

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held THURSDAY, 1st FEBRUARY 2007.

Present: Councillor W Kennedy (**Chairman**)
Councillors: R Olaman, M Oliver, L Keegan.

1. **Apologies** Councillors: W Hepplewhite, M Gustard, A Westmorland, D Gleghorn and S Richardson.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

3. **POLICE REPORT**

PC Advent attended the meeting to provide an overview of the last few months. A burglary at Overdene Estate had occurred where the premise had an insecure door. The burglar was disturbed; however clothing and property were still taken. Finger prints were taken. Some drug activity has been taking place in Deneside with the field to the rear of Dene Road being used as a meeting place for young people. The Police ask for local surveillance of this field and to report matters of concern. It is believed that drug users from Parkside are passing through Dalton-le-Dale and the car park to the end of the village has been monitored.

A car had been broken into in Dalton Grange and a number of Ford Focus's had been targeted.

Members raised concerns regarding the parking of vehicles on the brow of a hill that was also at a bend in the road at Dale Terrace. This parking was causing a danger to drivers who cannot see if the road ahead is clear. The Police would monitor the area.

4. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

A resident had received notice of the planning application submitted by Seaham Town Council regarding the proposed Environmental Improvements including New Footpaths at Deneside School Allotments Site Graham Way Seaham. This planning application has raised concerns for residents in Weymouth Drive and it is reported that a petition is being raised by local residents. Opposition to this proposal is being raised as the plan to create this new area of open space may attract the attentions of local youths who may use the area for playing games. Members agreed to support the complaint and for the Clerk to forward a letter in support of the residents concerns to the District of Easington.

5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 2nd November which had been circulated to Members previously.

5a. **Matters arising from that meeting.**

None

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a.) **Durham Police Authority – Stakeholder Consultation 2007/2008.** The appointed Member representative had replied on behalf of the Parish.

b.) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority – Have your say (consultation opportunity). It was agreed that this form be completed and returned by the Chairman and Clerk.

c.) Letter of thanks had been received from Haswell & District Mencap Society with respect to the Parishes donation.

d.) The Clerk distributed recent copies of the LCR magazines.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Planning permission has been granted for an application notified previously: 'Rear extension, pitched roof over garage and canopy to front elevation' to Fairlawns, The Dene, Dalton-le-Dale.

No new Planning Applications received.

8. QUEEN AND DOREEN AVENUE

Members agreed to postpone this item and to have it agended at the next meeting.

9. GARDEN COMPETITION 2007

Members agreed to reintroduce the Garden Competition for this year and run it similar to previous years.

10. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

It was agreed that a Newsletter be circulated in the Parish April/May to promote the activities of the Parish Council as well as St Andrews Church and the Community Association if interest can be raised. The Clerk would contact St Andrews Church and the Community Association to determine the level of interest.

11. WEBSITE

The Clerk advised of a failed attempt at contacting the Dalton-le-Dale Website administrator. The Clerk would prefer access to this site to amend details concerning the Parish Council and to publish approved minutes. Members advised that this site is run by Gordon Richardson. Clerk agreed to contact to discuss website access.

12. CERTIFICATE in LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Members agreed to the Clerks registration on this course at a cost of £70.

13. ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The Clerk had made enquiries regarding the cost of watering the flower tubs from the District and Town Council and this was in the region of £40/hour for labour and vehicle. It would appear that past charges were indeed very competitive. Members agreed to provide a spring and summer floral display in the planters. Clerk would seek estimate costs to provide such for later meeting.

14. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS

The Clerk provided a copy of the correspondence that had been sent to DCC Highways. As yet no reply had been received, although having spoken recently to the Area Engineer who was dealing with these matters correspondence would be sent soon. Some matters have been attended to, whilst others are being investigated.

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

The Clerk advised that both the Chairman and the Clerk had attended presentations given by the District of Easington and Durham County Council. Summaries of these

presentations were provided for Members as well as copies of the actual presentations given.

16. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered the request for financial assistance from the Durham Wildlife Trust and agreed to donate £25.

17. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Members moved the financial report given by the Clerk

18. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman advised of the impending telephone interview with the BIG Lottery concerning their application into the Community Buildings Fund.

19. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk advised that the books order (The Parish Councillors Guide and The Local Council Clerk's Guide) had been received.

The Clerk advised of the need to have a memory backup system to store all the Parish Councils electronic files. Members agreed to the Clerk purchasing a memory stick.

The Clerk advised of the Post Office Network consultation being undertaken by POSTWATCH. Members agreed that the Chairman and Clerk respond accordingly.

The Clerk advised he had received correspondence from the Easington Area Association of Parish and Town Council's, advising of the recent poor attendance and that they were seeking a representative from this Parish Council. No Member could be found at this time to attend these meetings and therefore the Clerk is to reply to likewise.

20. MEMBERS REPORTS

A Member expressed concerns over the clash of the Parish meetings with the Police Community Consultative meetings and that in some cases meeting will have to be missed.

21. NEXT MEETING 1st March 2007