

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held THURSDAY, 4th October 2007.

Present: Councillor W Kennedy (**Chairman**)
Councillors: M Oliver, L Keegan, S Richardson, A Westmorland, R Olaman

1. **APOLOGIES** Councillors: M Hepplewhite, M Gustard

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

The police reported of an incident at Plymouth Close where a window had been cracked. Two accidents were reported at the Times Inn Bank. Youths were congregating in the vicinity of the garage. This area would receive more police attention.

The Police off-road motorbike section had been patrolling at the mast area near Jubilee.

Members advised of the accident at Overdene junction involving a motorcyclist who hit a car that was turning right into estate. The local police have raised Members concerns from passed meetings with the Road Traffic unit and no favourable response has been received.

Members advised of another incident at Dalton Heights/Graham Way and asked the local police to keep this area under surveillance.

Members queried the sale of alcohol to young people. The police advised that they had spent several weekends surveying shops and nothing had come from this. It appears that adults are purchasing the alcohol and then passing it on to young people.

4. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

None.

5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 6th September 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.**

None.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a.) **East Durham Homes – Choice Based Lettings.**

Provided for members information.

b.) **Letter of Thanks from County of Durham School Benevolent Fund.** Received by Members.

c.) **Annual Coastal Forum 2007.** Item was received by Members.

d.) **Durham Rural Community Council, Parish Plans – What's in it For You.** Agreed that the Chairman and Clerk attend this event at the Glebe Centre.

- e.) **Government Consultation on the Approach to Implementing Proposals for Unitary Local Government.** Information provided for Members.
- f.) **County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership – half day training event.** Received by Members.
- g.) **County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership – Training Sessions.** Received by Members.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Proposal Siting of Static Caravan

At Poultry Farm, off Dene Road, Dalton-le-Dale

Members were deeply concerned with this application and advised the Clerk to reply to the District of Easington to express the following concerns.

1. Would this static caravan be an actual deterrent against criminal activity or could this be an attraction for further criminal activity?
2. If it is for security purposes then it must be occupied and Members have fears that it may in time become a residential caravan.
3. Question whether a similar application has been submitted previously and not approved?
4. A static caravan is not necessary on this site and would not be aesthetically pleasing to the surrounds of Dalton-le-Dale.

8. PRECEPT FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 2009

The Clerk provided Members with a financial prediction for the year ending March 2008 and March 2009. After considering the council's financial commitments it was agreed to increase the precept by 2.5%. Clerk will advise the Head of Finance at the District of Easington.

9. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS

a) Speeding at Times Inn Bank

The Clerk advised that he had written to the local County Councillor and the Head of Business Service for the Environment. A letter of acknowledgement is received.

The Clerk who had been unable to locate a copy of the road safety report conducted by Maxine Stubbs (Durham Constabulary) had in the meantime been in contact with her to access a copy. No copy was available from the Durham Constabulary but a letter was received by the Clerk from Maxine who had acknowledged the concerns and had requested a further speed survey to be undertaken. A further letter was received by the Clerk from Maxine Stubbs which the Clerk read out at the meeting which concluded that they were unable to justify a specific speed enforcement campaign on the B1285 Times Inn Bank.

Members again expressed their disappointment at the reluctance of others to reduce the speed on the B1285. Members again request the Clerk to source a copy of the original report produced by Maxine Stubbs.

b) Overdene Estate Verge Hardening

The Clerk advised that he had held discussions with Brian Weatherall regarding this matter and had written to the Head of Engineering at the District of Easington. Members will await the reply and will attend a further site meeting if required.

c) Handrail to public footpath opposite Times In Public House.

The Clerk advised that the District of Easington confirmed this was Public Right of Way and that repairs should be reported to Durham County Council. The Clerk had reported this matter to DCC and was awaiting their reply.

10. ENVIRONMENT

a) Progress of stream footpath.

The Clerk advised that he had met with several Landscape contractors regarding the stream footpath and had not yet received any quotations.

Members queried this project and requested the Clerk to seek planning views from the District of Easington and advise of any implications for the Parish.

b)Erection of notice for ‘fly tipping’.

Members advised that notices were now erected, though some residents still continue to tip garden refuse into the stream. It was agreed that the Clerk send a letter to all households in Dene Road and Dale Terrace to advise of the Parish and District Councils concerns regarding fly tipping.

c) Former Play Area near Watson Close

The Clerk advised that the District of Easington have agreed to return this area to grass and works will be undertaken in due course.

d)Himalayan Balsam in Woodlands

The Tree Officer from the District of Easington replied on this matter expressing his concerns at the infestation spread of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. It would appear that infestation of these two non native species are beyond the control of current resources and the situation is being monitored and discussed with colleagues around the County.

e) Escallond Drive name plates.

The Clerk advised the District have ordered replacement name plates and will install when delivered.

f) Missing dog bin.

The District of Easington has installed a replacement bin.

g) Cleaning of stream

Members advised that the stream had been cleaned as report at the Joint Consultative Parish Meeting. At the same meeting concerns were raised regarding the road sweeping and litter picking. Members were concerned that the Parish is not getting sufficient litter picking. Members also requested the services of the road sweeper to sweep the area outside the Church to remove falling chestnuts and leaves. Clerk will report this to Environmental services at the District of Easington.

11. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

None

12. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Members moved the report given by the Clerk

13. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Chair provided a briefing of her attendance with Clerk at the celebratory event of the Parish Paths Partnership. This event covered how local groups and Parish Councils had improved local rights of way in their locale. There were various workshops held on the day that informed of how these improvements were achieved and the history of local maps that are now available for viewing via the Durham GIS mapping website.

14. CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk advised of an invitation to the District of Easington Chairman’s Amateur Sleuth fund-raising murder mystery night to raise funds for the NSPCC.

The Clerk had received as requested hard copies of the Durham Police Authority and Constabulary Annual Report.

The Clerk had received several copies of the ‘Ways to tackle climate change’ produced by Defra which were made available to Members.

Papers were received from the County Durham Association of Local Councils regarding their AGM on the 20th October which the Chairman and Clerk are due to attend.

15. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members provided an update on the Community Association who are to progress with the Cedar Wood replacement building. The cost of replacing the hall is now within reach, although further funding is being sought to fit out the building internally. If all goes well the new building works could start in January or February.

The Member attending the Tidy Ted meeting gave apologies for being unable to attend the recent meeting.

Members request that the Clerk contact the District of Easington to have the hedge row on the West side of the Times Inn Bank pruned back.

Members advised that the hedge row to the rear of Watson Close near the old peoples cottages needs pruning back. Clerk to forward this matter to the District of Easington or Seaham Town Council.

Members have received reports of the street light being too bright at the track to the rear of 54/55 Dalton Heights. Clerk to advise DCC Street Lighting.

Members also report that the curb-it staff had thrown a black box across the road after emptying it which nearly hit a car. Clerk will report this incident to District of Easington environmental services.

16. NEXT MEETING

1st November 2007.