

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING – 8th MAY 2003

PRESENT : Councillor W.Hepplewhite (Chairman)

Councillors M.Gustard, L.Keegan, W.Kennedy, R.Olaman, M.Oliver, A.Westmorland

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillor G.Gustard

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN :

Councillor W.Hepplewhite was Proposed and Seconded, and there being no further nominations, it was

Agreed : That Councillor W.Hepplewhite be, and is hereby elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Hepplewhite duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office

3. DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE :

Members present duly signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, which were Countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer of the Council.

The Chairman reported having received a letter from Councillor G.Gustard explaining that because of work commitments, he would be living away from home during the week for a period of approximately six months, and would therefore be unlikely to attend meetings of the Council. The Clerk pointed out that having been elected as a member of the Council, Councillor Gustard had signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to leaving home, and that he had been advised to seek a "statutory excuse" under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 so as to avoid forfeiting his seat by virtue of persistent absence.

Agreed : That Councillor G.Gustard's stated reasons for absence from future Meetings be Noted and Approved.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN :

Councillor M.Oliver was Proposed and Seconded, and there being no further nominations, it was

Agreed : That Councillor M.Oliver be, and is hereby elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

5. POLICE REPORT :

P.C.Janet Hutchinson, the beat officer for the Dalton-le-Dale area presented a short report on a quiet month. There had been a break-in at Glebe Farm, for the purposes of stealing diesel fuel; the culprits had been disturbed, and one had been detained. The Chairman reported an instance of suspicious behaviour in the village on 6th May, when a number of men in a blue car had been looking at houses. P.C.Hutchinson warned residents to be vigilant, and to report any such behaviour to the Police. Councillor Keegan enquired whether the Police had authority to deal with untaxed vehicles, and the officer explained that they had if the road on which the vehicle was standing was maintained at public expense.

6. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS :

The Clerk circulated the appropriate documentation for members' attention, the forms to be returned at the June meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE - 2003/4 :

Agreed : That the Chairman's Allowance for the 2003/4 civic year remain unchanged at £400

8. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES :

Agreed : That the following appointments be made :

- a) District of Easington North Area Forum Coun.R.Olaman
- b) Easington Area Association of Parish/Town Councils Coun.R.Olaman
- c) C.P.R.E. Coun.W.Hepplewhite
- d) Tidy Easington District Coun.W.Hepplewhite
- e) Police Joint Consultative Committee Coun.M.Oliver
- f) East Durham & Houghall College Coun.W.Kennedy
- g) DAPTC Annual Meeting Couns.Hepplewhite/Westmorland
- h) Dalton-le-Dale Community Association Couns M.Gustard/M.Oliver

9. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3rd April 2003 (a copy of which had been circulated previously to each member, be Approved and Signed as a correct record.

10. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :

- a) Minute No.4(a) - Horse Chestnut Tree:

Still awaiting approval from the Archdeacon for the work to proceed - Urgent

b) Minute No.4(d) - Millennium Window:

Faculty papers with English Heritage - last stage in the process

c) Minute No.4(f) - Sunday Gun Club:

No specific conditions relating to noise levels To seek information regarding types of guns used.

d) Minute No.9b) - Traffic Calming - Dalton Heights:

To seek site meeting with Durham County Council

e) Minute No.10(e) - Dalton Park Retail Outlet:

No response received - Chairman has met with senior member of management.

f) Minute No.5(a) - Dog Bins:

Clerk reported delay in delivery of two new bins for Watson Close/Weymouth Drive due to heavy demand.

g) Minute No.10(a) - Road Signage:

District of Easington confirms these matters receiving attention

h) Minute No.10(d) - Debris in Stream:

Urgent attention to be given - debris beginning to smell

11. ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2003 :

The meeting considered as Appendix 1 the report of the Clerk on the Council's financial situation at the end of 2002/2003.

Agreed : That the report of the Clerk be Noted and Approved and that the Statement of Account be formally Adopted.

12. CORRESPONDENCE :

a) Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils - Annual Meeting

At the Clerk's suggestion, it was Agreed to submit a Notice of Motion urging more consultation time to be allowed for responding to questionnaires etc. from Government departments and other bodies. It was also

Agreed to propose all outgoing officers for re-election.

b) DAPTC

Draft guidance for attaining Quality Status was Noted. Final confirmation was expected before the end of May.

c) District of Easington - Parish/Town Council Elections

Notification of Uncontested Election was Noted. As a result, there was a vacancy on the Council, and

it was

Agreed that this be advertised on the notice boards and in the Newsletter.

d) District of Easington - Music Festival - October 2003

Provisional details of the Festival were Noted

e) University of Birmingham - Review of Local Government Structures in Durham

It was

Agreed to respond to this questionnaire by proposing that should a Regional Assembly for the North East be established (following a referendum vote), the constituent Unitary Authorities comprise an amalgamation of the existing District Councils.

f) Dalton-le-Dale Community Association - Funding

The Chairman submitted a letter from the Community Association explaining that it was currently facing a substantial outlay for solicitors' fees in connection with the preparation with a lease document between it and the W.I., which would allow it to proceed with the application for Charity Status. As the Parish Council's representative on the Management Committee, Councillor M.Gustard reported that the lease would be for a term of 50 years at a peppercorn rent.

Agreed : That the further sum of £600 be paid to the Association to facilitate this transaction.

g) Countryside Commission - Parish Plans

Following discussion on this documentation, the Clerk was instructed to re-open negotiations with the District of Easington and the County Council to further the preparation of an environmental improvement programme for the village. In this connection, it was Noted that Alan Dobie had succeeded Ian Forster at Easington on a temporary basis with respect to planning and associated matters.

13. PLANNING MATTERS :

a) New Applications :

i) Proposed conservatory at 2 Queens Avenue

b) Approved Applications :

i) Proposed front & rear extension at 57 Dalton Heights

ii) Proposed private garage at 26 Escallond Drive

c) Rejected Applications :

i) Proposed conversion of existing shop into 2 units and change of use of shop to hot food takeaway - 1&2 Jubilee Avenue.

ii) Proposed change of use from off-licence & food store to hot food takeaway

at Grasmere House, Stockton Road

14. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices 004 - 011 in the sum of £3828.61 as itemised in Appendix No.4 to the Agenda

15. REPORTS :

a) The Chairman reported having attended the recent T.E.D.Committee, at which the retirement of Bill Smith was announced, and at his request, the Clerk was requested to send a message of best wishes.

b) Councillor M.Gustard reported on her attendance at the recent Annual Meeting of the Community Association, at which all of the officers had been e-elected. Future A.G.M.'s would be held in April.

16. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

a) Councillor Keegan reported a blocked gulley at Dalton Heights, and requested that "Give Way" road markings should be provided at the junction of Dalton Heights and Escallond Drive. These matters would be raised at the site meeting in connection with the traffic calming measures.

b) The Clerk sought Approval for the adopted Chairman's report for 2002/3 to form the basis of the forthcoming newsletter which was in course of preparation. This was

Agreed.

c) Councillor Olaman expressed concern at the condition of the alleyways which cross Jubilee, Queens and Doreen Avenues in two locations off Stockton Road. The dolomite surface was eroding, and weeds were beginning to appear at the foot of the walls of the adjoining properties, causing dampness. At Councillor Olaman's suggestion, it was

Agreed : That estimates be obtained for replacing the dolomite surface with tarmac.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held in the W.I.Hall on Thursday 5th June 2003 commencing at 7 p.m.