taylor thanking him for his efforts over the past 4 years, and wishing him well in his future career. The report was **Noted**.

3. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th February 2003 (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.5(a) – Horse Chestnut Tree

The Clerk reported that a site meeting had been arranged with an officer of Houghall Enterprises at which it was hoped to obtain advice on suitable treatment to the tree to prevent a recurrence of the problems caused in previous years.

b) Minute No.5(e) – Public Footpath – St.Andrew's

The Clerk reported that no success had yet been achieved in having the re-surfacing work carried out, as a result of the recent spell of frosty conditions. The County Council had confirmed that the delay would not affect the grant aid which had been agreed.

c) Minute No.5(f) – Conservation Status

It was Noted that this matter would be discussed fully at Agenda Item No.14

d) Minute No.9 – Road Widening at Overdene

It was Noted that this matter would be discussed fully at Agenda Item No.8

e) Minute No.10 – Millennium Window

It was Noted that this matter would be discussed fully at Agenda Item No.9

f) Minute No.11 – Environmental Projects

It was Noted that this matter would be discussed fully at Agenda Item No.13

g) Minute No.16(b) – Fallen tree ove stream

It was Noted that despite a number of approaches to the District Council, no progress had been made with the removal of the tree, and further urgent efforts were ongoing to prevent further erosion of the bankside.

h) Minute No.16(d) – Feral Cats at Dalton Grange

It was Noted that this matter had been dealt with satisfactorily.

5. CORRESPONDENCE :

a) The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from DEFRA on the Licensing Bill which would regulate entertainment etc. in public buildings. This was passed to Councillor Kennedy as Secretary of the Community Association.

b) The Clerk reported having received via the Durham County Association, an invitation from the Standards Board for England to attend an information Road Show in Durham on Wednesday 5th March. This invitation had arrived only two days prior to the deadline for applications to attend, and despite a request having been Faxed immediately, the appropriate paperwork and accreditation was not received in time. A strongly worded letter had been sent to both the Standards Board and to NALC expressing concern at the bureaucratic inefficiency. The report was **Noted**.

c) Correspondence from the District of Easington regarding its continuing monthly Consultative Meetings was Noted. An invitation to purchase bulk supplies of dog “Poop-a-Scoops” was Received.

d) Correspondence from Durham County Council summarising the results of its recent consultation on a Referendum for a North East Regional Assembly was **Noted**.

e) A letter from a parishioner expressing appreciation and satisfaction at the recently completed hedgerow re-planting along Stony Cut was Noted with satisfaction.

6. PLANNING MATTERS :

The following new applications were considered :

a) Proposed Static Residential Caravan at The Paddock, North of Dene Road The Clerk reported that in order to meet the required deadline for responding to planning applications, the Chairman had authorised the submission of a formal objection in this case, together with an application to be heard at the Planning Panel meeting in due course. This had been done, and had been acknowledged.

Agreed : That the action of the Chairman and the Clerk be Endorsed and Approved.

b) Proposed Conservatory at 30 Sidmouth Close, Dalton Grange – No comment

c) Proposed Change of Use from Off-Licence & Food Store to Hot Food Takeaway The Clerk advised that this was a re-submission of a previous application which had been rejected, and it was **Agreed : That the Council's opposition to this application be re-stated.**

7. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & FINANCIAL REPORT :

a) **Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos. 069 to 074 in the sum of £700.43 as listed in Appendix 1 to the Agenda.**

c) **Agreed : That the Statement of Account for the period 1st April 2002 to 28th February 2003 (a copy of which was circulated at the meeting) be Noted and Approved.**

8. OVERDENE – PROPOSED ROAD WIDENING :

The Clerk reported that Councillor Westmorland was in the process of trying to negotiate an improvement in the County Council's contribution towards the cost of this project, but that no response had yet been forthcoming. The report was **Noted**.

9. MILLENNIUM WINDOW :

The Clerk reported that at its meeting on 4th March, the Diocesan Advisory Committee had recommended acceptance of the revised design without proviso, and that the way was now clear to apply for the necessary Faculty in order to proceed with the project. The Vicar had been informed, as had the artist Cate Watkinson, and further progress was now awaited. The report was Noted with satisfaction.

10. DALTON-LE-DALE NAMEPLATE SIGNS :

The Clerk reported receipt of an estimate in the sum of £1550 for the provision of new-style signs at the three locations identified at the site meeting on 30th September 2002. As there was some doubt as to whether the sign at the Murton boundary should be provided at the County Council's expense, it was

Agreed : That the Clerk make enquiries of other Parish Councils as to the method of charging

used for the provision of their new signs.

11. GARDEN COMPETITION 2003 :

Following confirmation from Mr.Keith Henson of Seaham Town Council's Parks Department that he would again be happy to act as judge, it was

Agreed : a) That the Council stage a 2003 Competition on a similar basis to the successful event in 2002.

b) That more publicity be given to the competition, and at an earlier date, in order to attract more entries.

c) That the categories and prize values remain the same as those which applied in 2002.

12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – 1ST MAY 2003 :

In the light of the parish having been split over two electoral wards, discussion took place regarding the nomination of members for re-election, and the need to determine who would stand for each of the two wards – Dalton Urban Ward (5 members) and Dalton Village Ward (4 members). In order to give the matter proper consideration, it was

Agreed : That an informal meeting of members be held in the W.I.Hall on Thursday 27th March at 7 p.m.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS :

The Clerk reported having written to the County Council regarding ownership of Dalton Bridge. Subsequent correspondence had revealed that although the County was not in fact the owner of the bridge, it had undertaken without prejudice, responsibility for its maintenance. A physical inspection had been carried out, and the bridge had been found to be structurally sound, and not in need of any repairs other than perhaps some cosmetic improvements. With regard to the suggestion that some environmental improvements in the immediate vicinity would be desirable, the County's Landscape Officer was to meet with the District Council's Head of Planning on Friday 7th March to discuss the situation, and also carry out a promised review of the Parish Council's request for Conservation Status. General landscaping could be carried out with the advice and assistance of the District Council, and perhaps with some additional input by the Countryside Agency, which is the body charged with administering grant funding applications.

Agreed : That the Clerk's report be Noted and that further progress be awaited.

14. CONSERVATION STATUS :

This item was placed on the Agenda prior to the receipt of information from Durham County Council

outlined in Minute No.(13) above, and in the light of the Clerk's report, no further discussion took place.

15. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

a) Councillor Keegan referred to the need for an additional grit bin to be provided for Dalton Grange estate, and the Clerk undertook to raise the matter with the District Council's Highways Section.

b) Councillor Westmorland drew members' attention to the increasing nuisance being caused to residents and their domestic pets by gun fire emanating from the Sunday Gun Club, which operates from the vicinity of the Waterworks. Other members confirmed this problem, and it was

Agreed : That the Clerk ascertain the conditions under which the Club had obtained planning permission for its operations.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Thursday 3rd April 2003 at 7 p.m.