Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
held THURSDAY, 3rd July 2008.

Present: Councillor W Kennedy **(Chairman)**
Councillors: M Hepplewhite, S Richardson, A Westmorland, M Oliver, L Keegan, R Olaman.
Public: Graeme Cockerill (Seaham Police).

1. APOLOGIES Councillor M Gustard.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

3. POLICE REPORT

The Police reported that things had been quiet over the recent weeks with several reports to attend to.
Youths were reported for congregating at Pageats Garage where drinking was taking place.
Report of an Air-weapon being fired in the trees.
Theft of a Tax Disc from a car that had been left open.
Report of youths camping in the fields of Graham.
Report of a drunken youth at Pageats Garage.
All reports were investigated. The police further advised that the off-road motorcycle unit were continuing to patrol the area and are ceasing motorcycles where possible.
Members reported the gathering of young people at Seaham Park. The police believed that young people had gathered here after a funeral.
Members expressed concerns that a visible presence of police walking through Dalton-le-Dale had not yet been seen. The police noted this point and would seek to make an improvement.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS
None.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 5th June 2008 which had been circulated to Members previously were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5a. Matters arising from that meeting.
None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a). Members received the information leaflets provided by DCC Welfare Rights team.
b). Members received the information concerning the LGR from the new unitary authority for County Durham.
c). Members received the offer of consultation with Durham Rural Community Council.
d). Members received the Community Newsletter from Durham Rural Community Council.
e). Members received the Newsletter from the Northern Rock Foundation.
f). Members received the offer of consultation on the proposed re-organisation of Shotton Hall Infants and Junior School.
g). Members received the Newsletter and copy of Annual Accounts from the Open Spaces Society.
h). Members received the Newsletter from the CDALC. The Clerk is requested to provide future copies of this newsletter for Members information.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

a). Members received the approval notice for the Two Storey Side and Single Storey Rear Extension for Haytor House, Dene Road.
b). Members received the approval notice for the Two Front Extensions at 44 Dalton Heights.

8. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS

a). **Hand Rail to the footpath at the rear of St Andrew's Church.** Members noted the repairs to the Hand rail at the footpath to the rear of St Andrews Church and requested the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the Public Rights of Way Officer.

b). **Overdene Estate verge hardening scheme.** Members noted the financial contribution being made to the Overdene verge hardening scheme by the District of Easington and requested the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Cllr A Napier. Members also requested the Clerk to contact the District of Easington Engineers regarding the consultation with house numbers 7 and 8 in the area. Should any objections be raised that these should be forwarded to the Clerk within 7 days.

c). **Road Markings for B1285.** The Clerk advised that he had received a letter of acknowledgement from DCC Highways section. Members requested the Clerk to contact DCC Highways concerning the need to have the 40mph signage placed upon the road coming down the Times Inn Bank from Dalton Heights as a matter of road safety.

d). **Dalton Heights road markings.** The Clerk advised that he had received a letter of acknowledgement from DCC Highways section.

e). **Sidmouth Close Barrier.** The Clerk advised that he had written to DCC Highways regarding their previous consideration of undertaking this work.

9. ENVIRONMENT

a). **Cleansing of Stream.** Members received the letter from the Director of Community Services and reported that the stream had not yet been cleaned. The Clerk is requested to contact Brian Weatherall regarding this matter and to advise him that local Members are willing to walk the area to highlight specific areas.

b). **Stream Fissure.** Members received the letter from DCC Highways concerning their observations on this matter.

c). **Ivy on Trees.** Members received the correspondence from DCC and the District of Easington and would keep an eye on this matter and make further observation in the winter months.

d). **Trees along Graham Way.** Members received the information provided by DCC and the District of Easington. The Clerk is requested to write to the District of Easington (Tree Officer) for advice on the need to replant the trees or would those trees cut down recover quicker.

e). **Village Green**. The Clerk advised the he had visited the Land Registry with a Member and the area in question had no registered ownership. The Clerk had made enquiries to the District of Easington who keep records of common land and was directed to the County Council who will be forwarding details of the Common Land and Village Greens in the Parish to him. If the land proves to be clear of covenants/restrictions the Clerk will then liaise with Groundwork regarding a potential scheme to undertake an environmental improvement project. Local Members will be invited to this site meeting.

10. FLORAL PLANTERS

The Clerk advised that arrangements for watering the floral planters had been made with Glen Henderson at a cost equal to last year's. Records of watering will be kept for proof of payment.

11. GARDEN COMPETITION

The Clerk advised that he had received four expressions of interest from residents in the Parish, one which was put forward in the previous year which was a bogus entry. Members agreed to cancel the competition and requested the Clerk to inform those who had entered.

12. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

a). Members agreed to donate £25 to Mencap in support of their services in the area.

b). Members declined the request for financial support from the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund.

13. CDALC

a). The Clerk advised that he had received information seeking the opinion of Parish Councils on the possibility of further elections in 2009. Members agreed for the Clerk to reply stating that seats had gone uncontested and bearing in mind the age profile of members' seats were again likely to remain unopposed.

b). The Clerk advised of the opportunity to purchase a copy of the 'Governance and Accountability' document through the CDALC at a cost of £10. Members agreed for a copy to be purchased for the Council and requested the Clerk to order.

c). The Clerk advised Members of the 'Place Matters' conference in London. Due to the cost and time involved Members declined the opportunity.

14. PARISH WEBSITE

The Clerk advised that the current website content manager was to step down from this position and that the renewal of the site domain was due for renewal in September. Members agreed for a web presence to be maintained and the Clerk was also willing to manage the content. Members therefore agreed to pay for the web domain name and thereafter the management of the website would be undertaken by the Clerk.

15. DISTRICT OF EASINGTON PRESS RELEASES

The Clerk advised Members of a number of press releases received that he thought may be of interest to Members.

16. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with details of financial transactions for the month plus the additional invoice received from Horn's Garden Centre for the planting of displays and the Bank charge of £8 for the cheque cancellation. Members approved the report given.

17. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave a brief report on behalf of the Member who was absent who represented the Community Association. She advised that the rebuilding of the Community Centre was progressing well with internal fittings being undertaken. Members raised concerns regarding the balcony and the Chairman advised that additional works were being undertaken to meet the Building Inspector's adjustments.
The Chairman advised that after completing the interviews with the interested candidates Members of the interview panel had agreed that Claire Olsen be co-opted onto the Council. The Clerk is requested to write to the successful and unsuccessful candidates informing them accordingly.

18. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised that he had made enquiries regarding the naming of the new Community Centre and found no reason why the building could not be named the 'Parish Hall'.
The Clerk advised Members that the notice board in the grounds of the Community Centre was in need of renewal and Members requested the Clerk to price a wooden notice board that would be appropriate for siting in the grounds of the Community Centre.
The Clerk advised Members that he had received notice of an appeal regarding the District of Easington planning refusal for the new house 'Daelton' on Dene Road.
The Clerk advised Members of the receipt of the Countryside Voice Magazine.
The Clerk distributed copies of the LCR Magazine.
The Clerk advised Members of the progress he was making in the CiLCA.

The Clerk advised Members of the receipt of the Planning Proposal for 3 number Wind Turbines and Associated Cabin and Access Road at South Sharpley Farm, Seaton. After considering this matter Members requested the Clerk to write to the District of Easington outlining their concerns regarding noise and the visual impact that these Wind Turbines would have upon the area.

19. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members reported that a tree limb was blocking the path in the area of 35 Queens Avenue. Members requested the Clerk to report this matter to the District of Easington.
Members reported that the 40mph road sing was still missing from Dalton Heights. The Clerk was requested to report this matter to DCC Highways.
Members reported that a sink cover was missing (50yards from the fissure). The Clerk was requested to report this matter to DCC Highways.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4th September 2008