

*DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL*

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING – 2nd OCTOBER 2003**

**PRESENT : Councillor M.Oliver (Chairman)**

**Councillors D.Gleghorn, M.Gustard, L.Keegan, W.Kennedy, R.Olaman & A.Westmorland**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :**

**Councillors W.Hepplewhite & G.Gustard**

**2. COUNCILLOR DIANE GLEGHORN :**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Gleghorn to her first meeting as the newly co-opted member, and she duly signed her Declaration of Office, which was countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer, and her Declaration of Interests.

**3. POLICE REPORT :**

Inspector Smith and P.C.Janet Hutchinson presented a joint report, which indicated a relatively quiet month in the parish. There had been an attempted break-in at Brydon House, but no entry had been gained. Members queried the use of the Police helicopter in the area in mid September, and Inspector Smith advised that this was in connection with a domestic disturbance. There had also been Police activity in the Overdene area; this was in connection with surveillance duties.

**4. MINUTES :**

**Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th September 2003 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member, be Approved and Signed as a correct record.**

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :**

**a) Minute No.4(a) - Traffic Calming at Dalton Heights**

Councillor Keegan and the Clerk reported that the County Council was currently conducting a public consultation exercise in connection with the proposed provision of four sets of road humps on the estate. This would be ongoing until 17th October.

The report was Noted.

**b) Minute No.4(f) - Millennium Window**

The Clerk reported that the old window had been removed and temporarily replaced pending the installation of the new stained glass window. Advice was that the proposed commemorative service could not take place on St.Andrew's Day as had originally been hoped, since this was also the date of another Festival. The situation was Noted, and it was

**Agreed : That alternative arrangements be made for the Service of Dedication to be held as soon after St.Andrew's Day as possible, while the Church was suitably decorated.**

c) Minute No.7 - DAPTC Annual Meeting

The Clerk advised that this meeting had been postponed to Saturday 1st November

d) Minute No.14(b) - Smallholding at Dene Road

The Clerk reported having contacted the District Council's Environmental Health section in connection with the ongoing nuisance at this location, caused by barking dogs and other aggravations. He had been informed that individual letters of complaint from residents would be necessary in order for the matter to be investigated further, but members felt that the Parish Council as such, should be in a position to take the concerns further on their behalf, and avoid the danger of individuals being subject to possible intimidation. The Clerk was instructed to proceed accordingly.

e) Minute No.14(c) - Land at rear of Burnside Cottages

The Clerk reported on the comments and advice provided by the District Council's Tree Officer in this connection, and further information was awaited.

f) Minute No.14(e) - Proposed Development at The Lawns

Members noted the information provided by the District Council's Principal Policy Officer in this connection, and further information was awaited.

g) Minute No.14(f) - Hedgerows

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting details of the cost of replacing the wire mesh Guards.

**6. ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION :**

Further consideration was given to this matter in the light of previous correspondence from the County and District Councils. It was felt that an early meeting of the appropriate working group should be held, but that currently, this comprised only the Chairman and Councillor M.Gustard. Accordingly, it was

**Agreed : That the matter be discussed further at the November meeting.**

**7. COUNCIL MEMBERS - ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS - "STATUTORY EXCUSE"**

The Clerk reported having taken advice from the Secretary of the Durham Association, and that in this

particular instance, the "statutory" excuse for absence would extend to and include the December meeting. The report was Noted.

## **8. BUDGET 2004/2005 - PELIMINARY DISCUSSION :**

A brief discussion took place on the Council's commitments for the 2004/5 financial year, to be built in to the budget and Precept requirement. It was Noted that current commitments included the Millennium Window, traffic calming at Dalton Heights (subject to public approval), and road widening at Overdene. Other projects would be considered in due course. The Clerk advised that the Precept requirement for 2004/5 would as usual, be conveyed to the District Council in December, and that he would submit a full budget proposal to the November meeting.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS :**

The following planning Approvals were Noted :

- a) Private garage at 7 Jubilee Avenue
- b) Conservatory at 6 Plymouth Close
- c) Two storey side & single storey rear extension at 8 Yarmouth Close

There were no new applications to be considered

## **10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & FINANCIAL REPORT :**

**Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos.34 to 37 in the sum of £1247.44**

The Clerk presented a Statement of Account for the half-year ended 30th September indicating an available balance of £38299.28

## **11. REPORTS :**

- a) Councillor Westmorland reported on his attendance at a Training Session in Planning matters, which he had found to be most informative. The session had been arranged by Planning Aid, part of the Royal Town Planning Institute, which could advise Town & Parish Councils on planning matters generally.
- b) Councillor Oliver presented a detailed report on her attendance at a recent meeting of the Police Liaison Committee, which had included a talk on policing at Dalton Retail Park. Various crime statistics were given and it was also reported that the Police office was now situated in the Park, the Murton office having closed.

## **12. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :**

a) Councillor Keegan enquired about the availability of floral baskets in the area beyond the Graham Way roundabout, and it was Agreed that this item would be discussed further at the November meeting.

b) Reference was made to the roadside fence at Jubilee Avenue, which apart from its poor condition of repair, was a danger to motorists leaving their vehicles by virtue of not having sufficient gaps to allow access to the verge. It was also recognised that there was a potential danger to drivers of north facing parked cars having to step directly on to the carriageway. The Clerk was instructed to take the situation up with the Highways Authority.

c) Councillor Gustard reported a recent incident in which a branch of the horsechestnut tree in the Churchyard had fallen on to the footpath, blocking the entrance to the Church, and causing a great deal of physical difficulty in removing it. Concern was expressed at the safety of the tree generally, and the Clerk was instructed to arrange for a further inspection by Houghall Enterprises following the recent remedial work carried out by them.

## **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :**

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Thursday 6th November at 7p.m.