

***DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL***

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 4TH DECEMBER 2003**

**PRESENT : Councillor W.Hepplewhite (Chairman)**

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

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :**

**Councillors G.Gustard & R.Olaman**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :**

Personal declarations were made by Councillors Hepplewhite, Gustard, Kennedy and Oliver in respect of Agenda item No.7(b)

**3. POLICE REPORT :**

There was no Police Officer in attendance

**4. MINUTES :**

**Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th November 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 - Great North Forest

The Clerk reported for information purposes that the launch of the East Durham section of this project, the Bulmer Forest Park, would take place on Friday 5th December, when Lord Clark of Windermere and Chairman of the Forestry Commission would perform the ceremony and plant a commemorative tree. The report was Noted.

b) Minute No.8 - Traffic Calming - Dalton Heights

The Clerk reported that the public consultation period was still ongoing and that there was nothing further to report at this stage. The report was Noted.

c) Minute No.16(c) - Electricity Supply - Dene Road area

The Clerk reported on the action which had been taken by NEDL to identify the cause of this problem, and that further investigations were ongoing. The report was Noted.

**6. MILLENNIUM WINDOW - SERVICE OF DEDICATION :**

The Chairman reported on a very successful and enjoyable ceremony on Monday 1st December to mark the installation of the window, which was performed by Bishop Stephen Sykes, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese, and Principal of St. John's College.

The window had been very well received, and he read a letter from the Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council complimenting and thanking the Parish Council for commissioning the window, which would be admired for many years to come. The Chairman paid tribute to everyone who had worked so hard over a long period of time to bring the project to fruition, culminating in a fitting dedication ceremony. It was

**Agreed : That letters of thanks be sent to everyone who had played a part in the project since its inception in 1998 and to those who had helped in the preparations for the Dedication Service.**

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE :**

### a) Seaham Town Council-Townwide Events-Joint Promotion with other Local Councils

This correspondence sought to arrange a joint meeting with Dalton-le-Dale and Seaton with Slingley Parish Councils to consider the possibility of some form of partnership working in relation to community events. The date offered for the meeting co-incided with the Dedication Service at St. Andrew's Church, and had had to be declined.

**Agreed : That an alternative date be arranged for this meeting, to be attended by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.**

### b) Dalton-le-Dale Community Association - Financial Assistance towards to Christmas Festivities

This correspondence requested some financial assistance towards holding community events during the Christmas and New Year Season. These events would be available to all residents of the parish, and would provide the opportunity to demonstrate the value of an active community centre and be a fillip to the Association's efforts to secure support for a new centre. Costings for a New Year's Eve function, including karaoke were given, and it was

**Agreed : That a contribution of £160 be made to the Association for the purpose indicated.**

### c) Various residents - request for additional dog bin

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from local dog owners, requesting that a waste bin be provided either at the foot of the Cragdale Villas track or at the bottom of Stoney Cut. Following discussion, it was

**Agreed : a) That arrangements be made for a suitable bin to be provided**

**b) That enquiries be made as to the reasons for charging for the removal and disposal of dog waste, while other forms of litter removal were carried out free of charge.**

### d) Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils - Fly Tipping

This correspondence gave advice as to the efforts being made by County and District Councils to eradicate this nuisance. It was feared that since in 2004 all private cars would need to be taxed whilst on the public highway, whether or not they were in use, this would lead to more instances of abandoned vehicles.

## **8. DOG WASTE BIN - DALTON HEIGHTS :**

The Clerk reported having been informed that one of the bins serving this estate had been destroyed by fire, and that the District Council had been asked to supply a replacement. The local member reported that the new bin was now in place.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS :**

There were no new applications or approvals to report

## **10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :**

**Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos.41 to 49 in the sum of £4019.51**

## **11. REPORTS :**

a) Councillor M.Gustard presented her report as the Council's representative at the recent meeting of the Community Association's Management Committee. Mr.Geoff Price, the District Council's Lottery Officer had given an update on the position with regard to grant aid funding for the new hall, and it was noted that new tables were being delivered on 5th December. Mrs.Wendy Westmorland from the Easington Primary Care Trust had given a presentation and practical advice on the use of the new hall vis-à-vis health related issues.

Councillor Kennedy as Secretary of the Community Association reported that the project was now at a crucial stage. Then next application for funding from the National Lottery Community Fund had to be submitted by 22nd December.

b) The Chairman reported on his attendance at a recent Tidy Ted meeting at which the disposal of rubbish and recycling were discussed as part of the County Council's Agenda 21 programme, and concerns were expressed at the appearance of off-shore wind turbines off Noses Point.

## **12. COUNCILLOR G.GUSTARD - RESIGNATION :**

The Chairman read a letter from Councillor Gustard expressing regret that because of work commitments, he was unable to attend meetings as required, and accordingly, tendered his resignation. The Clerk advised that because Councillor Gustard's absence had now extended to six consecutive meetings, a Casual Vacancy should be declared, and the necessary procedure put in place to seek a successor.

**Agreed : That Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council hereby declares a casual vacancy in the Dalton Urban Ward, and that the District Council be requested to advertise the vacancy in the appropriate manner.**

**13. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :**

Further concern was expressed at the amount of litter which had accumulated in the vicinity of Grasmere House shops, and the Clerk was instructed to take up the matter with the District Council as a health hazard.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :**

In accordance with normal practice, it was Noted that no meeting would be held in January 2004, the next meeting being scheduled for Thursday 5th February.

In closing the meeting the Chairman wished everyone the Compliments of the Season, and Best Wishes for the New Year.