

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 2ND DECEMBER 2004

PRESENT : Councillor M.Oliver (Chairman)

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

1 resident of the Parish

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

There were no Apologies for Absence, all members being in attendance.

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

Councillors Hepplewhite and Kennedy declared Prejudicial Interests, and the Chairman and Councillor Gustard Personal Interests in connection with Agenda Item No.8.

3. POLICE REPORT :

Sergeant Gary Web and two colleagues were in attendance, and reported on two cases of burglary in Dunelm Terrace on 24th November in which credit cards were stolen and subsequently used at a cash point in Seaham. The two cases were believed to have been carried out by a "sneak" burglar, and the Police warned householders to keep doors locked at all times. There had been two instances of youths creating a nuisance in Sidmouth Close, one of which resulted in minor damage to property, and the other to abuse being caused to residents. Councillor Keegan reported on a recent case of abuse on himself whilst on Council business, and Sergeant Webb undertook to interview the culprit.

4) REPRESENTATIONS BY RESIDENTS :

The resident present enquired whether any further progress could be given on possible development on the vacant land adjoining the Church Hall. Councillor Hepplewhite reported on action which he had taken at the Planning Department, while Councillor Gustard gave further background information.

5) MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th November 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(a) - Dene Road Service Road

It was Noted that this matter would be dealt with under Agenda Item No.11

b) Minute No.6(c) - Public Footpath No.1

The Clerk reported that the Council's approval of the recommendations of the Footpaths & Rights of Way Officer had been communicated to the Highways Department and progress was now awaited.

c) Minute No.6(e) - Audit of Accounts - Community Centre

It was Noted that this matter would be dealt with under Agenda Item No.8

d) Minute No.6(f) - Play Equipment

It was Noted that this matter would be dealt with under agenda Item No.9

e) Minute No.7 - Proposed development rear of "Daelton"

The Clerk reported that a formal objection had been made in respect of this application, and that while a decision had not been made by the Planning Authority, the case officer had recommended refusal.

f) Minute No.11(b) - Dropped kerbs etc. at Stockton Road

It was Noted that this matter would be dealt with under Agenda Item No.12

7) PRECEPT 2005/2006 :

The meeting considered as Appendix No.1 the Clerk's report on income & expenditure for the period 1st April to 31st October 2004 together with projected expenditure for the remainder of the financial year to 31 st March 2005 . The Clerk reminded members that the Council's external auditors had again commented on the accumulation of balances over a number of years, and had suggested that a realistic reserve should approximate to Annual Precept x 250%. Discussion ensued, and in view of the declared wish of members for the Council to become more pro-active, it was

Agreed : a) That the report of the Clerk be Noted

b) That an unchanged Precept of £11,000 be levied for the 2005/6 financial year, and the District Council advised accordingly.

8) COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION :

Councillors Hepplewhite and Kennedy, having declared prejudicial interests, took no part in the item. The meeting considered as Appendix 2 the report of the Clerk, which had been prepared for information purposes only, in accordance with Minute No.6(e) of the November meeting. Councillor Gustard, as the Parish Council's appointed representative on the Association's Management Committee, re-inforced the information contained in the Clerk's report, and advised that in view of the difficulties which were being experienced with funding for the original proposal, the Committee

was now engaged negotiations for a less ambitious project, the total cost of which was estimated to be in the region of £100,000. In the light of the funding which was already in place, and which the funding agencies had indicated would be honoured, and applications which were currently proceeding, the Parish Council was asked to make a Declaration of Intent to pledge funding of £10,000 which could count towards matching funding by other grant making bodies. Discussion ensued, and upon being put to the meeting, it was

Agreed : a) That the Clerk's report be Noted

b) That by a majority of 5 votes to 1 the Parish Council pledge funding of £10,000 towards the Community Association project.

9) ST.ANDREW'S PLAY AREA - EQUIPMENT :

The Clerk reported that despite having explained the nature of the play area to the Children's Fund, they were still insisting on being given details of those adults who would be "supervising" the area, which would include CRB checks. In these circumstances, no further progress had been made in this matter. The report was Noted.

10) NOTICE BOARDS :

The Clerk reported that the notice boards at Dalton Heights and Dalton Grange had again had their locks damaged, while that at the Community Centre was in need of replacement. In view of the volume of paperwork which now had to be statutorily displayed to the public, none of the boards was sufficiently large for the purpose, and that perhaps consideration could be given to the provision of new, more sturdy display cases.

Agreed : That further consideration be given to this item at the next meeting.

11)DENE ROAD SERVICE ROAD :

The Clerk reported that the County Highways Department had indicated that cost of re-surfacing of the service road would be in the region of £6,000. In the light of the current financial climate, there was little likelihood of the work being carried out in the near future. It was suggested that the Parish Council might wish to make a contribution to the cost, on a partnership basis, so that the work could be expedited.

Agreed : That a contribution of £3,000 be made towards the cost of the work of re-surfacing the Dene Road service road.

12) DROPPED KERBS ETC. - STOCKTON ROAD AREA :

The Clerk reported that the County Highways Department had indicated that the cost of providing dropped kerbs at the entrance to Walton Avenue to facilitate access to the shop in Jubilee Avenue for

people with mobility problems was estimated to be in the region of £710. The member who originally raised this matter requested further similar provision from the shop forecourt to the garage and shops on the eastern side of Stockton Road , and it was

Agreed : That a site meeting be requested to consider the matter further.

13) PLANNING MATTERS :

The following new applications were Noted :

- Proposed side extension at 53 Escallond Drive
- Proposed rear conservatory at 5 Plymouth Close

The Clerk reported that in connection with the application for two new dwellings to the rear of "Daelton" had been recommended for refusal by the case officer. Members referred to rumours surrounding building work which had commenced at "The Daltons" and there was concern in the locality that there was to be a change of use at the premises. The Clerk was instructed to make enquiries and report to members as appropriate.

14) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos. 47 to 50 in the sum of £ 582.50

15) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :

a) The Chairman reported her concern at the security light on a house in Dale Terrace, which was illuminated all night, shining into her windows, and the Clerk was asked to seek the assistance of the District Council in seeking some remedy.

16) CLERK'S REPORTS :

a) The Clerk reported having met with an officer of the County Council Highways Department to look at the condition of the roadside fencing on the road B1285 opposite and to the south of the Times Inn. This fencing had been the cause for concern for some considerable time, and in view of the need at this particular location for some form of restraint for vehicles leaving the road, the officer explained that the only alternative would be to replace the existing concrete post and tubular steel fence with a metal crash barrier. The fencing northwards to the top of Church Bank could be replaced with "birds tooth" wooden fencing. The estimated cost of such a scheme would be in the region of £20,000 and was not classed as a priority. The report was Noted.

17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Thursday 3rd February 2005 and it was

Agreed : That Approval be given to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk to conduct any matters of an urgent nature during the recess.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman wished all those present the Compliments of the Season.