

# **Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council**

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**held THURSDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008.**

**Present:** Councillor W Kennedy (**Chairman**)  
Councillors: M Hepplewhite, S Richardson, M Oliver, M Gustard, C Olsen.  
**Public:** S Cudlip Seaham Town Council

1. **APOLOGIES** Councillor's R Olaman, A Westmorland and L Keegan.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr's W Kennedy, M Hepplewhite and S Richardson declared and interest in item 7j.

3. **SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

The Clerk from Seaham Town Council (STC) addressed the meeting and gave an outline of the programme of events which were enjoyed by the wider community which incorporated residents from Dalton-le-Dale Parish. The Clerk advised that STC's objective is to provide a free programme with maximum participation involving families, local businesses, charitable fund raising and recreational opportunities. There are two main events which they host being the Carnival and Fireworks Display and these events have received comments of praise from far afield. Sponsors who support the events are included in the publicity material and should Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council become a sponsor it would then permit local businesses and groups from the community and voluntary sector of Dalton-le-Dale Parish to participate in the Carnival with trade stands. STC were seeking sponsorship from other local councils as there were benefits to be gained for local groups. A suitable figure of £250 would be necessary from Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council therefore allowing its local business and community groups to participate.

Members voted 4-2 in favour of sponsoring STC Carnival to the sum of £250 for one year trial and would monitor the take up of this opportunity by its local businesses and voluntary sector groups.

The Clerk was requested to write to STC advising of the Council's decision and to request that information concerning the Carnival is forwarded to the Clerk and STC requests its sponsorship funds nearer the time of the Carnival.

4. **POLICE REPORT**

None.

5. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

None.

6. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008 which had been circulated to Members previously were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6a. **Matters arising from that meeting.**

The Clerk advised that he had missed the deadline for returning comments to the Boundary Commission as he had prioritised other matters ahead of this item.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a). Members received a copy of the CDALC newsletter.
- b). The Clerk advised of the letter of thanks received from Mencap regarding the donation provided.
- c). Members received the CPRE Quarterly Newsletter.
- d). The Clerk advised Members of the information received from the DCC concerning attachments to street lighting columns.

- e). The Clerk advised of the information received from Durham Heritage Coast concerning their Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.
- f). NHS Constitution. The Member who had attended the World Class Commissioning Programme conference reported the event had reviewed the constitution and then broke up into a series of workshops covering key health and social issues. Feedback was taken by a scribe with the most important issue arising being education. Information was brought back for Members and the opportunity for individuals to take part in the consultation process is still available through the website.
- g). Members received the Building Schools for the Future Newsletter.
- h). The Clerk distributed the recent edition of LCR magazines.
- i). The Clerk advised of the information received concerning the consultation process on; 'Making and Enforcement of Byelaws' from the Department of Communities and Local Government.
- j). The Clerk advised of the receipt of a letter concerning the light pollution from the lamppost in the Community Association's grounds. Members advised that this matter had been discussed at the Community Association meeting and they had made some investigations to resolve this matter. The complainant had sent the letter to several bodies and had not received a letter of receipt from the District Council. The Clerk was requested to forward this matter to the appropriate officer at the District of Easington.
- k). Members received the Newsletter from The Standards Board

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a). The Clerk advised of the District of Easington's Outline Planning Approval for the Film Studio and Ancillary Facilities along the A182 Dawdon Link Road.

## **9. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS**

- a). The Clerk advised Members of the reply from DCC Highways regarding their refusal to provide road markings in Dalton Heights. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries through DCC concerning the criteria the developer had used at the East Shore Village and to also make enquiries on the cost of providing these road markings via the Council's own funds. Members also requested the Clerk to inform DCC Highways that the estate road just off Dalton Heights roundabout was sinking.
- b). The Clerk advised of the letter of receipt from DCC Highways concerning the replacement of the 40mph road sign at Graham Way. The Clerk advised that a letter concerning this matter had been sent to the local County Councillor.
- c). The Clerk advised of the letter of receipt from DCC Highways concerning the request for 40mph road signage on the road going down the B1285 Times Inn Bank. The Clerk advised that a letter concerning this matter had also been sent to the local County Councillor.
- d). The Clerk advised that he had reported the poor road surface at the entrance to Overdene Estate and advised that recent repair works have been undertaken.
- e). The Clerk advised Members that the Highways Agency were planning to undertake further road resurfacing to the A19 with the quieter road surface in 2012.

## **10. ENVIRONMENT**

- a). **Cleansing of Stream.** The Clerk advised that the District of Easington had addressed several locations along the stream and were planning to undertake more. Members requested the Clerk to keep in touch with the District of Easington on this matter and also requested the Clerk to write to DCC Highways to report the continuing erosion of the stream bank side.
- b). **Stream Fissure.** The Clerk advised he had spoken to Simon Longstaff from the District of Easington regarding an update on this matter. Simon advised that since his last brief no further information was received from the Environment Agency. Members requested the Clerk to write to the Director of Community Services and John Cummings (MP) to prompt an update on this matter.
- c). **Trees along Graham Way.** The Clerk advised that he had not seen any further evidence of tree cutting in this area and the Member who was going to inspect this site was not in attendance to report.

- d). **Village Green.** The Clerk advised that he was awaiting quotations from Groundwork to undertake tree works on this site.

Members requested the Clerk to write to the new Unitary Councillors concerning those long outstanding issues that the Parish Council has with the District of Easington and Durham County Council.

**11. FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Clerk advised that no requests were received.

**12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

The Clerk advised that following public consultation events the new Unitary Council had decided to create 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAP's) and an AAP called 'Easington' will oversee the area presently known as the District of Easington.

**13. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month and further advised that the second instalment of the precept had been transferred from the District of Easington to the Community Account. Members approved the expenditure.

**14. HALF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk provided Members with information concerning the half year income/expenditure budget/actual spend to date. The Clerk advised that there were some small variances and items where the council would be invoiced later in the year. In general the budget was on target. Members moved the report.

**15. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman had nothing to report.

**16. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk advised Members of Training Opportunities through the County Durham and Cleveland Training Partnership.

The Clerk advised that he had received information from CDALC concerning the Freedom of Information Act and this would be agendaed for next meeting.

The Clerk advised of the Murton Ward Councillors Surgery.

The Clerk advised he had received information from RTC regarding training for volunteers.

The Clerk advised of information received concerning National Tree Week. Members requested the Clerk to make an application for trees to fill in the hedgerow gaps and for tree replacement along the stream.

The Clerk advised that the previous website administrator has started resurrecting the site with an initial cost of £24.99 to register the Domain name for 2 years. There would be an additional cost for web hosting at approximately £35 per year. Members agreed to accept these costs and instructed the Clerk to continue in the process of reintroducing and taking over the website from the previous owner.

The Clerk advised of the information received concerning the DRCC Autumn meeting.

The Clerk advised of the Mencap Carol Service to be held in Durham Cathedral on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm. Several Members expressed an interest in attending. The Clerk was requested to reply to Mencap with list of attendees.

The Clerk advised of an invitation received from the Dalton-le-Dale Community Association to attend a Sponsor evening on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November in the new hall. The Chairman agreed to attend.

The Clerk advised of a number of trees overhanging the footpaths and would forward this matter to the District of Easington and DCC.

#### **17. MEMBERS REPORTS**

The Member who had attended the NHS consultation event advised that individuals could partake in this exercise at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/>

The member representing the Community Association advised that the centre was developing new user groups. A training course in Food Hygiene was also planned. Works were still being undertaken to fit out the building. Further donations had been received and grant evaluation/monitoring was underway.

The Member who had attended the Parish Joint Consultative meeting advised that the District of Easington waste collection service was going well and the green waste collection was at full capacity. The inclement weather had disrupted the grounds maintenance/grass cutting.

Members reported that the light to the rear of 54 Dalton Heights had not been adjusted. The Clerk advised that he had reported this matter several times to DCC and will again write to the Street Lighting section.

Members queried how issues of hedgerow heights that separated properties could be measured when their gardens were at differing levels. The Clerk would contact the District of Easington Planning section on this matter for further information.

Members advised that when fence boundaries have been renewed and erected on adjacent property land (encroachment) the 12 year claim rule does not apply.

Members reported that weed killing operation in the Dalton Heights estate failed in several areas. The Clerk was requested to forward this matter to DCC.

The Member who attended the Police Community Group Meeting reported; that the Police were aware of youths congregating in the Graham Way area where the fencing and gate had been burnt at the footpath crossing the field. The police were aware and would be monitoring the area.

Members requested the Clerk to instruct the District of Easington to take down the swings in the playground.

#### **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008**