

Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held THURSDAY, 4th September 2008.

Present: Councillor M Oliver (**Chairman**)
Councillors: M Hepplewhite, S Richardson, A Westmorland, L Keegan, M Gustard, C Olsen.
Public: Graeme Cockerill (Seaham Police).

1. **APOLOGIES** Councillor W Kennedy, R Olaman.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

3. **POLICE REPORT**

The Police reported that a burglary had taken place to a garden shed with several items stolen, some items were recovered. A theft had occurred from a car through an open window. Two incidents of fire arms were reported, although it was later discovered that the land owner had given permission. Three males were reported with an Air Rifle and the fire arm was confiscated.

Numerous incidents were reported of rowdy/nuisance behaviour and drinking by youths in the region of Pageats House and spilling over to Sidmouth Close. The area was also left with litter and empty drinking receptacles. Mini-motors were also reported being used in these areas. The new Police Sergeant is aware of these issues and is looking to implement measures to address this problem area.

Two traffic collisions had occurred at Dalton Heights with no serious injuries.

Members advised that youths were drinking at the footpath adjacent to Graham Way leading into the field where previous actions had seen the gate burnt. Members had called the Police but had experienced delays in the telephony route. The Police advised of a revised number to call for none emergency matters (03456060365).

4. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

None.

5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on the 3rd July 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 queried if the Clerk had formally taken over the Web-site from the existing site manager. Clerk would again contact the site holder to discuss this matter.

Members queried the watering of the plants. The Clerk advised that the plants would be watered on an as and when need basis at the same cost as last year and a record of such would be kept by the gardener for our records/payment.

Members enquired if the Clerk had written to the residents of Overdene Estate concerning the verge hardening scheme. The Clerk advised that he was of the understanding that the Engineers at the District of Easington were to do this, but this had not taken place. Members requested the Clerk to address this matter immediately.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a). World Class Commissioning Programme (County Durham NHS). A member expressed an interest in this conference held at Sedgefield and would like to attend. The Clerk was requested to book a place.

- b). The Boundary Committee for England and Wales. Members requested the Clerk to reply on this matter in a similar context as the previous response submitted several years ago.
- c). Members received the Newsletter produced by the CDALC.
- d). Members received the copy of the North East of England Plan produced by the Department of Communities and Local Government.
- e). Members received the Newsletter from the Heritage Coast.
- f). Members received the return from the External Auditor BDO Stoy Hayward LLP and agreed that the Annual Return had been approved and accepted by the Council.
- g). Members received the Newsletter from the County Durham Learning and Disabilities Partnership Board.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

- a). The Clerk advised of the District of Easington's Planning Approval for the Conservatory at 85 Weymouth Drive.
- b). The Clerk advised Members of the proposal to build a Private Garage and Garden Room Extension at Daelton, Dalton-le-Dale. This proposal was received during recess and the Clerk had circulated this to Members in Dalton-le-Dale for comments/concerns which were then sent to the District of Easington Planning Department.
- c). The Clerk advised Members of the proposal to build 2 No. Semi-Detached Houses at land adjacent to 53 Queens Drive. This proposal was received during recess and the Clerk had circulated this to Members in Dalton Heights, Chairman and Vice Chairman for comments/concerns which were then sent to the District of Easington Planning Department.
- d). The Clerk provided a copy of the reply from the District of Easington concerning the recent development in Murton. Members requested the Clerk to contact the District of Easington regarding the 'certain condition' stated in the reply as this did not provide a suitable explanation. Members were also willing to meet on site with the Planning Department and the Environment Agency on this matter to explain the problem in-depth. The Clerk was requested to arrange a date between all concerned.

8. HIGHWAYS and FOOTPATHS

- a). The Clerk advised that he had received a letter of acknowledgement from DCC Highways concerning the 40mph road signage. Members requested the Clerk to pursue this matter via DCC Highways.
Members also reported that the road markings on the Times Inn Bank had not been upgraded with the new red marked central areas as was previously promised by DCC Highways. Members requested the Clerk to write to the Highways section on this matter.

9. ENVIRONMENT

- a). **Cleansing of Stream.** Members advised the Clerk that a cleansing operation had not yet taken place and requested the Clerk to contact Brian Weatherall at the District of Easington concerning this matter and to also advise him that two Members would be willing to meet on site to point out areas of concern.
- b). **Stream Fissure.** The Clerk advised that no report had been received from the District of Easington and that Simon Longstaff is the Officer overseeing this matter. Members requested the Clerk to seek a report from the District of Easington for the next meeting. If no response is received from the District Council's officer, Members instructed the Clerk to contact the District Councillor on this matter. Members also expressed concerns at the footpath in the vicinity as it appears to be sinking. The Clerk advised that this matter was reported to DCC Highways and was under their observation.
- c). **Trees along Graham Way.** The Clerk advised he had discussed the issue of Tree recovery with the District of Easington's Tree Officer Jim Jones. Jim advised that the pruned/cut trees were recovering well and replanting with new stock would not be needed. Members expressed concerns

that the trees were still being cut down and a Member would visit the site to look for new cuttings and take photographs.

- d). **Village Green.** A site meeting involving Members and Groundwork East Durham had taken place concerning the development proposals. This meeting had proved useful as it had identified a number of issues that were not previously raised.

The meeting discussed matters such as undergrounding of the overhead electric cables, planting under the trees, road surfacing to the turning circle and the entrance into the farm, fence line replacement and opportunities to install seating on the area. Groundwork identified that the Village Green was suffering from encroachment from tree growth and natural growth and a first measure would be to tidy the site up with tree works to coppice the natural undergrowth, cut back tree limbs and raise tree height. Ground work would seek quotations to undertake this work for our consideration. Groundwork would put forward to the Council a design scheme for the site taking into consideration Members ideas.

10. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- a). Members agreed to invite the Clerk from Seaham Town Council to the next meeting in view of the financial assistance they are seeking for their wider events.
- b). Members received the request for financial support from Vitalise.

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

- a). The Clerk provided feedback from the meeting he had attended at Shotton Hall concerning this matter. The event focus was about the number of new unitary Councillors that were needed to represent the electoral wards and how the Area Action Partnerships (AAP) would operate, giving opportunities for the general public to participate in local governance and the decision making process concerning service delivery in their wards. A further issue was the naming of the new Council and the names of the Area Action Partnerships. Members were in agreement that the Seaham area should not have the name of 'Seaham' and that the new AAP should bear a name more appropriate to the area it serves such as 'Durham East Coast' or similar. Members requested the Clerk to put forward this suggestion to the new authority.

12. CiLCA

- a). The Clerk advised of his need and the cost to register with the appropriate body prior to submitting his Portfolio of Evidence as part of the process in achieving the CiLCA. Members approved reimbursing the Clerk with the expense incurred.
- b). The Clerk advised that he had completed the portfolio of evidence but after registering he had been advised that the criteria had changed slightly and this would necessitate amendments to his current portfolio. The Clerk advised that he had also deposited his portfolio with the SLCC northern regional representative to check through his portfolio to give advisory comment prior to the submission.

13. MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk provided Members with details of the financial transactions for the month together with an update of all financial transactions from the community account. Members approved the expenditure.

14. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised of her attendance at the Local Government Review meeting on behalf of the Council.

15. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised Members that the cost of renewing the notice board in the grounds of the Community Association in traditional wood style would be in the region of £1,300 to £1,500 (purchase price). Members could not agree to this and provided the Clerk with contact details of a local joiner who may be able to provide a cheaper alternative.

The Clerk advised of the Planning Approval received from the District of Easington for the Private Garage and Garden Room Extension at Daelton, Dalton-le-Dale.

16. MEMBERS REPORTS

Members reported that at the entrance to Overdene Estate the dividing section between the tarmac road (B1285) and the estate concrete road was not laid properly and rain water was running in to the estate road creating pot holes. The Clerk was requested to report this matter to DCC Highways.

Members reported that the tree limb blocking the path in the area of 35 Queens Avenue had been removed.

Members expressed concern that the 40mph sign had not been replaced. The Clerk was requested to report this matter to DCC Highways.

A Member had attended the public meeting concerning the proposed wind turbines at Seaton where concerns were expressed by the public concerning this development.

Members reported that tree works had been undertaken in the Dene (perhaps for electrical needs as they are near overhead cables) and tree cuttings were left. The Clerk would make enquiries through the District of Easington's Tree Office.

Members representing the Community Association advise that all was going well with the official opening day planned. The Community Association are reviewing their hall hire charges and would be advising the Parish Council in due course.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 2nd October 2008