

DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING – 3RD MARCH 2005

PRESENT : Councillor M.Oliver (Chairman)

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Councillor R.Olaman

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

There were no Interests to Declare

3. POLICE REPORT :

P.C.'s Siddle and Bilton were present in place of beat officer Janet Hutchinson. They reported that the stolen bicycle reported in the February Minutes had been recovered. On 22nd February, a vehicle at the rear of the Times Inn had been tampered with, but the culprit made off when the alarm sounded. Suspicious callers seeking to carry out gardening work at a house in Dene Road also made off when challenged. The Police had noted the incident, but it appeared that the callers had been genuine. There had been two incidents of youths causing nuisance, at Dawlish Close and near the entrance to Dalton Heights. A member expressed concern at recent instances of speeding vehicles on the Dene Road service road, and the officers undertook to arrange for the situation to be monitored. It was suggested that appropriate speed restriction signs might be installed, at either end of the road, and the Clerk was instructed to liaise with the Traffic section.

The officers were thanked for their attendance, and they left the meeting.

4. REPRESENTATIONS BY RESIDENTS :

There were no residents in attendance

5. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 3rd February 2005 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member) be Approved and Signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments :

a) In Minute No.5(e) an insertion be made to indicate Councillor Gustard's request that the attention

of the District Council be drawn to the accumulated litter on the public footpath leading from the B1285 towards Murton.

b) In Minute No.15(b) reference to Councillor Hepplewhite be deleted and Councillor Gustard's name be inserted.

6. WALTON AVENUE – DROPPED ACCESS RAMPS ETC :

The Clerk reported that following the Council's approval of the installation of such ramps at the foot of Walton Avenue, Councillor Keegan and he had again met with the County Council's highways officer to consider further the parking provision on the west side of Stockton Road. It had been suggested that in order to eliminate the visibility difficulties which were being experienced by drivers emerging from Walton Avenue caused by vehicles parked on the cross hatch markings on the carriageway, the parking bay be extended on to the grass verge in a series of lay-by's between the trees. The officer had

indicated by letter that this was not a viable proposition, suggesting that the consequent widening of Stockton Road would encourage an increase in speed, while the possible presence of underground public utility services would prevent the necessary work from being carried out.

Agreed : That the District Council be approached to ascertain whether any services were present at this location, and that if appropriate, a further site meeting be requested, at which the County Councillor be invited to attend.

7. PUBLIC NOTICE BOARDS :

The Clerk reported that two aluminium notice boards, free-standing and to be set in concrete were presently on order. Councillor Keegan had kindly agreed to store the boards on delivery, until the District Council could erect them as arranged. The report was Noted

8. B1285 – ROADSIDE FENCING :

Following two site meetings, the Clerk reported having as instructed, enlisted the support of County Councillor A.Nugent in an attempt to secure an improvement in the design and quality of the fencing on both sides of this road southbound to the Murton boundary. At a recent meeting of the County Highways Member Area Panel, he had spoken to the North Area Engineer about this matter, and would be in further touch in order to progress the matter. The report was Noted.

9. VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION REPORT :

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Councillor G.Patterson, the District Council's environmental portfolio holder, following a report that Groundwork East Durham was to be engaged in carrying out an improvement scheme in an area of Seaham.

The matter had been referred to Paul Penman in the Environment Section, and it was

Agreed : That a site meeting be arranged with Mr.Penman to look at areas which the Parish

Council was anxious to improve, with a view to drawing up a programme of works, and identifying sources of funding.

10. DURHAM CHILDREN'S FUND PARTNERSHIP – GRANT APPLICATION :

The Clerk reported receipt of a cheque in the sum of £4,000 from the fund in order to help finance the purchase of additional play equipment for the St. Andrew's recreation area.. He was awaiting some up to date catalogues in order to identify suitable items. The report was Noted.

11. DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF PARISH/TOWN COUNCILS – AGM

The Clerk reported having received correspondence from the Association in connection with the Annual Meeting to be held in October 2005, together with an invitation to submit a Notice of Motion for discussion at the meeting. In view of the considerable local disquiet which had arisen over the lack of consultation regarding the ongoing scheme to convert a dwelling house in the village to a residential home for young people with special needs, and the fact that no planning permission was required, it was

Agreed : That a suitable Notice of Motion be drafted for consideration at the Annual Meeting, and onward transmission to NALC.

12. SECTION 137 – APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE :

The meeting considered applications from the following organisations :

- a) Finchale Training College
- b) Great North Air Ambulance Service

Agreed : That in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, payments of £25 and £50 be made respectively to these bodies.

13. PLANNING MATTERS :

There were no new applications to report, but concern was expressed that tree cutting work was being carried out on land adjoining the old Church Hall, which had been the subject of a recent planning application. The Clerk was instructed to make enquiries as to the current situation with the application.

14. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given to the payment of Invoices Nos. 055 to 057 listed on the Agenda in the sum of £527.70 plus additional payments Approved at Item 12 in the sum of £75.00

Further Agreed : That payment of Invoice No. 057 in the sum of £100.00 be increased to £150.00

15. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :

- a) The Chairman expressed concern at the lack of progress on the suggested environmental improvements in the village, and discussion ensued as to how matters might be progressed. As a matter of urgency the Clerk was instructed to investigate sources of supply and costings for planter boxes for use across the Parish.
- b) The Chairman reported a number of complaints from the Dalton Heights/Dalton Grange areas concerning a breakdown of the collection of refuse during the recent spell of inclement weather. During one week, no collection was made, and bins were left on the streets anticipating a next-day collection. Councillor Keegan had reported the matter, but had not received an adequate explanation. It was

Agreed that a letter of complaint be sent to the District Council.

16. CLERK'S REPORT :

The Clerk reported as follows :

- a) Northumbrian Water was dealing with the enquiry regarding the waterlogged area of ground at the rear of Dene Road, following Councillor Hepplewhite's site meeting with an engineer.
- b) A meeting had been convened in St. Andrew's Church on Thursday 17th March at 2 p.m. to discuss preliminary arrangements for the 850th anniversary celebrations. Mrs. Evelyn Wood, Church Treasurer and Church Warden Ken Carter would be present. Councillor Hepplewhite, the Parish Council's designated representative would not be able to attend, Councillor Keegan agreed to deputise.
- c) The Clerk reported for members' information that the current level of Parish Basic Parish Allowance for populations up to 2,000 was £83.58 per annum.
- d) That in consultation with Durham County Council's Footpaths & Rights of Way section, a further approach had been made to the farmer to remove the obstruction on Footpath No.1 which had been in place for some time.

17. MEMBERS REPORTS :

- a) Councillor Keegan pointed out that there was no grit bin available for residents of Sidmouth Close at Dalton Grange, and the Clerk undertook to make enquiries.
- b) Councillor Gustard reported on the recent meeting of the Community Association's Management Committee, at which arrangements were made for the Annual Meeting on 21st April at which members would be most welcome. The recent Pub Night had raised £160 for Association funds. An indoor bowls club had been formed, meeting on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. It had been emphasized that the informal request for the Parish Council to release the sum of £2,250 from its

pledge of £10,000 to fund the architect's fees for preparing revised plans, was not necessary at this stage.

c) Councillor Hepplewhite reported on his attendance together with Councillor Richardson at the District Council's T.E.D.meeting. It had been agreed to supply separate blue wheely bins for garden refuse in a number of trial areas throughout the district. Despite its relatively high number of large gardens, Dalton-le-Dale was not included in this scheme, and the Clerk was requested to submit a formal claim for participation.

The meeting had also heard that the Government's new target for recycling had been raised to 18% and that consequently the District of Easington had to improve on its current rate. Concern was also expressed at Durham County Council's purchase of land near Wingate as an infill site.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Thursday 7th April at 7 p.m.