

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 4TH SEPTEMBER 2003

PRESENT : Councillor W.Hepplewhite (Chairman)

Councillors M.Gustard, L.Keegan, R.Olaman, A.Westmorland

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillors G.Gustard, W.Kennedy & M.Oliver

1. DALTON-LE-DALE IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2003 :

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting, Keith Henson of Seaham Town Council's Parks Department who had judged the competition, and his wife Christine who had assisted by taking of photographs of the entries. He also welcomed four of the six entrants, and thanked them for supporting the competition.

Keith Henson congratulated everyone who had taken part, and commented on the quality of their gardens, which had been a delight to judge.

The Chairman proceeded to present the awards as follows :

Best Overall Garden Mr.E.Steel "Dalton Lodge" Dalton-le-Dale

Runner up Mr.J.Monarch "Dun Roaming" Dalton-le-Dale

Best Hanging Baskets Mr.& Mrs.Keegan Weymouth Drive, Dalton Grange

Certificates of Merit were awarded to :

Mrs.M.Scott Weymouth Drive, Dalton Grange

Mr.K.Hughes "Strathmore" Dalton-le-Dale

Mr.I.Bailey Escallond Drive Dalton Heights

2. CASUAL VACANCY :

Members proceeded to interview two of the three candidates for the vacancy in the Dalton Urban Ward, and following two excellent presentations, it was

Agreed : That by a majority of 3 votes to 1 with one abstention, Mrs.Diane Gleghorn of 3 Dartmouth Close, Dalton Grange, be appointed to serve on the Parish Council as a member for the Dalton Urban Ward.

3. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd July 2003 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member) be Approved and Signed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of Minute No.15(c) to read :

" A member reported an instance of a car being parked regularly on landscaped ground in Walton Avenue, and requested that a letter be sent to the owner"

It was Noted that this practice had now stopped, and the car was being parked on a private drive.

4. MATTERS ARISING :

a) Minute No.2 - Traffic Problems at Overdene & Dalton Heights

It was noted that interim measures had been carried out to improved the visibility of drivers emerging from Overdene, but that more permanent improvements needed to be introduced such as the provision of additional signing, repeater speed limit notices and road markings warning of the approach to the junction.

b) Minute No.4(b) - Debris in stream

The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from Seaham Town Council in this connection, indicating that similar problems were being experienced in its area, despite remedial work being carried out by Parks Department staff. In order to ascertain the identity of the riparian owner of the stream, with whom responsibility for maintenance presumably rested, it was

Agreed : That a request be made for the matter to be placed on the Agenda of the next Area Forum which was scheduled to meet on 29th October.

c) Minute No.4(g) Environment & Conservation

The Clerk reported on a change of personnel at both the County and District Councils, and drew members' attention to a "character appraisal" of the existing conservation areas in the Easington District which was being undertaken over the next twelve months. A draft report to consider Dalton-le-Dale' case was expected at the end of March 2004, with a final report to follow towards the end of April 2004. The report was Noted, and it was

Agreed : That a meeting of the Planning, Conservation & Regeneration sub- group be convened to consider the matter further and recommend a response.

d) Minute No.5(a) Parish Paths Partnership

The Chairman reported on the attendance of himself and the Clerk at a ceremony at County Hall to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Partnership, at which the Parish Council had been presented with a commemorative certificate to mark its participation in the scheme. The report was Noted with satisfaction.

e) Minute No.5(f) Civic Service

Councillor M.Gustard reported on her attendance, together with the Vice Chairman and the Clerk at the Service in St.John's Church Seaham to mark the year of office of the Chairman of the District Council. The report was Noted.

f) Minute No.11-Millennium Window

The Clerk reported that arrangements had been made for the removal and temporary replacement of the existing window during the week commencing 8th September. He had been advised by Cate Watkinson that the manufacture of the new window would take some 2 months to complete and install. The report was Noted, and a number of tentative suggestions were made to mark the installation in due course.

5. ETHICAL STANDARDS ROADSHOWS :

The meeting considered a report by the Clerk detailing a number of events across the district at which training would be given to members in connection with the Standards Board for England's Code of Practice.

Agreed : That the Clerk advise the organisers of the dates submitted by members.

6. NATIONAL TRAINING STRATEGY :

The Clerk reported for information, details of the formation of the County's Training Partnership Accreditation Panel to which applications for Quality Status would be submitted at the appropriate time, and which would administer the training arrangements for Clerks with a view to obtaining the AQA certificate, which was an essential criterion for Quality Status. The report was Noted.

7. DURHAM ASSOCIATION AGM - NOTICE OF MOTION :

The Clerk reported that the Council's Notice of Motion urging longer consultation periods by Government and other bodies, had been accepted and supported by the County Executive Committee, and would be debated at the Annual Meeting on 4th October.

8. DURHAM CONSTABULARY - DIVISIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT:

The meeting considered as Appendix 3 (a copy of which had been circulated previously to each member) the interim report by the Easington Divisional Commander for the year 2003/4.

9. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS - WINTER SERVICE :

The Clerk reported on the pre-salting programme proposed by the County Council, which indicated that 41% of its roads would be treated during winter 2003/4. The report was Noted.

10. REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN DURHAM - REGIONAL ASSEMBLY :

The meeting considered as Appendix 4 a report by the Clerk on the review being undertaken by the Boundary Committee into the future of local government in the County in the event of the Referendum into the creation of a Regional Assembly resulting in a "yes" vote. A consultation process was currently taking place, with a deadline for submissions of 8th September. The report was Noted without comment.

11. DISTRICT OF EASINGTON- CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE :

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 18th September, and the Chairman indicated that he would attend.

12. PLANNING MATTERS :

The following applications were Noted without comment :

- a) Proposed rear extension at "Deneholme" Dalton-le-Dale
- b) Proposed private garage at 7 Jubilee Avenue
- c) Proposed conservatory at 6 Plymouth Close, Dalton Grange
- d) Proposed two storey side & single storey rear extension at 8 Yarmouth Close, Dalton Grange

13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos.20 to 33 in the sum £2549.69

14. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

- a) It was felt that the Dalton Heights traffic calming proposals submitted by the County Council's Highways Engineer should be the subject of a consultation exercise across the estate, and authority was given for each resident to be approached in this connection.

- b) Further concern was expressed regarding the small holding to the rear of the eastern end of Dene Road, where it was believed that unauthorised occupation was taking place, and from where nuisance was being caused to nearby residents by continually barking dogs. The Clerk was instructed to take the matter up once again with the District Council.
- c) A member observed that comments were being made by residents regarding work being carried out at the rear of Burnside Cottages involving what appeared to be the digging of terracing on the southern bank of the stream. Concern was expressed regarding possible damage to trees in the vicinity, and the Clerk was instructed to take the matter up with the District Council.
- d) The Clerk was instructed to draw the attention of Northumbrian Water to the situation at the rear of Escallond Drive, where recent work carried out on its behalf had not been properly re-instated.
- e) The Clerk reported that he had become aware of the possibility of future housing development at The Lawns, and had sought clarification from the District Council. A housing officer had reported that many of the houses on the estate had been empty for some time, and were to be demolished, and that although some form of future development was envisaged, there was no firm proposals at this stage.
- f) In view of the concerns being expressed by the County Council at the removal of a number of guards from the new hedgerow, a contractor had been approached with a view to them being replaced. Further progress was awaited.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Thursday 2nd October at 7 p.m.