

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 4th December 2008.

Present: Councillor W Kennedy (**Chairman**)
Councillors: A Westmorland, M Hepplewhite, M Oliver, M Gustard and L Keegan.
Public: None.

1. **APOLOGIES** Councillor's R Olaman, S Richardson and C Olsen.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None.
3. **POLICE REPORT**
None.
4. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**
None.
5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 6th November 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.

Members requested the Clerk to check up on previous year's payments to the WI for Hall Hire with respect to whether payment was in arrears or advance.

Members requested the Clerk to contact DCC Street Lighting as three weeks have passed since the lighting complaint at the rear of Dalton Heights was inspected with no action taken to date.

Members queried the invitation from the Community Association to the Sponsors Evening for providing the finance for the new hall. This matter was raised in the Members reports by the Community Association representative.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a). The Clerk advised of the Bursary received (£750) from the DRCC towards the cost of achieving Quality Parish Status (QPS). The acceptance of this bursary came with conditions which the Clerk read out. Records of expenditure will need to be kept and a progress report at 6 monthly intervals will need to be sent to DRCC until QPS is achieved. The conditions of acceptance was agreed and duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk who will return a signed copy to DRCC.
- b). Members received the correspondence from George F White concerning their clients decision not to sell the Recreation Ground to the Parish Council. Members requested the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the District of Easington for the work undertaken in cutting back the trees, however the land needed reinstating as vehicles had left rut marks when access was made to the site.
- c). Members received the invoice from George F White concerning the Rent Demand for £45 for the Recreation Ground to the Parish Council. Payment of this was agreed.
- d). Members received the information from Entec concerning the proposed new Hospital for Hartlepool.
- e). Members received a copy of the letter from the District of Easington's Tree Officer concerning High Hedges. The Clerk further advised of additional booklets on this matter that provided more information on this issue.

- f). The Clerk advised of the invitation received from Seaham Town Council for the Christmas Reception. It was agreed to send a representative from the council to this event.
- g). The Clerk advised of the invitation received from District of Easington for the Chairman's Civic Carol Service. It was agreed to send a representative from the council to this event.
- h). Members received copy of information concerning the NALC Northern Regional Conference to be held in York. Agreed for the Chairman and Clerk to attend.
- i). Members received copy of CDALC November Newsletter.
- j). Members received the Coast and Countryside Rangers November Newsletter.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

- a). The Clerk advised of the resubmission of planning proposal for:
 Proposal: 2 No. Semi-Detached Houses
 At: Land Adjacent to 53 Queens Avenue, Seaham
 Members requested the Clerk to write to the District of Easington regarding vehicle access to this proposal as this development would create further congestion in the locale.

8. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS

- a). Members received copy of correspondence from DCC Highways concerning the complaint of Weed Control in Dalton Heights.
- b). Members confirmed that the 40mph sign had still not been replaced at Graham Way. Members requested the Clerk to write to DCC Highways regarding a replacement.
- c). The Clerk advised that he had written to DCC Highways requesting a costing to provide the road marking in Dalton Heights Estate and this matter was receiving their attention.
- d). The Clerk or Members could not confirm that the replacement Escallond Drive was in place.

The Clerk advised Members that he had contacted DCC Highways to ensure the Salt/Grit Bins were filled for the winter.

Members reported that the Verge Hardening Scheme had not commenced and requested the Clerk to write to the local County Councillor and the District of Easington Engineers to ensure this scheme is undertaken within this financial year.

9. ENVIRONMENT

- a). **Cleansing of Stream.** The Clerk advised that he had received an email from B Weatherall stating that the culvert was cleaned in the last month and the work took 2 days. There were further works planned for upstream which should be started and finished in the next 3 weeks (dated 18th November).
 Members expressed their frustration at this response and requested the Clerk to write to B Weatherall requesting a site meeting with Members (to walk site) and view the debris and falling trees in the stream.
 Members would also raise this matter when attending the Parishes Joint Consultative Meeting.
 Members again expressed their concerns at the bank side Erosion of the stream that was undercutting the bankside and nearing the road. The Clerk is requested to write to the District of Easington and DCC on this matter.

- b). **Stream Fissure.** The Clerk advised that the District of Easington had provided copy of the report concerning investigations of the stream fissure. Members further advised that workmen still continue to attend the site to monitor the situation.
- c). **Village Green.** The Clerk advised that the Landscape Architect from Groundwork East Durham had not provided anything for consideration. Members requested that this matter be agended for February meeting.

10. PRECEPT CALCULATION FOR 2009-2010

Members considered the spreadsheet provided by the Clerk concerning the anticipated expenditure and income for this financial year. For 2009-10 the Clerk advised that it was difficult to determine interest rates for next year (due to the economic climate) and that interest from deposits would be reduced. If reserves were also used to fund projects in the Parish this would also reduce the amount of interest earned. Inflation levels for next year are also unpredictable and therefore the Clerk proposed an increase of 2.5% to the precept raising it from £11,977 to £12,280. Members moved this proposal.

11. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Open Spaces Society appeal for supporting legal action. Members agreed to donate £25 to this cause.

The Clerk advised that since preparing the agenda a request for Financial Assistance had been received from the Easington and District Citizens Advice Bureau. Members requested that this be agended for the February meeting.

12. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month and further advised of the additional invoice received from the District of Easington for taking down the playground swings for winter storage. Members agreed to the payments and the Clerk's financial report.

13. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report.

14. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised Members of the Murton East Ward Surgery.

The Clerk advised of the correspondence received from DCC Highways concerning the bank side erosion to the stream, which indicated that the land was under the responsibility of the District. The District of Easington has previously denied responsibility and in order to clarify this matter Members requested the Clerk to write to both the DCC Highways and the District of Easington on this matter.

The Clerk advised of the information received from the CDALC concerning the proposal for the replacement of the District Committees. It was agreed for the Clerk and Chairman to make a return on this matter.

The Clerk advised of the consultation opportunity concerning the AAP's. It was agreed for the Clerk and Chairman to make a return.

The Clerk advised Members that he had recovered several volumes of the bound minutes and would have a further batch of minutes bound. Members requested the Clerk to enquire with the DCC Archives to see if they have older records of minutes.

15. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members reported the failure of the green waste collection for properties in Overdene. Upon complaining that a bin had not been emptied a vehicle returned and emptied it. However, other bins that were also

previously missed were within sight but were not emptied. A Member would raise this matter at the next joint consultative meeting at the District of Easington.

The Member representing the Community Association advised that several good events had taken place in the centre and general use of the hall was continuing to grow. Fund raising was continuing to landscape the grounds and for more equipment in the centre.

Members advised that a Dog Bin was missing near the Donkey Field. Members requested the Clerk to report this matter to the District of Easington.

Members advised of complaints concerning the domestic waste collected for recycling that was not collected as it was not in an appropriate container. Members advised that if needed, residents can request from the District of Easington an additional green bag for recyclables.

Members advised that vehicle parking on the grassed area along Dene Road was continuing and put forward the suggestion of resiting a flower tub at this location to deter this matter. The Clerk is requested to make enquiries via the District of Easington and DCC Highways.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 5th February 2009

CERTIFIED CORRECT: CHAIRMAN