

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

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

Present: Councillor W Kennedy (**Chairman**)
Councillors: M Gustard A Westmorland, S Richardson, M Oliver, L Keegan.

1. Apologies Councillors: D Gleghorn and R Olaman

The Chairman opened the meeting with 1 minutes silence on behalf of Cllr W Hepplewhite who died on the 17th of February.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. POLICE REPORT

PC Advent attended the meeting to provide an overview of the last month.

Parking problems raised at the previous meeting were still being monitored and a report on this matter would be given at the next meeting.

The Police had received 8 nuisance calls concerning youths at the top of Deneside. This problem was spilling over into Sidmouth Close. It would appear that the youths had been drinking and that the supply of alcohol was most likely coming from their homes.

Members further advised that youths were gathering in the locations of Grasmere House and up the lane from Stoney Bridge. These areas were regularly littered with cans and bottles. Members also reported that the Play Area next to the Church was also subject to youths congregating and that a fire had also been lit. The Police are asked to include these areas for monitoring.

The Police further advised that a road traffic accident had occurred at the Times in Bank involving a local resident.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS

None.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 1st February which had been circulated to Members previously.

5a. Matters arising from that meeting.

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a.) Acknowledgement of CiLCA registration for the Parish Clerk. Be received by the Parish Council.

b.) Cascading Enterprise- People into Enterprise (PIE). It was agreed that information leaflets would be displayed in the WI Hall.

c.) **Appointment of external Auditors.** For information. BDO Stoy Hayward is the appointed Auditors for 2006/07 accounts.

d.) **A Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members.** A hard copy of this document is received by the Chairman and a further copy to be kept by the Clerk.

e.) **District of Easington's Play Strategy – Stakeholders Event.** The Clerk advised that he had attended this event and reported that the Parish Council would receive information regarding the Audit of Fixed Play Facilities.

f.) **District of Easington – Review of Community Engagement Activities.** It was agreed that a Member from the Parish Council would attend.

g.) **Letter of thanks from Victim Support County Durham.** Received.

h.) A letter of thanks was received regarding the support given by the Parish Council to the residents of Weymouth Drive who had opposed the planning application submitted by Seaham Town Council for Environmental Improvements and New Footpaths at Deneside School Allotments site at Graham Way in Seaham. Due to the representations received by Easington District Council's Planning Department this application has been deferred.

i.) Letter of resignation was received from a Member of the Council. Members requested the Clerk to contact the Members to enquire if services could continue.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Resolved that the following proposals be received:

Proposal: Two storey side and single storey rear extension

At: 9 Dartmouth Close, Seaham

Proposal: Four-turbine wind cluster

At: Between villages of Hawthorn, Murton and Cold Hesleden.

Agreed that Clerk would seek views on this proposal from neighbouring Parish Councils.

With regards to the Wind Turbine Proposal for Fox Cover the Clerk advised that no planning application has been received by the District of Easington.

8. QUEEN AND DOREEN AVENUE

Members requested the Clerk to enquire if the District Council has received any formal complaints regarding any unlicensed business taking place. The Clerk will also enquire regarding any past planning application for building of garage in support of business.

Concern is also raised by Members regarding the storage of Acetylene (gas) in premises used for welding. The Clerk would enquire with the District of Easington on this matter.

Members requested the Clerk to report the unnecessary parking in the hammerhead at these locations where damage was being made to the grass verges.

9. GARDEN COMPETITION 2007

Members agreed on the competition format and that the entry form is included into the newsletter.

10. PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Clerk produced a draft newsletter for Members comments and input.

Several amendments were tabled and comments received. A revised version will be presented at the next meeting.

11. WEBSITE

The Clerk had failed to contact Gordon Richardson after several attempts. Members replenish the Clerk with further contact details.

The Clerk advised of a number of interesting leaflets that covered the Parish of Dalton-le-Dale that are from the District of Easington. Following discussions with the Tourism Officer it is agreed that the extended access to these leaflets could be made through the Dalton-le-Dale website in a new page covering Walking and Cycling in the Parish. When contact is made with the website administrator this page will be constructed.

12. ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The Clerk had received a costing from Horns Garden Centre regarding the replanting of Tubs and Planters.

Members agreed to refill the Tubs in May with planting to last till end of growing season. Members requested a revised quotation for the displays and this should include, perennial greens, central Cordylines to provide height and a general floral display to last the period.

The Clerk further advised that J & D Gardening Services was able to provide the watering of the Tubs at the previous year rates. Members agreed to this.

13. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS

The Clerk advised that no correspondence had been received from DCC Highways. Members requested the Clerk will send an urgent reminder.

The Clerk advised of the opportunity to apply through the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) for a grant to improve footpaths and cycle ways. Members proposed the footpath opposite the Garage at Dalton Heights. The Clerk will investigate this path with the intention of an application into the P3 scheme.

14. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered the request for financial assistance from Seaham Town Council (STC). It was agreed that the Clerk should contact STC Clerk to assess the level of financial support they are seeking.

Members received the request for financial assistance from Horden and Peterlee Branch DLI.

Members considered the request for financial assistance from County Durham Primary Care Trust and requested the Clerk to check through past minutes to clarify any agreement made on this matter.

15. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Members moved the financial report given by the Clerk.

16. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman advised of the Floral tribute arranged for the funeral of Cllr W Hepplewhite and cost involved. Members endorsed the actions taken by the Chairman.

17. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk advised of stationary materials purchased.

A questionnaire was received from CDALC and Members agreed that it be completed by the Clerk and Chairman.

The Clerk provided Members with a briefing paper on the Local Government Review for information.

The Clerk advised of the possibility of attending a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Parish Council be put forward for consideration.

18. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members gave a tribute to Cllr W Hepplewhite.

Cllr W Hepplewhite had served this Parish Council for some 27 years in a variety of positions. As a Parish Councillor he had attended numerous meetings on behalf of the council at both a district and regional level paying particular attention to the environment of Dalton-le-Dale. He had been a leading figure in the Parish always paying attention to the needs of the residents, resolving issues through reasoning and common sense.

Cllr W Hepplewhite will be sadly missed.

Members raised concerns to the grassed area at the rear of Watson Close where vehicles are reversing onto the grass. Clerk would report this matter to District of Easington Environmental Services.

Members commented on tree felling adjacent to Burnside Cottages and expressed concerns that this area of land may later be sold or receive possible planning application.

The Member appointed to attend the Police Community Consultative meetings could not attend due to a clash of dates with the Parish meeting.

19. NEXT MEETING 5th April 2007