

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

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 1ST APRIL 2004**

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

**Councillors D.Gleghorn, M.Gustard, L.Keegan, R.Olaman, M.Oliver, S.Richardson & A.  
Westmorland**

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**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :**

**There were no declarations to record**

**2. POLICE REPORT :**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Sergeant Jack Clark and P.C.Malcolm Pugh, together with Deneside Ward Councillors Eddie Bell and Peter Campbell who had expressed a wish to attend and give a presentation on the newly emerging Anti-Social Behaviour legislation.

Sergeant Clerk reported a quiet month, during which there had been few incidents to record. These included burglaries at Escallond Drive and Burnside in which sums of cash had been stolen. There had also been reports of air guns being discharged in the dene, but despite a Police attendance, no-one had been identified. Police were also monitoring an instance of a suspicious vehicle parked at the Times Inn.

Councillor Bell advised that the anti-social legislation was now coming into force, under which the Police were empowered to disperse groups and prohibit their return to the area within 24 hours. He outlined the operational area which had been identified for Deneside, which at this stage did not include Dalton Grange, which the Parish Council had agreed should be excluded. Councillor Campbell reported that he had questioned a small number of residents of the estate, and had found that they would welcome inclusion.

Both ward members emphasised the perceived advantages of the legislation, and felt that Dalton Grange would benefit from inclusion in what was officially described as the "relevant locality"

General discussion ensued, in which Parish members re-iterated their opposition to the suggestion at this stage, at the same time enquiring how long it would take to achieve inclusion at some future date if warranted. It was pointed out that this was difficult to quantify at this stage.

The Chairman drew the discussion to a close and thanked the Police officers and ward members for their attendance.

Further discussion ensued, and it was

**Agreed : a) That in the absence of the Chairman, the Clerk's action in agreeing to the ward councillors request to attend the meeting, be Endorsed and Approved.**

**b) That the Parish Council's opposition to the inclusion of Dalton Grange in the "relevant locality" be re-iterated, and that the Clerk advise the appropriate authorities accordingly.**

### **3. REPRESENTATIONS BY RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH :**

There were no residents in attendance.

### **4. MINUTES :**

**Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th March 2004 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member) were Approved and Signed as a correct record.**

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

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

The Clerk reported that as instructed, he had sought an explanation of the County Council's stated policy in local consultation exercises, that "non responses" would be deemed to be in support of the proposal under consideration, and what relevant percentages were taken into account. In a verbal response, he had been advised that in this particular case, the level of opposition in relation to the number of actual responses received was such as to influence the relevant committee to reject the proposal.

The Clerk further reported that in an effort to progress the matter, he had ascertained that the County Council would not oppose a unilateral consultation exercise by the Parish Council.

**Agreed : That the Clerk's report be Noted and that the matter be considered further in six months' time.**

**(At this point, Councillor W.Kennedy joined the meeting)**

#### **b) Minute No.6(d) - Land south of Jubilee Avenue**

The Clerk reported having been assured by the Planning Officer that the current planning approval for this land was restricted to a private garage, and that any departure from this for commercial or other use would require a new application, for which the usual consultation process would be undertaken.

#### **c) Minute No.6(e) - Road Safety Measures - B1285**

The Clerk advised that the County Council Highways Department had acknowledged the request for the remedial measures identified at a site meeting with the Police to be implemented at an early date.

#### d) Minute No.6(f) - Dalton Beck

The Clerk submitted a revised version of the circular letter to be distributed to all households in the village drawing attention to the problems being encountered with the flow of the beck.

**Agreed : That the revised letter be Approved and that distribution be carried out as soon as practicable.**

#### 6. COUNTY DURHAM LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN :

The Clerk reported that the County Council was commencing consultation in connection with its new Local Transport Plan which was due to come into effect in 2006. As part of the consultation process, a meeting had been arranged to take place at Shotton Hall on Wednesday 28th April at 7 p.m. to which Parish & Town Councils had been invited. The report was Noted.

#### 7. HANGING BASKETS - STOCKTON ROAD :

The meeting considered as Appendix 1 a letter from the Parks Manager of Seaham Town Council setting out details of those lamp standards which would be suitable for accommodating floral hanging baskets, and which the County Council's Lighting Section had indicated its approval, subject to structural tests. The Parks Manager had indicated that any decision to proceed with a scheme would need to be structured to the 2005 growing season.

**Agreed : That the information be Noted, and that further consideration be given at a future meeting.**

#### 8. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP :

The Clerk reported receipt of information regarding the County Council's grant aid scheme for 2004, and it was

**Agreed : That the information be Noted and that further consideration be given at the next meeting of the Environmental Working Party on 13th May.**

#### 9) COMMUNITY EVENTS IN SEAHAM :

The meeting considered as Appendix 2 a further letter from the Town Clerk of Seaham requesting further consideration of this matter following the Parish Council's response to his initial approach.

**Agreed : That the letter be Received.**

#### 10. WARD SURGERIES :

Councillor Keegan suggested that joint use might be made of the surgeries held by the District Council Deneside Ward members for Parish Council purposes so that interested residents might be

able to raise items of interest and concern relating to parish matters. The suggestion was Noted for future consideration.

### **11. PRECEPT 2004/2005 :**

The Clerk reported for information, the arrangements for the payment of the 2004/2005 Precept by the District Council. 50% would be paid on 30th April, and the balance on 30th September.

### **12. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SECTION 137) :**

**Agreed : a) That the application by the Winged Fellowship Trust be Received**

**b) That in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, a payment of £25 be Approved in respect of Victim Support County Durham.**

**c) That a letter of appreciation by Finchale Training College in respect of the payment of £50 approved at the March meeting be Noted.**

### **13. PLANNING MATTERS :**

There were no new applications or approvals to report, Councillor Keegan reported having again spoken to the Planning Department in connection with the mobile advertising hoardings on the A19. A planning application was pending, and the appropriate consultation process would be undertaken.

**Agreed : That in view of complaints by residents, a formal objection to the siting of the hoardings be conveyed to the District Council.**

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

**Agreed : That Approval be given to the payment of Invoices Nos. 1 to 3 in the sum of £415.36 plus the payment of £25 agreed in Minute No.12(b) above.**

The Clerk distributed a provisional Statement of Account for the financial year ended 31st March 2004, advising that this was subject to the reconciliation of the various bank statements which were not yet to hand. A final report would be given at the May meeting. when the Accounts would be submitted for adoption by the Council as required by law.

### **15. REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY MEETING - 11TH MARCH**

Members considered the Clerk's report, and it was

**Agreed : a) That the report be amended to distinguish the proposed Conservation Area from other parts of the parish.**

**b) That in respect of the proposed Conservation Area, consideration might be given to the removal of the war-time pill box near the Times Inn.**

**c) That urgent attention be given to the dangerous condition of the steps on Public Footpath No.1 leading to The Graham Way.**

**d) That the items identified be considered more fully at the next meeting of the Working Party on Thursday 13th May 2004.**

## **16. REPORTS :**

a) Chairman

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the recent meeting of the District Council's Consultative Committee, at which matters relating to litter bins and graffiti removal had been discussed. He reported having requested further attention to be given to overhanging trees on the road through the village, and had obtained a plan identifying in part, the responsible owners of land to the south of the beck, to which attention would be given. Problems with recycling boxes had been discussed, and it had been advised that the blue wheely bins were in the middle of a 10 year agreement and could not be replaced at this stage.

b) Clerk :

i)The Clerk reported receipt of a response from the District Council's Chief Executive in connection with the Liveability Fund being piloted by his authority. Confirmation was given that Parish & Town Councils would be consulted at the appropriate time.

ii) In connection with the ownership of land adjoining the old Church Hall, details had now been provided by the Land Registry, and these were advised to members.

iii) Comparative costs of the siting of a dog waste bin at the foot of Cragdale Villas track were advised to members, and Approval given for the purchase of a "Fido 25" model from Messrs.Glasdon Ltd.

iv) The Clerk reported receipt of a request for financial assistance from St.Andrew's PCC towards the cost of a fund-raising event - "A Celebration of Remembrance in Flowers" It view of the late arrival of this request, the Clerk advised that it could not be properly considered until the May meeting.

## **17. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :**

a) The Clerk was instructed to contact the County Council's lighting section with a view to reducing the light emission from the new units on Walton Avenue, which were causing a nuisance to nearby residents.

**(At this point, Councillor M.Oliver left the meeting)**

b) Councillor Gustard referred briefly to possible ecclesiastical administrative changes in the parish

which were currently under discussion.

c) Councillor Gustard reported on a recent meeting of the Community Association Management Committee, at which an update had been given on the various grant aid applications. She further reported that the Association's Annual Meeting would be held on Thursday 29th April.

d) The Clerk was instructed to expedite the following matters ;

i) To arrange for the urgent repair to potholes on the carriageway at the entrance to Overdene.

ii) To press again for the provision of a pelican crossing near Padgett's Garage on Stockton Road.

iii) To arrange for the weeding and general maintenance of the floral tubs at Jubilee Avenue.

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

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Thursday 6th May 2004 at 7p.m. This would be the Council's Annual Meeting, and in accordance with normal practice, would be preceded by the Annual Meeting of Electors at 6.30 p.m