

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING - 6TH MAY 2004

PRESENT : Councillor W.Hepplewhite (Chairman)

Councillors M.Gustard, L.Keegan, W.Kennedy, R.Olaman, M.Oliver, S.Richardson, A. Westmorland

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Councillor D,Gleghorn

2) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN :

Councillor M.Oliver was Nominated, and there being no further nominations, it was

Agreed : That Councillor M.Oliver be, and is hereby elected to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Oliver duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and undertaking to observe the Ethical Code of Conduct, and this was countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer of the Council.

(Councillor M.Oliver in the Chair)

Councillor R.Olaman paid tribute to Councillor Hepplewhite for his work on behalf of the Parish Council for the past three years.

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

Councillor M.Gustard declared a Personal Interest in connection with Item No.15(a) on the Agenda,

4) ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN :

Councillor Hepplewhite was Nominated, and there being no further nominations, it was

Agreed : That Councillor W.Hepplewhite be, and is hereby elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

5) POLICE REPORT :

Sergeant Gary Webb reported on a stone throwing incident on the A19 footbridge in which a driver was hurt, an attempted burglary at Dalton Grange, a break-in at Queens Avenue, and a number of instances of graffiti in various locations. Drug taking activities had been uncovered in the old gun emplacement near the Times Inn , and Sergeant Webb appealed for vigilance by residents, and assistance in reporting their suspicions to the Police. A member reported having requested the removal of this building, but it was pointed out that it was earmarked for retention as part of the parish's historical heritage. It was suggested that the door be sealed, so as to prevent access.

A member reported cases of anti-social behaviour in the field to the rear of Dene Road, where groups of youths congregated and lit fires in and around a bush. This behaviour was very intimidating to hikers and dog walkers.

Sergeant Webb reported on the discussions which had taken place prior to the implementation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Order, and deprecated any activities which occurred, whether in or beyond the designated area.

6) REPRESENTATIONS BY RESIDENTS :

There were no residents in attendance.

7) CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE - 2004/2005 :

Agreed : That the Chairman's Allowance be increased to £450

8) REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES :

Agreed : That the Parish Council be represented on other bodies as follows :

- a) District of Easington North Area Forum Coun. R.Olaman
- b) Easington Area Association of Town/Parish Councils Coun. R.Olaman
- c) C.P.R.E. Coun. W.Hepplewhite
- d) Tidy Easington District Couns W.Hepplewhite/ S.Richardson
- e) Police Joint Consultative Committee Coun.M.Oliver
- f) East Durham & Houghall College Coun.W.Kennedy
- g) DAPTC Annual Meeting Couns.W.Hepplewhite/ A.Westmorland
- h) Dalton -le-Dale Community Association Coun.M.Gustard
- i) District of Easington Consultative Committee Coun.W.Hepplewhite

9) MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 st April 2004 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member), be Approved and Signed as a correct record.

10) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :

a) Minute No.5(d) - Dalton Beck

It was Noted that the letter recently circulated to all residents of the village had received a very good response

b) Minute No.5(c) - Road Safety Measures on B1285

Concern was expressed that despite the prompt response to the request for repairs to the road at the entrance to Overdene, the work was of poor quality, and that the Highways Department be asked to inspect the area with a view to improvements being made.

c) Minute No.17(a) - Lighting at Walton Avenue

It was still felt that the recently installed security lighting at Walton Avenue was intruding on residents' privacy, and that a further effort be made to reduce the power of the lamps.

d) Minute No.17(d)(iii) - Floral Tubs at Jubilee Avenue

It was Noted that no weeding had been carried out at this location, and that a further request be made.

11) ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST MARCH 2004 :

The meeting considered as Appendix 1 the report by the Clerk, and in accordance with the provisions of the Accounts & Audit Regulations, it was

Agreed : That the Accounts for the Year 2003/4 be formally adopted

12. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACT 2003 - SECTION 30 ORDERS - DISPERSAL OF GROUPS :

The Chairman and Clerk reported on the lead up to the implementation of this legislation. whereby the Parish Council had not been directly consulted prior to the determination of the relevant area, which it was felt should exclude Dalton Grange estate. The Chairman reported having attended the meeting of the District Council at which the Order was approved, and having been allowed to speak, but without success.

Accordingly, the legislation was given effect, with the Graham Way forming the southern boundary of the operational area.

13) PLANNING MATTERS :

The following new applications were Noted :

- a) Proposed first floor bay window to study & roof terrace at 39 Dalton Heights for Mr.& Mrs.R. Brown.
- b) Proposed 2 No. freestanding trailer signs at land north of Grange Mount, Stockton Road, and land south of Dalton Heights for Fun Shack (Card Trix) Ltd.

In connection with this application, the Clerk was instructed to submit an objection to the inappropriate location of this sign, and the fact that it had been in situ for many weeks without the benefit of planning approval.

14) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & FINANCIAL REPORT :

Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices 5 - 10 in the sum of £938.69 as listed on the Agenda.

The Clerk reported receipt from the District Council of the first instalment of Precept for the 2004/5 financial year, in the sum of £5,500 and the receipt of the sum of £17.55 in respect of loan interest for

the period 1st October 2003 to 31st March 2004

15) REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SEC.137) :

a) St.Andrew's Church - "Celebration & Remembrance in Flowers"

Councillor Kennedy declared a Personal Interest in this matter (having arrived late at the meeting), Councillor Gustard having declared a similar interest at Agenda Item 3. It was emphasised that the request was for the provision of flowers for a fund-raising event, and it was

Agreed : That in accordance with the provisions of Sec.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the sum of £50 be paid.

b) Durham County Council - GCSE Citizenship

Some doubt was expressed as to the legitimacy of this application, and the Clerk was requested to seek further details.

16) CLERK TO THE COUNCIL - PERSONAL STATEMENT :

The Clerk advised members that because of a number of personal reasons, he had submitted a letter of resignation from his post to the then Chairman. Copies were circulated to members, explaining the background to his decision. Following discussion, in which members expressed disappointment, the Clerk agreed to review his decision, and continue in post for a further temporary period.

17) REPORTS :

a) Councillor Gustard reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Community Association Management Committee, at which a steady increase in membership across the age ranges had been noted. Funding applications were still ongoing, and a programme of Summer activities was discussed.

b) Councillor Hepplewhite reported having attended a meeting of the District Council's Consultative Committee, and had noted that refuse bins on District Council land were emptied free of charge; it was also intimated that in cases where private cars were being parked on grass verges, the provision of hard-standing facilities might be available. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries. It was also noted that various problems associated with the operation of the blue re-cycling bins, especially by the elderly were being addressed. There was also to be an update on the Partnership arrangements in connection with Winter salting.

c) The Clerk reported having attended a number of training sessions associated with the Quality Status initiative, and having attended together with Councillor Hepplewhite, an "awareness" meeting at which various speakers spoke for and against a Regional Assembly for the North East, and debated the options for the composition of unitary authorities in the County should this come about.

18. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

The Clerk was instructed to follow up previous correspondence to the District Council regarding the following matters :

i) Measures to prevent parking on the grass verge in Walton Avenue

- ii) Repairs to the road signs near the Graham Way roundabout
- iii) Infilling of the dolomite surface on the steps leading from the Graham Way to Public Footpath No.1
- iv) Public Footpath No.1: re-alignment of footpath and barrier at the crossing point from Dalton Grange estate to the Graham Way.

19. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS :

It was Noted that the next meetings of the Council would be held as follows :

- a) Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 3rd June at 7 p.m.
- b) Environment Group - Thursday 10th June at 7 p.m.