

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

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

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

1. **APOLOGIES** Councillors: L Keegan, R Olaman

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None.

3. **POLICE REPORT**
None.

4. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**
None.

5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 4th October 2007 which had been circulated to Members previously were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5a. **Matters arising from that meeting.**
Members queried the cleansing of the stream. This would be covered in Member reports.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a). Basic use of Internet Explorer and the District of Easington Council Website (copy attached). This item was received by Members.
- b). Local Council Charter for Easington (copy attached). It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk complete the questionnaire and return to the District of Easington.
- c). Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. This item was received by Members.
- d). Town and Parish STANDARD newsletter. This item was received by Members.
- e). Queen's Garden Party 2008. The Chairman was proposed.
- f). Haswell & District Mencap Society invitation to Mencap Carol Service held 15th December in Durham Cathedral at 2.30pm. It was agreed that a Member would attend this event representing the Parish Council.
- g). Local Council Charter for Easington. This item was received by Members. Members agree that the copy of the Charter should be framed and requested the Clerk to have it arranged.

7. **PLANNING MATTERS**
None received.

Members reported that a number of residents had submitted objections to the proposed siting of a static caravan at the former Poultry Farm. Members requested the Clerk to ensure that the Parish Council concerns have been acknowledged.

8. **HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS**

- a). B1285 Times Inn Bank – Maxine Stubbs Report (copy for information).
The Clerk having established a copy of this report, seeks Members permission to write to Head of Business Services (DCC Highways) with a copy of this report for their further consideration. Members agreed.
- b). Overdene Estate - verge hardening. The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with the Engineers from the District of Easington.

- c). Handrail to footpath at Times Inn. Having advised Members of the reluctance of DCC to undertake repairs, Members requested the Clerk to write to the Head of Public Rights of Way.
- d). B1285 Times Inn Bank West side tree/bush pruning. The Clerk had reported this matter to DCC Highways and will report again.
- e). DCC Winter Salting Routes were distributed to Members.

9. ENVIRONMENT

- a). Progress of stream footpath. The Clerk advised that he was still waiting to meet with A Hobbs from the District of Easington Planning Department on this matter.
- b). Letter to residents in Dale Terrace and Dene Road re Fly-tipping in the stream. The Clerk advised that he had distributed the letter to the above properties and had not received any adverse feedback.

10. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

None received.

11. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Members agreed the report given by the Clerk.

12. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised of her attendance to the CDALC AGM on the 20th October that dealt with election of officers for the forthcoming year and approval of accounts. At this meeting a guest speaker again reiterated the importance of the CiLCA qualification and the drive to have all Clerks CiLCA qualified. This is a necessity when Parishes are considering applying for Quality Status. Members agreed that the Clerk's progress should be monitored by a Member and the Clerk will meet with that Member to discuss progress.

The Chairman further advised of her attendance to the Parish Planning Meeting held at the Glebe Centre on the 25th October. From past experience the Chairman advised the Parish Planning process was very much similar to what the Community Association had done when identifying the need for a new community centre for Dalton-le-Dale. Having a Parish Plan was a further requirement when applying for Quality Status.

Members agreed that both Parish Planning and Quality Status should be agended for the next meeting and the Clerk to provide information for Members consideration.

13. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised of the charges incurred for the searches made at the Land Registry. Agreed that the Clerk be refunded.

The Clerk advised of the District of Easington Transport Study. Members expressed their concerns and asked the Clerk to reply on the lack of any scheduled public transport passing through Dalton-le-Dale.

The Clerk advised that after consulting with Steve Ragg from the DCALC and Kath Miller from the District of Easington the Parish can co-opt to fill the remaining Parish Councillor Vacancy. Members are requested by the Clerk to find a suitable willing candidate.

The Clerk advised Members of the date for the Murton East Ward surgery.

The Clerk enquired if Members would prefer to have a copy of the CDALC Annual Report. This was declined.

The Clerk circulated the September edition of Valuing People, published by the County Durham Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.

The Clerk advised that the Bank Mandate (change of cheque signatory's) was now accepted by Barclays.

The Clerk advised that he had received details of the NJC 2007/2008 pay award and would make Salary adjustments as necessary next month.

14. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members reported that the 2 sections of fencing had been damaged at the rear of Dalton Heights where youths were regularly congregating. This matter was reported to the Police by the Member concerned.

The Member representing the Community Association advised that things were moving fast. The Chairperson and Secretary of that group had worked hard to secure further funding and amended plans were hopefully to be accepted by the District of Easington. The District of Easington will also give some assistance concerning the site investigation regarding the need for a concrete raft (foundation). The Parish Council is advised that it may not be possible to hold the meeting at this venue during February as it is likely that the new building could commence construction in January and be complete by February/March. Letters seeking support for the project are being mailed out to local businesses and community events are still being planned. The Parish again confirmed its pledge of £10,000 and would arrange for this payment to be made when needed.

Members reported the overgrown footpath at Dale Terrace which is obstructing the footpath and making pedestrians step out onto the road. Members requested the Clerk to send a letter to the household advising them of this matter and to report it the Highways Action Line.

The Member who attended the Joint Consultative Meeting advised that following on from the previous meeting where reports of litter were raised, the litter pickers have been seen at Overdene. Dalton-le-Dale was also programmed for a weekly sweeping service from Environmental Services. An inspection of the stream will take place with B Weatherall from the District of Easington once the majority of tree leaves has fallen so that the stream can be better observed. There will be revised Xmas collection dates issued and only 50% of the residents in the District of Easington use the Black Box recycling bin.

Members reported that the road sign at the Seaham end of Dene Road is still down. The Clerk will again report this matter to the Highways Action Line.

Members reported that trees have again been cut along Graham Way. This is very much similar to what had happened last year. Clerk shall report this matter to the Tree and Woodland Officer at the District of Easington.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6th December 2007.