

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 1ST JULY 2004

PRESENT : Councillor M.Oliver (Chaiman)

Councillors W.Hepplewhite L.Keegan, W.Kennedy, R.Olaman, S.Richardson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillors D.Gleghorn, M.Gustard & A.Westmorland

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

There were no Declarations to report.

3. POLICE REPORT :

Sergeant Gary Webb was in attendance, and reported on a series of incidents which had been investigated during the past month. These had included a case of a yellow transit van parked in the picnic area to the east of the village, which was suspected to have red diesel fuel on board, a vehicle awaiting scrapping being taken from the Cragdale Villas area, an attempted burglary in Salcombe Close, and the theft of sports equipment from a parked vehicle in Queens Avenue.

Sergeant Webb also gave an update on the indiscriminate parking of vehicles at Dalton Heights, which had been the subject of complaints by a member. This problem had been dealt with jointly by the Police and Community Officers from the District Council.

Councillor Hepplewhite referred to the discussion which had taken place at a recent meeting of the Tidy Easington District Committee, at which details of a new type security camera were given. Twenty of these cameras were to be used in "hot spot" areas across the district.

In answer to an enquiry, Sergeant Webb reported that the surveillance exercise at Deneside in conjunction with the anti-social behaviour legislation had been very succesful. The situation was to be reviewed in two weeks' time. He felt that the public had been very pleased with the results.

4. REPRESENTATIONS BY RESIDENTS :

There were no residents in atendance

5. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd June 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.6(c) - Street Lighting at Walton Avenue

The Clerk reported that the County Council's street lighting section had agreed to look again at the nuisance caused to residents' privacy by what was claimed to be excessive light emanating from one of the units. The member who had raised this matter in the first instance was about to go on holiday, and a site meeting would be arranged on her return. The report was Noted.

b) Minute No.6(b) - Overdene Entrance Road

The Clerk reported that this complaint had been taken up with the District Council's Highways section, and a response was awaited.

c) Minute No.9 - Playground equipment

The Clerk reported that the damaged banana slide at the St.Andrew's recreation area had now be removed, and that he was endeavouring to arrange for a replacement.

d) Minute No.14(a) - Parking Problems at Dalton Grange

Councillor Keegan and the Clerk reported jointly on the efforts which had been made to resolve this problem, and had re-inforced the information given by Sergeant Webb in his report.

e) Minute No.14(b) - Stockton Road -Wheelchair Access to Shops

The Clerk reported that an approach had been made to the District Council's Highways section for advice on this matter, and that a response was awaited.

7. REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT GROUP MEETING - 10TH JUNE 2004

The meeting considered the report circulated by the Clerk, and it was

Agreed :

a) That the information given be Noted

b) That the recommendations in the report be Approved

c) That the next meeting of the Group be held on Thursday 15th July

8. PLANNING MATTERS :

i) New Applications :

a) Proposed conservatory at 2 West View for Mr.I.J.Clarke

ii) Approvals :

a) Front extension, first floor side extension and rear conservatory at 15 Falmouth Close for Mr.& Mrs.Thomas

iii) Other :

a) Proposed house (outline) adjacent to "Burnside"

b) Proposed house (outline) adjacent to 1a Dale Terrace

The Clerk advised that in accordance with the decision taken at the June meeting, he had submitted formal objections to both of these applications to the Planning Authority, consideration of item (b) having been given by the Planning Panel.

Councillor Hepplewhite reported having attended this meeting, at which the Parish Council's representations had been heard, and on the officer's recommendation, the application had been refused.

9. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & FINANCIAL REPORT :

Agreed : That Approval be given to the payment of Invoices Nos.18 to 20 in the sum of £447.44 as itemised in the Agenda.

The Clerk reported that he had been invited by the Council's bankers to take advantage of a new Tracker Account which would replace the existing Business Premium and Business Reserve Accounts, and would provide a slightly better rate of interest. The Treasury Bond in the sum of 30,000 would also be incorporated into the new account, and would offer instant withdrawal facilities if required. In view of the need to make an instant decision, the Clerk had signified acceptance, and it was

Agreed : That the Clerk's action in this matter be Endorsed and Approved.

10. "EVERY CHILD MATTERS" & THE CHILDREN BILL :

The Clerk reported receipt from the County Council of details of the Green Paper in this connection, which were available to interested members.

11. DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS - SECRETARIAT:

The Clerk reported on his recent attendance at a meeting in County Hall which had been convened by the Working Party set up at the Association's Annual meeting in October 2003, to consider the proposal to appoint a full-time Secretary in the light of a rapidly increasing workload, and the need to better support its constituent member Councils.

The proposal had been costed over a 3 year period at some £42,000 per annum, and financial support

had been forthcoming from Durham County Council (£14,000) and (to date) from 5 of the 7 District Councils (£14,000 in total). The remaining £14,000 would be provided by the Association, to be recovered from its subscriptions from member Councils. In Dalton-le-Dale's case, a modest increase was proposed from the present £117 to approximately £132. The proposals were approved in principle, subject to the confirmation of support from the remaining two district councils.

Agreed : That the Clerk's report be Received and the information given be Noted.

(At this point Councillors Hepplewhite and Keegan left the meeting for another engagement)

12. REPORTS :

i) Clerk :

- a) The Clerk reported receipt of a letter of appreciation from Seaham & Neighbourhood Disabilities Scheme in response to financial assistance in the sum of £50.
- b) The Clerk reported having been made aware of a complaint from a resident of Weymouth Drive regarding children playing on an adjoining grassed area.

The resident had been advised of the District Council's policy in this respect in order to assist her in making a formal complaint.

ii) Members :

- a) Councillor Richardson presented a report on her attendance at the recent meeting of the Tidy Ted Committee, and which a visit was proposed to the District Council's recycling facility. It was intended that lids for the door step recycling boxes would be distributed shortly. Two Street Wardens had been appointed, for Seaham and Peterlee, and five more would be appointed in the near future. An initiative to secure the use of further security cameras was ongoing, and it was agreed to send a letter of support to John Cummings M.P.
- b) Councillor Kennedy gave an update on the Community Association's ongoing funding applications. A further £5000 had been received from the Durham Foundation, bringing its total support to £10,000.

13. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS :

- a) The Chairman reported having accepted an invitation to attend the 60th anniversary celebrations of the W.I. which had been most enjoyable, and that she had sent a letter of appreciation and congratulations.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS :

a) It was noted that a meeting of the Environmental Group would be held on Thursday 15th July.

b) It was Agreed that in accordance with normal practice, no meeting would be held in August and that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 2nd September 2004

Further Agreed : That approval be given to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk to conduct any items of an urgent nature during the recess, and to consult with members as appropriate.