

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING -7TH OCTOBER 2004

PRESENT : Councillor M.Oliver (Chairman)

Councillors D.Gleghorn, M.Gustard, W.Hepplewhite, R.Olaman, S.Richardson, A. Westmorland.

7 residents of the Parish

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillors L.Keegan & W.Kennedy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

There were no Declarations to report

3. POLICE REPORT :

P.C.'s Scully and Wilkinson advised that the usual beat officer, Janet Hutchinson had been seconded to another location, and that they were reporting on her behalf.

The officers reported a case of a person camping in the woods to the rear of St.Andrew's Church, and although no offence was being committed they undertook to keep the matter under review. Members reported that at the date of the meeting, the tent was still in place. Damage had been caused to a vehicle in Bowes Avenue, by a child of 10 years of age. Three youths wearing masks had gained entry to a house in Weymouth Drive; the Police had attended and the youths were detained. It was felt that the incident could be related to Hallow'een. A Range Rover had been reported stolen in Jubilee Avenue, while in Dalton Heights a group of youths on bikes and skateboards had been causing a nuisance.

Councillor Hepplewhite informed the officers that at a community liaison meeting with the Police in the W.I.Hall on 6th October, further concern had been expressed at the continuing speed of vehicles on the B1285, and it had been agreed to take the matter up once again with the Police Traffic section and the County Council.

4. DALTON-LE-DALE IN BLOOM COMPETITION - AWARD PRESENTATION

The Chairman welcomed the winners of the competition, together with Keith Henson, the judge, and Mrs.Henson. She referred to the disappointing numerical entry, but congratulated the participants on a very high standard. This was echoed by Keith Henson, who said that he always enjoyed coming

into the parish to carry out this task.

Prizes were awarded as follows

- 1st overall Mr.J.Monarch "Dun Roamin" Dene Road
- 2nd " Mr.E.Steel "Dalton Lodge"
- 3rd " Mr.J.Wilkinson 10 Sidmouth Close, Dalton Grange

Low Maintenance Garden :

- 1st Mrs.J.Bradford 14 Yarmouth Close, Dalton Grange
- 2nd Mrs.C.Henderson "Glenameade" Dene Road

Hanging Baskets :

- 1st Mr.I.Bailey 22 Escallond Drive, Dalton Heights
- 2nd Mr.& Mrs.R.Keegan 1 Weymouth Drive, Dalton Grange

Other Participants :

- Mr.A.Elliott 4 Yarmouth Close, Dalton Grange
- Mr.W.Armstrong 1 Agricultural Cottages, Dene Road

5. REPRESENTATIONS BY RESIDENTS :

There were no representations to record

6. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd September 2004 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member) be Approved and Signed as a correct record.

7. MATTERS ARISING FOM THE MINUTES :

a) Minute No.19(a) - Lighting -Walton Avenue

Councillor Richardson reported that although some remedial work had been carried out to the lighting units, further action was still needed to reduce the lighting level which was causing a nuisance to residents.

b) Minute No.19(c) - Road Surface - Dene Road Service Road

The Clerk reported receipt of a response from Durham County Highways department following the complaint regarding the totally inadequate patchwork repairs which had been carried out at this location, and the Clerk was instructed to make a further approach.

c) Dene Road - Second Driveways

The Clerk advised the meeting that a response had been forthcoming from the Highways department into this growing problem, but had not fully explained the legality of cars being parked in such a way as to prevent other vehicles from using the service road to access other properties. It was suggested that the question of parking was a Police matter, and the Clerk was instructed to investigate further.

d) Public Footpath No.1 - Unlawful Obstruction

Councillor Hepplewhite drew members' attention to the action of the farmer in placing a line of large boulders across the footpath to the south of the bridge, so as to prevent vehicular access, but which itself was impeding bona fide walkers. In an attempt to resolve this problem, the Clerk was authorised to seek a site meeting with the County Council's footpaths officer with a view to suggesting a better means of excluding unlawful access.

e) Hedgerows - Protective Sleeves

Reference was made to the number of plastic protective sleeves which had been removed or blown from the newly planted hedges. It was felt that many of the sleeves were in fact restricting further growth, and at the suggestion of Councillor Hepplewhite, it was Agreed that an approach be made to an organisation which used youngsters serving a probation type "sentence" of public work to clear up and dispose of the remaining sleeves, which were non bio-degradable.

f) Dalton-le-Dale Village - Photographic Record

As part of the Council's aim in carrying out an environmental makeover, authority was given to Councillor Hepplewhite to produce a "before and after" photographic record to serve as archive material.

g) Stream - Fly-Tipping

It was noted that the tipping of household and garden rubbish was still prevalent, and the Clerk was instructed to expedite the issue of a circular letter to Dene Road residents, pointing out that a civic amenity site was available in Seaham for this purpose.

8. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2003/4 :

The Clerk reported that the Audit of Accounts had now been completed, and that there were no matters arising from the audit which required further attention. Audit did however make a general comment regarding the level of financial balances, reminding the Parish Council that the recommended level of such reserves should not exceed twice the amount of the annual precept. The report was Noted.

In the latter connection, a member reminded the meeting of the reason for the accumulation of the balances, and he suggested that the opportunity be taken to clarify the tenure of the Community Association of the W.I.Hall and surrounding land, in anticipation of a possible decision on future financial assistance, and in order to safeguard the Council's position. It was Noted that the Community Association was currently engaged in fund seeking from a number of sources. Following discussion, it was

Agreed : That the Community Association be asked to confirm its ownership of the W.I.Hall and the surrounding land, and to provide details of its current financial situation and funding aspirations.

9. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL- BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE :

The Clerk reported as a matter of information, receipt of details of a public consultation exercise in September/October 2003 to establish perceived requirements for various schools in the area, including Seaham School. The document was available for members' inspection if required. The report was Noted.

10. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2004/5 :

The Clerk reported for information purposes, details of a document setting out the wide range of services for which the Environment Department was responsible. The document was available for members' inspection as required. The report was Noted.

11. EAST DURHAM TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP :

The Clerk reported on details of a new scheme to assist elderly/disabled persons to travel from the Easington area to Hartlepool General Hospital either as day patients or visitors. The report was Noted.

12. PLAY EQUIPMENT - ST.ANDREW'S RECREATIONAL AREA :

The Clerk reported having followed up an approach by the East Durham Local Strategic Partnership to request financial assistance for the provision of items of new play equipment at this location. A response was awaited. The report was Noted.

13. PLANNING MATTERS :

The following new application was Noted without comment :

a) Proposed conservatory at 24 Escallond Drive for Mr.Jones

The following refusal was Noted :

a) Outline application for house and garage on land adjoining 1a Dale Terrace for Mr.R.Collings.

In this connection, Councillor Hepplewhite reported having visited the Planning Department at the District Council to study Mr.Collings' appeal against refusal, which had implied that the proposed development would not impinge on the nature of the surroundings, which were not classified as a conservation area. Nevertheless, members felt that the proposals would not be visually attractive, would constitute a road safety hazard, and that it was believed that part of the land was owned by

another party. Accordingly, it was

Agreed : That a formal submission be made to the Planning Inspectorate requesting that the Planning Authority's decision be upheld.

14. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given to the payment of Invoices Nos. 029 to 033 in the sum of £726.59

The Clerk advised members that the second instalment of Precept for the 2004/5 financial year in the sum of £5500 had been received from the District Council.

A Statement of Account for the half year to 30th September 2004 was presented to the meeting and duly Noted.

15. REPORTS :

a) Chairman

The Chairman reported having attended the Easington District Council Chairman's Civic Service, together with Councillor Gustard and the Clerk.

b) Clerk

The Clerk reported having attended meetings as follows :

i) District of Easington - Area Based Structures

This proposal was for the abandonment of the present Area Forums, and for their replacement by a more dynamic consultation body, at which representatives from the Local Strategic Partnership, Primary Care Trust, Police etc. as well as the District Council, would address Parish Councils' concerns. Further consultation as to the format of the new body was ongoing.

ii) Police Consultative Meeting

This meeting had been addressed on the Fear of Crime and the Causes of Crime, as well as the widespread concern of the difficulties being experienced in contacting the police. It was acknowledged that there had been difficulties with the new centralised system of communications, but this was being ironed out, and it would soon be possible to gain direct access to the local beat officers. It was also generally agreed that the Anti-Social Behaviour legislation pioneered in the Deneside Ward had been a great success.

iii) A meeting at the Glebe Centre, Murton on the theme of "Your Community, Your Call", which was addressed by representatives of the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Home Office, District of Easington Environment Department and local radio stations. This meeting was also attended by Councillor Hepplewhite.

c) Members

i) Councillor M.Gustard

Councillor Gustard gave a brief update on the continuing funding applications being made by the Community Association. A decision on the major application (to the Big Lottery) was imminent.

ii) Councillor A.Westmorland

Councillor Westmorland reported that the notice board at the entrance to Dalton Heights had again been damaged, and that perhaps some consideration should be given to a replacement.

iii) Councillor W.Hepplewhite

Councillor Hepplewhite reported that Councillor Keegan's absence from the meeting was due to a short stay in hospital, and it was

Agreed that a suitable greeting be sent for a quick recovery.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled to be held on Thursday 4th November 2004 at 7 p.m.