

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 3RD JUNE 2004

PRESENT : Councillor M.Oliver (Chairman)

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillors W.Hepplewhite & W.Kennedy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

There were no Declarations to report

3. POLICE REPORT :

There were no Police officers in attendance

4. REPRESENTATIONS BY RESIDENTS :

There were no residents in attendance

5. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 6th May 2004 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member) be Approved and Signed as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :

a) Minute No.10(a) - Dalton Beck

The Clerk reported that following complaints from members and residents regarding a recent case of pollution, he had contacted Northumbrian Water requesting an inspection. It was noted that no action had been taken to date, and that the matter would be pursued.

b) Minute No.10(b) - Overdene entrance road

It was noted that remedial work at this location had not so far been done, although grasscutting on the bankside at the northern approach to the junction had been carried out.

c) Minute No.10(c) - Lighting at Walton Avenue

The Clerk reported on a discussion with the County Council's street lighting section regarding complaints by a member and other residents about the nuisance caused by a newly installed lighting

unit. It had been agreed that should the cause of the complaints persist, then remedial action would be taken, and the Clerk undertook to advise the lighting section accordingly.

d) Minute No.13(b) - Free-standing Advertising Trailer on A19

It was reported that this trailer, which was the subject of an objection by the Parish Council had now been removed.

e) Minute No.17(b) - Recycling bins

The Clerk reported that following widespread complaints across the district, the District Council had reviewed the situation, and was in the process of providing lids for the recycling boxes.

7. PLANNING MATTERS :

The following new applications were Noted without comment :

- a) Proposed 1st floor bedroom extension at 11 Dalton Heights for Mr.Guy
- b) Proposed rear sun lounge extension at 62 Dalton Heights for Mr.& Mrs.Whelan
- c) Proposed front extension, 1st floor side extension & rear conservatory at 15 Falmouth Close for Mr.& Mrs.Thomas

The following late applications were considered :

- a) Outline application for house on land adjacent to "Burnside" for Mr.Collins
- b) Outline application for house on land adjacent to 1a Dale Terrace for Mr.Collins

Discussion took place on these applications, and it was Noted that in the District Council's Local Plan, application (a) was earmarked as open space to be landscaped, and that proposed development had recently been refused at a public inquiry, while application (b) was for the south side of Dene Road, where further development would not be permitted.

Agreed :

- a) That a formal objection be made against these two applications.**
- b) That a visit be made to the Planning Department to re-inforce the Parish Council's opposition to the proposals.**

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & FINANCIAL REPORT :

Agreed that Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos.11 -17 listed on the Agenda in the sum of £1183.80

The Clerk circulated a Statement of Account for the period 1st April to 31st May 2004 indicating a balance in hand at that date of £39802.34

9. PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION :

The Clerk reported that following a routine inspection of the play equipment at St. Andrew's, corrosion and damaged surfaces had been detected in the slide, and it had been recommended that it be taken out of use on safety grounds. This had been arranged.

Agreed :

- a) That the Clerk's action be Approved and Endorsed**
- b) That efforts be made to replace the slide at the earliest opportunity, and that in the meantime, enquiries be made regarding a possible insurance claim.**

10. SEAHAM & NEIGHBOURHOOD DISABLED SCHEME - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

The Clerk outlined the purpose of this organisation, which was to provide assistance to young people between 14 & 25 years of age with special needs to acquire independent living skills.

Agreed : That in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, Approval be given to the payment of the sum of £50 in this case.

10. DISTRICT OF EASINGTON SPRING CLEAN-UP :

Members considered as Appendix 1 details of this initiative. A list of problem areas was identified which would benefit from attention under the scheme, and the Clerk was instructed to notify the District Council accordingly.

11. REGIONAL GOVERNMENT - BOUNDARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT :

The Clerk advised that in its report to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Committee had recommended two options for the future governance of County Durham, to be included in the ballot paper for the forthcoming referendum. These were :

- a) A single unitary authority based on the present Durham County Council area.
- b) Three unitary authorities :

North Durham - Chester-le-Street & Derwentside districts

East Durham - Durham City & Easington districts

South Durham - Sedgefield, Wear Valley & Teesdale districts

The report was Noted

13. REPORTS :

a) Clerk

- i) The Durham County Council Footpaths Officer had indicated that the surface of Footpath No.1 would be re-instated in order to bring it flush with the steps leading from the Graham Way.
- ii) Receipt of a letter of appreciation from St.Andrew's Church in connection with the financial assistance which it had been given towards the costs of its recent Celebration and Remembrance Service.
- iii) Receipt of an invitation to members from Dalton-le-Dale W.I. to attend a social evening on Saturday 19th June to celebrate its 60th anniversary.

b) Members

- i) Councillor Gustard reported on her attendance at a recent meeting of the Community Association Management Committee, at which further progress with additional funding applications was awaited.

14. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

- a) Councillor Keegan referred to a deteriorating situation at Dalton Heights as a result of indiscriminate parking of vehicles which was causing inconvenience and danger to other road users. It was agreed that the Clerk and he take the necessary action to remedy this situation.

- b) Councillor Keegan requested that some attention might be given to assist people using wheelchairs in the vicinity of the Jubilee Stores on Stockton Road. He explained that at the point where the footpath from Westlea joined Walton Avenue, a dropped kerb would help ease of access to the shop. A similar provision would assist those wishing to cross Stockton Road itself in order to gain access to the shops adjoining the garage.

It was agreed that enquiries be made to ascertain whether this facility might be provided.

- c) Councillor Westmorland referred to a recent article in "Local Council Review" which indicated ways in which public open spaces might be saved by having them designated as village greens, and it was agreed that an investigation be made in order to identify appropriate areas within the parish might benefit.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Thursday 1st July 2004