

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held THURSDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER 2006.

Present: Councillor W Kennedy (**Chair**)
Councillors, W Hepplewhite S Richardson, A Westmorland, D Gleghorn, R
Olanan, M Gustard, M Oliver.

Apologies Councillor L Keegan

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

One Member declared an interest as being an employee of EDF Energy.

2. EDF ENERGY WIND FARM

The Chair welcomed the representative from EDF Energy who provided members with a copy of the presentation.

The representatives from EDF Energy gave a detailed presentation covering all aspects of the process leading to the full planning application that is expected to be lodged with the District Council in late December and thereafter the District Council will have 13 weeks for the determination of that submission.

Members put forward a number of questions concerning the environment, ecology of the site, visual impact, noise, TV reception, traffic implications, archaeological impact (as the site chosen is an ancient coach road), matters relating to the natural wildlife and the community fund. Full and detailed responses to these questions were given and Members were further advised that all surveys and site assessments will be included in the full planning application.

EDF Energy will also provide Members with a site visit to a working wind farm should they still have doubts about noise impacts and other matters relating to this proposed installation.

The Chair thanked EDF Energy for their presentation and looked forward to seeing the full planning application in the future.

3. POLICE REPORT

There were no representatives from the Police in attendance.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS

None.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 5th October 2006 which had been circulated to Members previously.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Corrections to the minutes were needed regarding Overdene Estate, where parking problems were being experienced. To alleviate this matter the grass verge could be hardened. Members request that a site meeting be held with DCC Highways on this matter.

Members further advised that the minutes should not hold the names of Councillors.

Accepting these matters/amendments they were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Members considered the reply from the District of Easington Environmental Health Officer regarding the use of Pellet fertiliser and asked that they be contacted regarding the possible banning of such.

Members considered the reply from the District of Easington Engineer regarding Dalton-le-Dale Stream. Members would like to pass their thanks to the Engineers for work done and ask that a further site visit can be arranged. Members reported that in several areas the stream has built up in the centre, causing the stream to take a new direction that is eroding into the bank side. In some areas this erosion will eventually undermine the structure of Stoney Bridge and it is also approaching the fence line in another area. Local Members would assist in this site visit to highlight those areas of concern to the Engineer.

Members considered the request for financial assistance from Haswell and District Mencap Society and agreed a £30 donation.

A letter of thanks had been received from St Andrews Church for the donation made by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the delivery of Minutes and Agendas from the District of Easington would be received electronically (by email) through the Clerk.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the following proposed application be received:

Conservatory to 34 Bowes Avenue Seaham.

9. PRECEPT FOR 2007/08

Members requested that this matter be left in abeyance until the next meeting allowing further time to consider this matter.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk advised of the financial transactions undertaken during the month and the current balance in the Community Account.

The Clerk further advised that the Mortgage Loan for £1,000 had matured and all monies returned to the Parish Council's Community Account by BACS transfer and will have to be reinvested.

An account has been established with the District of Easington for Printing/Photocopying services and the Parish will be invoiced on a quarterly basis.

The Clerk is seeking to purchase two books

- 'The Local Council Clerks Guide' by Paul Claydon, and
- 'The Parish Councillors Guide' by Paul Claydon.

Estimate costs for these two books are in the region of £50. Members agreed to the purchase of these books.

Members accepted the Clerks report.

11. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chair had recently attended an event and displayed the Local Council Charter she had received together with photographs of the Prime Minister.

The Chain of Office has been engraved with past Chairman from 1992 with invoice for payment.

12. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk raised concern regarding the lack of Member attendance at the Consultative Meeting of the Parish Councils and the District of Easington. A Member confirmed that he would be attending future meetings.

Members were advised of the new funding opportunity from the BIG Lottery 'Breathing Spaces' programme that could fund environmental projects.

The Clerk enquired regarding the next Environment Committee meeting and the progress of the matters raised at past meetings. Members advised that some time had passed since the last meeting and little progress had been made on a range of issues. The Clerk would identify outstanding matters from past meetings and compile a report for the next meeting.

The District of Easington Council's Environmental Services had replied regarding Grasmere House stating that site maintenance had been carried out and that at this point in time there were no statutory nuisances that could warrant the serving of legal notices. Environmental Services are continuing to monitor the area requesting the site owner's cooperation in dealing with the complaints raised. A Member would take some photographs of the site for future reference. The site owner has expressed an interest in erecting a fence to help alleviate this matter and has been advised to contact the planning officer on this matter. Members were in agreement that the erecting of a fence could perhaps help in this matter and would like to express an initial interest in supporting this idea. The Clerk would pass this expression to the Environment Services.

National Training Strategy for Towns and Parish Council. As part of the process of achieving Quality Parish Status information is received by the Clerk regarding the Certificate in Local Council Administration. The Clerk and Chairman would meet to assess the process and determine the overall cost to Council.

Information was distributed to Members concerning the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and prosperous communities' and a summary of the key points affecting town and parish councils produced by the National Association of Local Councils were also circulated to Members.

Information is received regarding the opportunity to submit a response on the setting of the County Council Budget. Agreed that the Clerk and Chairman submit a response.

The Clerk advised of the information received concerning the DCC Transport Plan and that this could be viewed via the DCC website or by means of the CD provided.

13. MEMBERS REPORTS

Durham Association of Local Councils (DALC) AGM

The Members who attended advised that the main issue raised focused on the training of Local Councillors. Whilst the organisation had experienced interest from councils to provide training, the actual take up of the training days organised was poor. A considerable financial loss had been incurred and the idea of an annual training budget was debated. Members advised that the DALC would be contacting local councils to ascertain interest and commitment to the continued development/training of local government members through an annual subscription.

A presentation on Health and Safety was also given, that raised concerns regarding Parade Floats and Street Walks. Delegates attending were concerned that if H&S was fully applied to the level described in the presentation it would deter such activities and put an end to local events.

A further presentation was provided on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Durham CC.

With regards to the White Paper, the DALC is developing a partnership scheme with its members.

Overdene Estate. Members again expressed their concerns over the problem of parking and asked if a site meeting can be arranged with Durham CC Highways to assess and cost of removing the grass verging and lowering the curb height to permit vehicle parking at 7-8 Overdene Estate.

Royal British Poppy Appeal. Members agreed to donate £30 and Members would be attending the service in Murton.

Tidy Ted Meeting. The Member reported that all issues as per the previous meeting were reported at the recent meeting.

Dalton-le-Dale Community Association.

A successful 'nostalgia night' was enjoyed by many and a Horse Racing Night is planned for the 18th November.

The Community Association had submitted the Outline Proposal to the BIG Lottery that would be assessed in 6-8 weeks.

Queen and Doreen Avenue. A Member advised that cars repairs that were taking place in the garages was causing noise and nuisance.

St Andrews Church. A Christmas fair was being held on Saturday morning.

Flower Tubs. Local Members agreed to tend to tubs removing dead plants and leaving the remaining plants where they still provided some form of display.

Play Ground. Members asked that the swings be taken down and stored for the winter.

13. NEXT MEETING 7th December 2006

Apologies for the next meeting were received from; Cllr Olaman, Cllr Gleghorn and Cllr Richardson.