

*DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL*

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 4TH MARCH 2004**

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

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

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :**

There were no declarations to report

**2. POLICE REPORT :**

Sergeant Gary Webb and P.C.Janet Hutchinson were in attendance, and reported as follows :

P.C.Hutchinson referred to a snowballing incident in the village in which twelve youths were stopped and questioned. She also reported problems with car parking at the Church during weddings and funerals. A member intervened to report that the Church had provided "no waiting" bollards to overcome the difficulty.

Sergeant Webb addressed the continuing anti-social problems at Deneside. A number of dedicated officers had been deployed to combat the situation under new legislation, and he explained the methods which were being adopted. He questioned whether the patrolling should be extended to cover Dalton Grange, since it was necessary to define operational areas on a map, but it was felt that at the present time this would amount to overkill and perhaps be counter productive. On the suggestion of carrying out a consultation exercise at Dalton Grange, it was agreed that as little publicity as possible be given to the situation, and that the delineated area remain as small as possible.

A member requested that the Parish Council be kept apprised of the situation, and this was **Agreed.**

**3. CASUAL VACANCY :**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs.Sharon Richardson of Dalton Heights to the meeting, and having confirmed her wish to be co-opted to the Council, she duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer. Members wished Councillor Richardson a long and fruitful association with the Council.

**4. REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH :**

There were no residents in attendance

## **5. MINUTES :**

**Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th February 2004 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member) were Approved and Signed as a correct record.**

## **6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :**

### **a) Minute No.6(a) - Traffic Calming - Dalton Heights**

The Clerk confirmed that in connection with the recent public consultation exercise, the County Highways Department had acknowledged that in these circumstances, its policy was to treat non-responses as "yes" votes. Accordingly, this implied a sizeable support for the provision of the traffic calming measures proposed, despite the rejection of the scheme. Arising from discussion, it was

**Agreed : That the Clerk seek a further explanation of the County Council's stance, and to ascertain whether any further option was open to discussion, e.g. pinch points.**

### **b) Minute No.7 - Durham County Council Urban & Rural Renaissance**

It was Noted that this matter would be considered more fully at the meeting of the environmental working party scheduled for 11th March.

### **c) Minute No.10(c) - Tree Preservation Orders**

It was Noted that this item would be considered at the meeting of the environmental working party on 11th March.

### **d) Minute No.13 - Land south of Jubilee Avenue**

Councillor Keegan and the Clerk reported jointly on the present position, following an estate agent's recent press advertisement repeating the suitability of this area for garage/workshop development. The Clerk advised that a response was awaited from the District Council's planning department to a further request for clarification of the extent of the existing planning approval for the land.

### **e) Minute No.15(b) - Road Safety Measures - B1285**

Councillor Westmorland felt that further efforts should be made to expedite the improvements discussed at the site meeting in 2003 to be put in place, and he produced a report listing the items which had been highlighted. The Clerk was instructed to take the necessary action.

### **f) Minute No.16(b) - Dalton Beck**

Further concerns were expressed over the condition of the beck, which in places was changing course as a result of more blockages and erosion. Efforts were still being made to identify those responsible for maintenance, but conflicting information was being given. It was felt that in order to allay public concern, a letter should be circulated to all residents of the village explaining the efforts which were being made to seek a solution to the problem.

## **7. PLANNING MATTERS :**

The following planning approval was Noted :

a) Rear conservatory at 7 Dale Terrace for M.C.Johnston

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

**Agreed : That Approval be given to the payment of Invoices Nos. 65 to 69 in the sum of £680.64**

The Clerk circulated for members' information a Statement of Account for the period 1st April 2003 to 29th February 2004

## **9. BURIAL FEES :**

The Clerk reported on the scales of burial fees charged by neighbouring authorities, a copy of which would be retained on file.

## **10. DALTON-LE-DALE IN BLOOM 2004 :**

Discussion took place regarding the format of the 2004 competition, and it was

**Agreed : a) That the Dalton-le-Dale in Bloom Competition be again held on the same format as 2003, with an additional category - "Low Maintenance Garden"**

b) That an official entry form be printed as part of the Council's newsletter for distribution to every household in the parish

c) That Keith Henson of Seaham Town Council's Parks Department be again invited to act as judge of the competition.

## **11. REPORTS :**

a) The Chairman reported on his attendance at recent meetings of the District Council's Consultative Committee and TED meeting, where graffiti problems had been discussed.

b) Councillor Westmorland and the Clerk reported jointly on their attendance at a meeting at the District Council's offices at which matters relating to the North East Regional Assembly were discussed, together with the Boundary Committee's recommendations as to the options to be offered at the forthcoming referendum.

c) Councillor Gustard reported on a recent meeting of the Community Association's Management Committee. Further claims for grant aid had been submitted, and the result of the Lottery application was expected in the near future. A number of social activities were being planned, which would be publicised at the appropriate time.

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

The Clerk was instructed to expedite the following matters :

- a) To make representations in connection with the advertising hoardings alongside the A19.
- b) To seek repairs to the carriageway and footpaths from Dene Road to the Parish boundary.
- c) To arrange for repairs to the steps leading from The Graham Way to Right of Way No.1
- d) To arrange for the cutting back of overhanging trees to the east of the Parish Boundary.
- e) To arrange for the siting of a dog waste bin at the foot of the Cragdale Villas track.

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

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Thursday 1st April 2004 at 7p.m.